

How to Prepare for Home Fires



HOME FIRES CAN:

- **Become extremely dangerous very quickly** – in just 2 minutes it can be life threatening and in 5 minutes engulf a home in flames.
- **Be the most** preventable disaster!
- **Be caused** by cooking, heating and smoking.
- **Kill more** Americans each year than all natural disasters combined.
- **Cause significant** damage to buildings and property.

IF A HOME FIRE HAPPENS



**EVACUATE
IMMEDIATELY!**
Then Call 911.



USE your planned
evacuation routes.



CRAWL low to the
ground toward your exit,
under any smoke.

If

- **Your clothes catch on fire: STOP, DROP and ROLL.**
- **Doors are hot or you see smoke:** choose an alternate exit.
- **You can't get out:** close doors and vents, block smoke and Call 911.
- **And, check** to make sure everyone got out, alert authorities if anyone is missing.



BEFORE

STEP 1. GET ALERTS Learn about the risk of home fires and sign up to get emergency alerts.

STEP 2. MAKE A PLAN for how you and your loved ones will get to safety, communicate and find each other.

STEP 3. BUILD A KIT with water, food and supplies to stay safe for several days. Include a flashlight, radio, whistle, fire extinguisher and extra batteries. Backup important documents. Don't forget pets!

PREPARE TOGETHER

Get together with neighbors and make a plan to help and check on each other.

Practice your evacuation plan for each room and practice **STOP, DROP and ROLL**.

PREPARE YOUR HOME. Install and test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and have extra batteries on hand. Keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen and know how to use it. Make sure all windows and screens in your escape plan can be easily opened and removed. Make sure your house number is easily visible from the street.

Reduce fire risk at home: Keep things away from anything that gets hot, like space heaters. Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children. Use fire safe smoking practices. Check all electrical and heating sources to make sure they are working safely. Don't overload outlets or extension cords. Only use generators or grills outdoors at least 20 feet away from windows.



DURING

Evacuate immediately! If you see a fire in your home, or if your smoke or carbon monoxide alerts go off, evacuate immediately.

Use your planned evacuation routes from the room you are in.

Crawl low to the ground toward your exit, staying under any smoke.

If your clothes catch on fire STOP, DROP and ROLL:

STOP immediately, **DROP** to the ground, cover your face with your hands and **ROLL** over back and forth until the fire is out. If you can't stop, drop and roll, try to smother the flames with a blanket or towel.

Before opening any doors, feel the doorknob and door. If they are hot or you see any smoke around the door, leave the door closed and choose your alternate exit option.

Once you are out of the building:

Call 911 as soon as possible, tell the operator your location and if there is anyone trapped inside. Account for everyone in your household, make sure everyone got out.

If you can't get out make sure all the doors and vents are closed and put cloth around doors to keep smoke out. Call 911 and tell them exactly where you are and use a light colored cloth or flashlight at the window to help them find you.

Check in with everyone who escaped for injuries or burns. Seek medical help as soon as possible.



AFTER

Return only when it is safe. Check with the fire department to make sure it is safe to enter your home.

Have a professional inspect your property before returning, cleaning up or doing any repairs.

If you can't go home right away, find a safe shelter.

To find food, shelter and support Call 211.

When you get home, enter carefully and watch for hazards.

When everyone is safe, check in with your emergency contacts.

Take photos before cleaning up!
Wear protective clothing like sturdy shoes and work gloves, and be careful when cleaning.