

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

TIP SHEET

Making Every Second Count



EVERY SECOND COUNTS

When You...

HAVE A PLAN – PRACTICE THE PLAN & MAKE IT COUNT

We all know that fire moves very fast, and you will only have seconds to react. That is why it is so important to have a family escape plan in place. We want everyone to know what to do in case of an emergency and you must evacuate your residence.

Here are some simple steps to plan for you and your family's safety.

- Step 1** Make sure that every smoke alarm in your home is up to date and has working batteries. We ask that if your alarm is older than 10 years old, please have those alarms removed and 10-year sealed battery smoke alarms are installed. If your home is hardwired, we suggest that you have those alarms inspected and updated to the newer 10-year sealed battery units.
- Step 2** Sit down as a family and plan every rooms exit plan by identifying two ways out of the room.
- Step 3** Now move to your bedrooms and think of what you will need to do incase of a fire. What two exits will lead you to safety. ALWAYS STAY LOW TO THE GROUND you want to stay away from the smoke.
- Step 4** Identify a family meeting place outside away from the residence and find something that will not move like your neighbor's mailbox. You don't want to chose something that might not be there all the time.
- Step 5** Know your address and emergency phone number – not all states have 911. It's important to instruct the dispatcher what your address is and telephone number and tell them everyone is outside safe.
- Step 6** Conduct a Fire Drill – have everyone go to a room and practice getting to your family's safe place. Practice as this is a real fire and go through the steps. REMEMBER no one ever goes back inside. GET OUT AND STAY OUT.

And remember make sure that you practice your fire drill once in a while to keep the plan fresh in your mind.

WE RECOMMEND – PRACTICING EVERY 6 MONTHS AND TESTING YOUR SMOKE ALARMS MONTHLY.