Ready
Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.

FEMA

Home Fires

Each year more than 2,500 people die and 12,600 are injured in home fires in the United States. But unlike other disasters, home fires can be prevented! It's important to know this: **Fire is fast!** There is no time to gather anything or make a phone call. In just two minutes, a fire could kill you. In five minutes, a house could be swallowed in flames. **Fire is hot!** Heat and smoke could be even more dangerous than the flames. Breathing in really hot air could burn your lungs, and fire produces poisonous gases that can make you sleepy and unable to escape. **Fire is dark!** It can be hard to find your way out of your house in a fire. **Fire is deadly!** Fire uses up oxygen you need to breathe and produces smoke and poisonous gases that kill.

Am I at risk?

Every single person in The United States, no matter where they live, or what kind of home they live in is at risk of a home fire.

FACT CHECK

1. **True or False?** Fires create toxic gases that can make you sleepy, confused, and short of breath.
2. **True or False?** Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires.
3. You should have at least ____ escape routes from each room?
   a. Zero **b.** One **c.** Two
4. How many smoke alarms (detectors) should you have in your home?_____
5. How often should you check and replace the batteries in your smoke alarms?_____

ANSWERS

(1) True. That's why it's important to stay low to the ground, and get out fast!
(2) True
(3) C
(4) At least one on every level of your home, especially in sleeping areas.
(5) Check batteries once a month, and replace them at least once a year.

BE A HERO!™

For more facts and info on home fires visit
http://www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/home-fires
http://www.usfa.fema.gov/

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Be Prepared

BEFORE

Create a fire escape plan and practice it twice a year.

- Have smoke alarms in every bedroom and every floor of the house.
- Remind your parents to test the smoke alarms in your house every month.
- Find two ways to get out of each room. A window might be a second way if the door is blocked by fire or smoke.
- Practice feeling your way out of the house in the dark or with your eyes closed.
- Sleep with your door closed. It helps prevent fires from spreading quickly.

DURING

- Get low and go! Crawl under smoke to an exit. Heavy smoke and deadly gases collect along the ceiling.
- If you hear a smoke alarm, get out fast! You may only have a few seconds to escape.
- If smoke is blocking the door, use your second way out of the room or house.
- Feel the doorknob and door before opening it. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use the second way out.
- If you see smoke coming around the door, use the second way out.
- If you do open a door, open it slowly and be ready to shut it quick if there's smoke.
- Don't hide from firefighters! They may look scary with all of their equipment, but they are there to help you.
- Tell firefighters if there are any pets trapped in the house. Don't try to get them yourself!
- If your clothes catch on fire, stop-drop-roll! Stop, drop to the ground, and cover your face with your hands. Then roll over and over or back and forth until the fire is out.

AFTER

- Don't go back into any building unless a firefighter or your parents say it is safe.

WORDS TO KNOW

Smoke Alarms Sensors attached to the ceiling that sound an alarm when they sense smoke

Fire Extinguisher A fire protection device that sprays foam and is used to help put out small fires

Oxygen The air that we breathe. Fires need oxygen in order to burn.

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