



Beverly Hills Fire Department

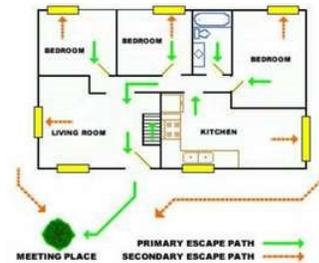
Exit Drills In The Home (E.D.I.T.H.):

Did You Know:

On average in the United States in 2009, someone died in a fire every 175 minutes, and someone was injured every 31 minutes. About 85% of all U.S. fire deaths in 2009 occurred in homes. In 2009, fire departments responded to 377,000 home fires in the United States, which claimed the lives of 2,565 people. People can survive a major fire in their homes if they are alerted to the fire, get out quickly and stay out.

How to Survive:

- Install smoke detectors and keep them in working order.
- Make an escape plan and practice it.
- Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system.



Exit Drills In The Home:

- *Plan your escape route:* Once a fire has started, there's no time to plan how to get out. Every minute counts against you. Sit down with your family and make a step-by-step plan for escaping a fire.
- *Draw a floor plan of your home:* Mark two ways out of every room especially the bedrooms and discuss the escape routes with every member of your household.
- *Agree on a meeting place:* This will be an area that is a safe distance from the house and everyone can gather. This allows you to conduct a head count and not interfere with firefighter operations.
- *Practice your escape plan:* You should practice your escape plan at least twice a year. Have someone oversee the drill and remember that it is not a race. Get out quickly, but carefully.

Be Alert and Prepared:

- Make sure all door and window can unlock and fully open. Windows or doors with security bars need to be equipped with quick release devices and everyone in the household should know how to operate them.
- If you live in an apartment, always use the stairs, never use the elevator. Become familiar with apartments evacuation plan.
- If you live in a multi-story house, you may want to invest in a fire resistive fire escape ladder. This will make escaping out of a multi-story window or deck a lot easier for children, elderly adults or people with disabilities.
- If the smoke alarm activates while sleeping, remember to stay low on the ground. When you approach your door use the back of your hand to feel the highest point of the door. If the door is cool, open with caution. If you feel any warmth at all use your second escape route.
- When escaping, stay low because smoke contains deadly gases and heat. Smoke can alter your ability to get out. Keep your head 12 to 24 inches above the floor so visibility and air will be more clear and clean.
- If you are trapped, close all doors between you and the fire. Try and seal all cracks under the door with anything that could prevent smoke from entering. Wait at a window and signal for help with a flashlight or a light-colored cloth. If there is a phone in the room, call the emergency number and report exactly where you are.
- Remember in case of a fire get out, be careful and don't stop for possessions. Once you are out, do not attempt to go back in.
- If your cloths catch/ignite on fire remember to **Stop** (cover your face with your hands), **DROP** (to your knees) and **ROLL** (side to side until the fire has been smothered).
- More than half of all fatal home fire happen at night while people are asleep. Installing or having an operable smoke detector will cut your risk of dying in a home fire nearly in half. Change your smoke detector batteries every six months and replace you smoke detectors every ten years.

