

## Home Fires Peak During Winter Months

- Working smoke alarms cut the chances of dying in a house fire in half, and they are a family's first indication of a fire. But once that alarm sounds a fire can spread quickly, leaving only a minute or two to escape, according to the National Fire Protection Association. That's why it's so important to have an [escape plan](#) and practice it using different ways out of the house. NFPA offers more educational resources on fire safety [here](#).

### Practice Home Fire Drills

A home fire is reported every 86 seconds. Despite this threat, families rarely practice home fire drills, and nearly half of parents report their children do not know what to do in the event of a fire.

[Home Fire Drill Day](#), a safety observance developed by Nationwide in partnership with NSC and other organizations, is held at the end of Fire Prevention Week each year in October. But families can practice home fire drills any time and take advantage of tools and resources offered at [HomeFireDrillDay.com](#), including:

- Step-by-step instructions for doing a home fire drill
- Games to make the experience memorable for kids
- Worksheet to help you draw a floor plan of your home
- Video of a fire drill in action
- Family pledge to practice a home fire drill twice a year
- Downloadable fire safety resources to share with friends and family
- Link to download the free Make Safe Happen mobile app that puts home fire drill instructions, including a drill timer, in the palm of your hand



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Practice as a family, take the pledge to practice home fire drills twice a year, and encourage others to take the pledge.