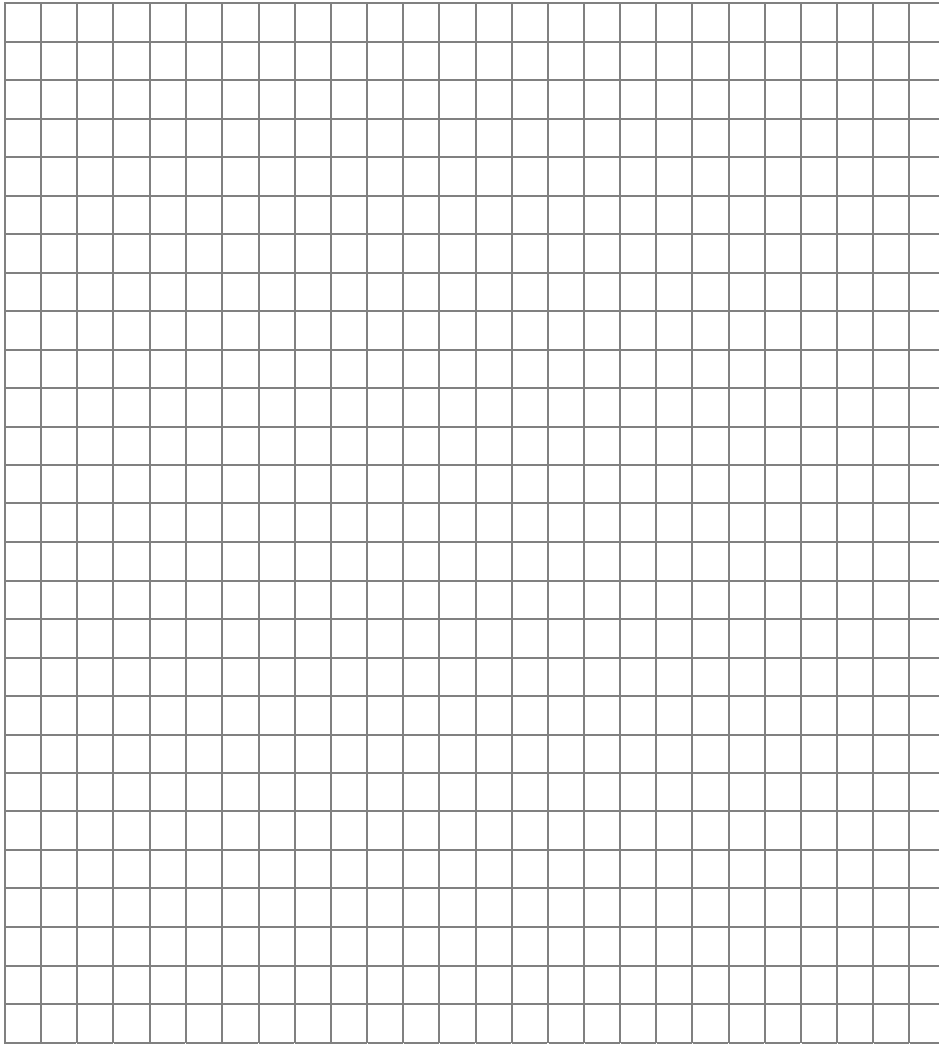
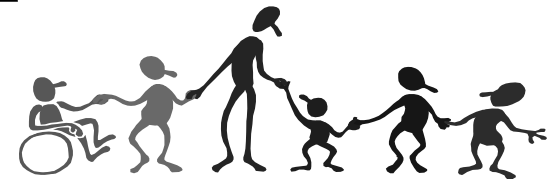


Draw outlines of each room including doors and windows. Mark two escape routes from each room.



# Fire Escape Plan for the Entire Family



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## **PLAN A HOME FIRE DRILL**

Fire drills for the home, while serving a very serious purpose, can also be fun for the entire family. Now is a good time to practice. Remember, things look vastly different when a room is full of smoke and heat...and you are coughing and choking. It's too late then to plan.

The practice drill explained below can be fun for the entire family. It is extremely important that children be taught what to do to protect themselves in case of fire. Time yourself in the drill. In uncontrolled fire the halls and stairs become the chimney. Smoke is the killer. Recent tests in typical American homes show that with bedroom doors open you may have as little as two minutes for survival. Behind closed doors in these same bedrooms there would be from 5 to 11 minutes for survival, depending on the combustibility of the interior construction of the home. Time is vital for escape. If fire does break out, shout the alarm to wake up others.

## **THINGS TO PRACTICE IN A FIRE DRILL**

### **Testing Closed Doors**

Closed doors can hold back flames and smoke while allowing extra time for escape. Teach everyone to sleep behind closed doors. Always test a closed door before opening it by feeling it with the back of your hand. Don't open a door if it is hot or you feel pressure.

### **Removing Windows**

Teach everyone to use a chair leg to remove window glass and screens and to use a shoe or the chair leg to clean remaining glass off the window sill.

### **Getting Out a Window**

Have everyone practice how to go out a window. First throw a leg over the sill and then back out. Never go head first.

### **Dropping From a Window**

Do this only as a last resort from an upper-floor window. If you must drop, be sure the ground below the window is clear. Back out the window and hold onto the sill with your hands. Practice from a ground-floor window only.

## **Exiting Onto Ledges and Porches (if possible)**

Where possible plan in the drill to have persons exit onto porches or ledges where they can wait for rescue. Whatever you do, teach everyone to never count on using a hall or stairway for an escape route.

## **Planning for the Escape of the Aged, Infants and Invalids**

Plan what escape routes can be used by the aged, infants or invalids in case of fire. Plan, too, what help these persons will need for safe evacuation, then practice the planned escape routes and methods with them.

## **Choose an Outdoor Meeting Place**

Once out, go to your designated meeting place then call the Fire Department. Do not go back into a burning building once you are safely out. Sound the alarm as quickly as you can. A fire department cannot put out a fire they do not know is burning.

Also, be sure to teach your babysitter the planned route of escape for your children. Teach them that if while babysitting they ever smell smoke or gas, or see fire, to get the children out at once and fast, then sound the alarm.



## **FEAR AND PANIC CAN BE YOUR WORST ENEMIES**

Remember, should fire strike your home—

- ☞ Don't panic, remain as calm as possible.
- ☞ Alert the family and leave the house.
- ☞ Call the fire department.