



Planning for house fires

It is vital you and your household know what to do if a fire occurs in your home. As part of your plan, all family members should know:

- the two quickest ways out of every room
- how they will exit from upstairs if your home has a second storey
- an agreed-upon meeting place outside, such as the letterbox
- how they will call Triple Zero (000).

Home fire escape plans

If you are in a building and a fire occurs, follow these actions to escape safely:

- Get down low and stay out of the smoke
- If it is safe, close doors behind you to slow down the spread of fire and smoke
- Alert other people on your way out
- Get out and stay out
- Meet at a safe place such as the letterbox outside your home.
- Call Triple Zero (000) from a mobile phone or a neighbour's phone. Ask for **FIRE**.

Top survival tips

- if your clothes catch fire, stop drop and roll
- to help someone else whose clothes have caught alight, throw a fire blanket or woollen blanket over them to smother the flames
- crawl low in smoke. The safest area for breathing is near the floor
- use the back of your hand to check doors for heat before opening
- close doors behind you if you can
- don't go back inside for any reason.

Families with children

Children are less likely than adults to wake up to the sound of a smoke alarm. Think about how you might be able to reach children's bedrooms if regular access is blocked by fire.

Families should practice their escape plans twice a year - more frequently with younger parents.

Some useful tips for parents include:

- turn practicing your home fire escape plan into a game by timing how quickly they can escape
- make sure your children know their home address and how to call Triple Zero (000)
- use online games and activities to teach children about fire safety. These can be found online at cfa.vic.gov.au/kids-schools/activities.

YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



- > Draw your home floor plan in the grid and mark all the exits.
- > Identify two ways out of every room.
- > Decide on an outside meeting place, such as the letterbox.
- > Practise your home fire escape plan regularly with the whole family.
- > Keep this plan handy to remind everyone of the safe exits in case of fire.

