Plan ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.

SAFETY TIPS

- **MAKE** a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- **KNOW** at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- **HAVE** an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- **PRACTICE** your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- Practice using different ways out.
- **TEACH** children how to escape on their own in case you can’t help them.
- **CLOSE** doors behind you as you leave. Closing doors on your way out slows the spread of fire, giving you more time to safely escape.
- Always choose the escape route that is safest – the one with the least amount of smoke and heat – but be prepared to escape under toxic smoke if necessary. When you do your fire drill, everyone in the family should practice getting low and going under the smoke to your exit.
- Allow children to master fire escape planning and practice before holding a fire drill at night when they are sleeping.
- Make arrangements in your plan for anyone in your home who has a disability.
- Have everyone memorize the emergency phone number of the fire department. That way any member of the household can call from a neighbor’s home or a cellular phone once safely outside.
- Check outside to see if your street number is clearly visible from the road. If not, paint it on the curb or install house numbers to ensure that responding emergency personnel can find your home.
- Windows and doors with security bars installed should have quick release devices to allow them to be opened immediately in an emergency.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.
- **CALL** the fire department from outside your home.

FACTS

* According to a National Fire Protection Assn. survey only 1 out of 3 U.S. households have developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
* One-third of U.S. households thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening.
* The actual escape time is often less.
* Only 8% said their first thought on hearing an activated smoke alarm would be to get out.
* When a fire occurs, get out fast; you may only have seconds to escape safely.