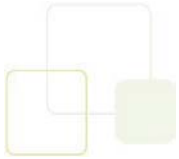




# Family Fire Safety: Tips



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**LEARN** how to  
use your fire  
extinguisher.

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**In only a matter of minutes, a small house fire can rage out of control.** Heat temperatures from the building fire can reach up to 1,500°F. The flames emit carbon monoxide gas, which is odorless, colorless and tasteless – and can cause immediate unconsciousness, followed by death.

Every family should have and practice a home escape plan to follow in the event of a fire. The plan should include drawing a diagram of your home, marking the locations of windows and doors; planning two escape routes out of every room of your home; setting up a meeting place outside of the home for everyone to go following an escape; and practicing the escape plan once a month. Every member of the family and frequent visitors to the home should know and practice the escape route. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) stresses that even children as young as 3 years old can understand an escape plan.

## Safety Tips

- Complete a [home fire safety](#) checklist and identify fire risks in your home.
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Place smoke alarms on each floor of your home and in each bedroom.
- Make sure that everyone in the home can hear the smoke alarm from their bedrooms.
- Make a [family fire escape plan](#) and practice it once a month.
- Make sure that everyone in the house understands the family fire escape plan.
- Place fire extinguishers throughout your home and make sure everyone in the house knows how to use them.
- Never leave food unattended on the stove, keep all matches and lighters out of the reach of children, and don't place portable heaters near flammable materials.

## Community Linkages

- Know the number for the local fire department.
- Attend events offered by the local fire department.
- Learn how to use a fire extinguisher through your local fire department.

**Safety**  
at HOME

**National Safety Council**

saves lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, in homes and communities, and on the roads, through leadership, research, education and advocacy.

