

# Am I Prepared?

## Consider these fire facts...

According to the National Fire Protection Association, in 2006 there were over 400,000 home fires throughout North America that killed or injured more than 15,000 civilians. Sadly, many of these casualties were the direct result of not being able to escape from upper-story bedrooms.

Did you know that the greatest percentages of home fire-related injuries and deaths occur during the winter months (November-February)? (Source: USFA)

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) recently studied the amount of time it takes for a fire to reach untenable conditions – also called “flashover”. Average time to reach flashover in 1975 was 17 minutes; however, in 2003 it was reduced to under 3 minutes.

This information provided courtesy of



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## A complete fire safety plan needs to include 4 key components:



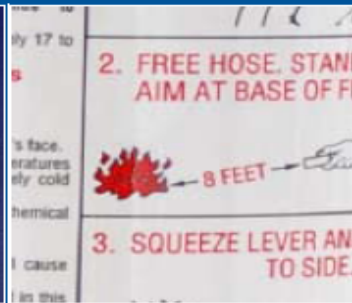
### Prevention

- Be sure an adult is always in the kitchen when cooking.
- Store cleaning supplies and other flammable liquids away from heat.
- Keep fuel or liquid that can catch on fire, like gasoline or kerosene, in a safe container outside of the home in a garage or shed.
- Never leave a candle unattended and keep flames at least three feet away from curtains, furniture or other flammable materials.
- Keep matches and lighters out of sight and reach of children.
- Always use a fireplace screen.
- Discard frayed or cracked electrical cords.
- Do not overload electrical outlets (remember to check under your computer desk)
- If anyone in your home smokes, use heavy, non-tip ashtrays and make sure all cigarettes/cigars are fully extinguished.



### Detection

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home (including unfinished basement).
- Monitored smoke alarms will ensure detection & immediate dispatch of fire dept. (see our website about how this works.)
- Place a smoke alarm outside of every bedroom and check all smoke alarm batteries to make sure smoke detectors work. A good reminder is to change the batteries with Daylight Savings every year.
- Replace smoke alarm that are more than 10 years old.
- Smoke rises so be sure to mount smoke alarms and CO2 detectors high on walls or ceilings.
- Never remove batteries or disarm a smoke alarm.
- Make sure everyone in your home is familiar with the sound of a smoke alarm, and that the alarm is loud enough to wake sleeping children and adults.



### Suppression

- Sleep with bedroom doors closed to slow the spread of smoke and flames.
- For small fires, keep a fire extinguisher handy in fire-prone areas, like the kitchen and garage.
- Check your fire extinguishers every year to make sure that they are full.
- No matter how small the fires, if you can't extinguish it immediately, get out of the house immediately!
- Installation of fire sprinklers is a great way to suppress a fire and provide extra time to escape safely.
- In the event of a fire, when you leave a room, remember to close the door behind you. This will slow the spread of fire and smoke.



### Escape

- Identify two SAFE ways out of every room in the house, especially upper levels.
- Prepare an **Escape Plan**, post it in every room, & review with all family members. (Download FREE Escape Plan from our website.)
- If upper level exit is a window, the safest way to escape is to have a permanent escape easy-to-deploy escape ladder installed under windows so it will be right where you need it, when you need it.
- NFPA recommends practicing fire escape drills twice a year. Have everyone practice escaping each room in the house and practice crawling low under smoke.
- Keep doors, stairways and other exits clear of toys, furniture and other clutter.
- Pick an outside meeting place to meet after escape & be sure to mark this spot your fire escape plan!

## ADDITIONAL STATISTICS:

In North America, home fires start every 80 seconds and double in size every 30 seconds. A person has approximately 30 seconds to decide their escape during a fire. Each year, nearly 40,000 children ages 14 and under are injured by fires in the home.



## Things Not to Do!

Never go back into a burning house. Never ignore a smoke alarm that is going off. Do not call 911 from inside the house. Get out and call 911 from a neighbour's house.