



Talking Points

USE THESE TALKING POINTS as a guide to help you stay on message when talking with local media outlets and making presentations to community groups.

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANNING and drills are basic, but essential elements of fire safety.

It's too late to start developing a home fire escape plan when fire strikes. Everyone in the home needs to be prepared in advance, so that they can snap into action when the smoke alarm sounds.

Smoke alarms provide the minutes needed to escape a fire safely. Home fire escape planning and practice ensure that everyone knows how to use that time effectively.

A home escape plan includes:

- two exits from every room in the home (usually a door and a window);



- properly installed, working smoke alarms throughout the home;
- a meeting place outside in front of the home where everyone will meet immediately upon exiting; and
- the local emergency phone number, or 911.

All exits should be unblocked and open easily.

Security bars on windows should have quick release devices, which unlock the bars from inside the home, and allow access to the window.

Home fire escape plans should be practiced regularly, at least twice a year.

Get out and stay out! Never go back in a burning building to save someone or retrieve other items. If a person or pet is trapped inside, alert the fire department immediately.

Fire spreads rapidly. In some instances, you and your household may have as little as two minutes from the time the smoke alarm sounds to escape safely.

According to an NFPA survey:

- one of every three American households (32%) have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- one-third thought they would have at least six minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. In reality, the time available is often less.
- only 8% of U.S. households said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out.

— Keeping Your Community Safe with Home Fire Escape Drills —