

READY TOGETHER FOUNDATION
COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCE LIBRARY

RTF-004

Home Emergency Escape Plan

A Practical Guide to Planning Safe Escape Routes for Your Family
During Emergencies

Building Resilient Communities Together

Every Second Counts

Emergencies such as house fires, earthquakes, gas leaks, and severe weather can happen with little or no warning.

Knowing how to leave your home safely can save lives.

Every member of your household should know at least two ways to exit your home and where to meet once outside.

Prepared families practice their escape plan before an emergency happens.

Why Every Family Needs an Escape Plan

A home escape plan helps your family:

- Leave the home quickly and safely.
- Reduce confusion during emergencies.
- Protect children, older adults, and persons with disabilities.
- Know where to meet after evacuating.
- Avoid re-entering a dangerous building.
- Practice safe evacuation procedures.

Planning today could save lives tomorrow.

Know Your Home

Take time to become familiar with your home.

Identify:

- ☐ Every exterior door
- ☐ Every window that could be used as an exit
- ☐ Stairways
- ☐ Hallways
- ☐ Smoke alarms
- ☐ Fire extinguishers
- ☐ Utility shut-off locations

Draw Your Home Escape Plan

Draw a simple map of your home.

Include:

- Every room
- Doors
- Windows
- Primary escape routes
- Secondary escape routes

- Smoke alarms
- Fire extinguishers

Leave space below to sketch your floor plan.

Plan Two Ways Out

For every room, identify:

Primary Exit

Secondary Exit

If one exit is blocked, everyone should know the alternative route.

Choose a Family Meeting Place

Select a safe meeting place outside your home where everyone will gather after evacuating.

Examples include:

- A mailbox
- A large tree
- A neighbor's driveway
- A community sign
- A designated corner

Our Family Meeting Place:

Practice Your Escape Plan

Conduct family evacuation drills at least twice each year.

Practice:

- ☐ Daytime evacuation
- ☐ Nighttime evacuation
- ☐ Escaping through alternate exits
- ☐ Meeting at the designated location
- ☐ Calling 911 once safely outside

Practice helps build confidence and reduces panic during real emergencies.

Special Considerations

Children

Teach children:

- ☐ How to recognize the sound of a smoke alarm.
- ☐ Never to hide during an emergency.
- ☐ How to crawl under smoke if necessary.
- ☐ To go directly to the meeting place.

Older Adults

Consider:

- ☐ Mobility needs
- ☐ Medical equipment
- ☐ Assistance during evacuation
- ☐ Emergency contact information

Persons with Disabilities

Develop individualized evacuation plans that account for mobility, vision, hearing, or other accessibility needs.

Ensure caregivers understand the plan and practice it regularly.

Pets

Don't forget your pets.

Plan for:

- ☐ Leashes
- ☐ Pet carriers
- ☐ Safe evacuation
- ☐ Identification tags

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms save lives.

Check that your home has alarms:

- ☐ Inside every bedroom
- ☐ Outside sleeping areas
- ☐ On every level of the home

Test smoke alarms every month and replace batteries as recommended.

Fire Extinguishers

Keep at least one fire extinguisher in an easily accessible location.

Know:

- ☐ Where it is located.
- ☐ How to use it safely.

Remember: If the fire is too large or spreading quickly, leave immediately and call 911.

Ready Together Action

Complete these three steps this week:

- ☐ Draw your home's escape map.
- ☐ Practice one family evacuation drill.
- ☐ Confirm your family meeting place.

Prepared families practice before emergencies happen.

Escape Plan Review

Review your escape plan:

- ☐ Every six months
- ☐ After moving
- ☐ After remodeling your home
- ☐ After changes in household members
- ☐ After purchasing mobility equipment

Practice regularly to keep everyone familiar with the plan.

About Ready Together Foundation

Ready Together Foundation is dedicated to building resilient communities through emergency preparedness, emergency relief and response, youth engagement, and outreach to vulnerable populations.

Our work focuses on:

- Community Emergency Preparedness
- Emergency Relief & Response
- Youth Preparedness & Leadership
- Vulnerable Population Outreach

Together, we are building stronger, safer, and more resilient communities.

Ready Together Foundation

Building Resilient Communities Together

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