

# Home Safety Checklist



## Smoke Alarms

- ☐ There is one smoke alarm on every level of the home and inside and outside each sleeping area.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are tested and cleaned monthly.
- ☐ Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.

## Cooking Safety

- ☐ Cooking area is free from items that can catch fire.
- ☐ Kitchen stove hood is clean and vented to the outside.
- ☐ Pots are not left unattended on the stove.

## Electrical & Appliance Safety

- ☐ Electrical cords do not run under rugs.
- ☐ Electrical cords are not frayed or cracked.
- ☐ Circuit-protected, multi-prong adapters are used for additional outlets.
- ☐ Large and small appliances are plugged directly into wall outlets.
- ☐ Clothes dryer lint filter and venting system are clean.

## Candle Safety

- ☐ Candles are in sturdy fire-proof containers that won't be tipped over.
- ☐ All candles are extinguished before going to bed or leaving the room.
- ☐ Children and pets are never left unattended with candles.

## Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- ☐ Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home.
- ☐ Carbon monoxide alarms are less than 7 years old.

## Smoking Safety

- ☐ Family members who smoke only buy fire-safe cigarettes and smoke outside.
- ☐ Matches and lighters are secured out of children's sight.
- ☐ Ashtrays are large, deep and kept away from items that can catch fire.
- ☐ Ashtrays are emptied into a container that will not burn.

## Heating Safety

- ☐ Chimney and furnace are cleaned and inspected yearly.
- ☐ Furniture and other items that can catch fire are at least 3 feet from fireplaces, wall heaters, baseboards, and space heaters.
- ☐ Fireplace and barbecue ashes are placed outdoors in a covered metal container at least 3 feet from anything that can catch fire.
- ☐ Extension cords are never used with space heaters.
- ☐ Heaters are approved by a national testing laboratory and have tip-over shut-off function.

## Home Escape Plan

- ☐ Have two ways out of each room.
- ☐ Know to crawl low to the floor when escaping to avoid toxic smoke.
- ☐ Know that once you're out, stay out.
- ☐ Know where to meet after the escape.
- ☐ Meeting place should be near the front of your home, so firefighters know you are out.
- ☐ Practice your fire escape plan.

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HAVE FUN  
FIRE DRILL

**If you have children and want to make this a family activity:**

- Make a map of your home. Mark a door and a window that can be used to get out of every room.
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home. This is where everyone can meet once they've escaped and where firefighters can see you and know you are out. Draw a picture of your outside meeting place on your escape plan.
- Write the emergency telephone number for the fire department on your escape plan.
- Sound the smoke alarm, and practice your escape drill with everyone in your home.
- Keep your escape plan on the refrigerator, and practice the drill twice a year or whenever anyone in your home celebrates a birthday.

**If your family is all adults:**

- Walk through your home, and identify two ways out of each room.
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home. This is where everyone can meet once they've escaped and where firefighters can see you and know you are out.
- Make sure everyone knows the emergency number for your local fire department.
- Practice your escape drill twice a year.



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# CLEAR YOUR ESCAPE ROUTES!



One Batterymarch Park  
Quincy, MA 02169-7471

[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)



# THIS WAY OUT

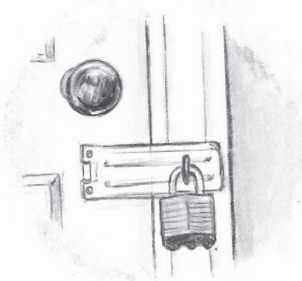
Items that block doors and windows in your home could keep you from escaping in the event of a home fire. And that could mean the difference between life and death. So unblock your exits today!

Key to your family's safety is planning and practicing a home fire escape plan twice a year.\* Start by identifying two escape routes out of each room, if possible, then make sure that each of those escape routes can be used safely by everyone.



## • SECURITY BARS

Security bars or steel screens on doors and windows that don't come with a quick release mechanism could keep you trapped inside during a fire, or prevent emergency personnel from being able to enter your home to rescue you. Inspect your windows with security bars to make sure they have quick release devices that everyone in the home knows how to use.



## • PADLOCKS

Padlocks can be a barrier to safety. In the event of a home fire, you'll need access to every escape route. Remove padlocks so the door or window can be used as an escape route.

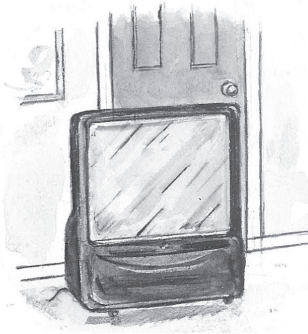
**\*For information about escape planning go to [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) and type "home escape planning" in the search bar.**

- **HURRICANE SHUTTERS**

Plywood sheets,  
hurricane shutters

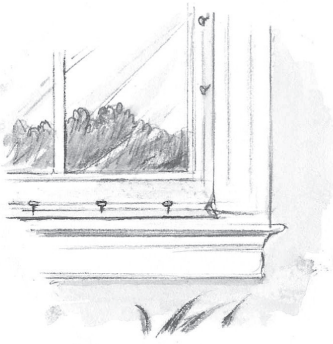
– Americans who live in the country's hurricane zones are all too familiar with these protective devices. When the threat of the storm passes,

however, remove plywood sheets and put permanent shutters in the 'open' position to allow for two ways out of every room. Shutters can keep residents trapped inside during a home fire.



- **FURNITURE**

When arranging furniture and other items, make sure that you're not blocking doors or windows with televisions, heavy dressers, tables, couches, even potted plants. Every room needs two ways out. Remove furniture that may be blocking doors or windows.



- **WINDOWS**

Never nail or paint windows shut. Opening them could be crucial in the event of a home fire. Inspect your windows and doors. Remove nails or paint that could prevent using windows for escape.





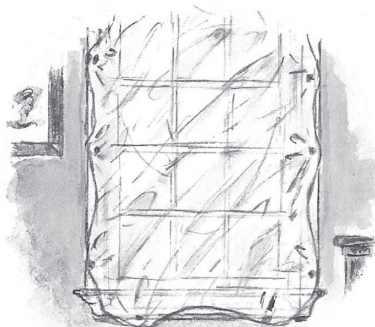
## • TOYS

A pile of toys or other items in front of a doorway can block your escape route and could be a threat to the safety of you and your family. Remove toys that may be blocking doors or windows.



## • HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Christmas trees and other holiday decorations can light up a room—but don't let them block your escape route. Place trees and holiday decorations away from doors and windows that would be used to escape.



## • PLASTIC INSULATION

In colder parts of the country, residents often cover their windows with plastic during the long winter. But make sure everyone in your family can easily remove the plastic in case of an emergency.