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ESCAPE PLANS

Do you and your family have an Escape Plan in place?

Have an escape plan that you and your family practice several times a year. Keeping in mind that certain individuals, such as children, those with special needs and the elderly may not wake up to the sound of a smoke alarm. Teach your children how to escape in case of a fire and not to hide under a bed or in a closet. Also teach children not to hide from firefighters. Their uniforms may be scary in a time of crisis, but they are there to help you in an emergency. Taking your child to your local fire department and seeing firefighters in full gear may be helpful.

Make a safe meeting place outside your home at a well lit safe distance from your house, such as a flagpole, fence post, end of driveway, swing set, etc. Remember, do not panic if your smoke detector's warning alarm sounds. Stay close to the floor and get out of the building. Always check a doors temperature, with the back of your hand, before opening it. If it feels hot to the touch, **DO NOT OPEN IT!**, use an alternate exit. Every family member should know at least two ways out of each room. All children should be taught to crawl low under smoke to reduce smoke inhalation. Practicing these steps can give your family valuable seconds to escape in an emergency.

Once Out, Stay Out! Never go back into a burning building for any reason. Escape first, then notify the fire department using 911. Designate one person to go to a neighbor's home to phone the fire department. If someone is missing, tell the firefighters. They are the ones equipped to perform rescues safely.

NHFIRS contact information:

NH State Fire Marshal's Office, ph 603-223-4289 or fax 603-223-4294

NHFIRS Section

Emily J. Smith, Data Control Clerk III

emily.smith@dos.nh.gov

Deputy Fire Marshal, Rob Farley, NHFIRS Program Manager

robert.farley@dos.nh.gov

NHFIRS data and questions should be emailed to NHFIRS@dos.nh.gov