

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Fire Safety Education Section of the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department (DCFEMS) is committed to reducing the risk of incidents, injuries, fatalities, and property loss due to a fire emergency. Although it is vital that all citizens in the District of Columbia are taught fire safety, emphasis is made on children and senior citizens who are the most vulnerable.

**#DCFireSAFE**  
#DCFIRESAFE

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**POLICE, FIRE & MEDICAL EMERGENCY**  
**911**

**CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUEST**  
**311 OR 727-1000**

**DEAF TDD RELAY SERVICES**  
**911 OR 202-479-2248**

**FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**  
**202-727-1614**

**FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION**  
**202-727-1614**

**DCFEMS PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**  
**202-673-3331**

OR VISIT

**FEMS.DC.GOV**

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# EDITH



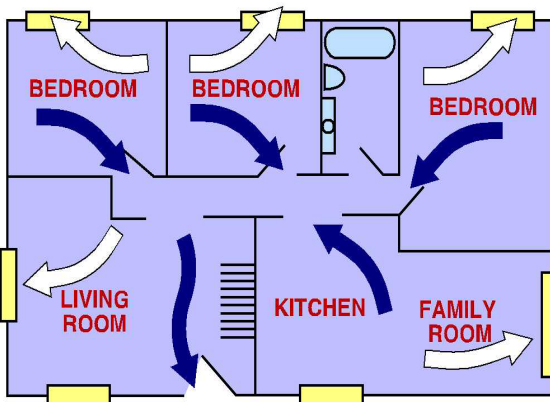
**EXIT DRILLS IN THE HOME**



# EXIT DRILLS

## STEP 1: PLANNING YOUR ESCAPE

- Make a drawing for each floor.
- Test windows and doors for easy escape. Do they work easily enough?
- Any security devices should open easily. Use quick release devices on barred windows. Have a spare key next to all locks and designate them for emergency use only. *(During a fire is not the time to look for your keys).*
- Chose a family meeting place outside; in the front yard, by a tree, in a neighbor's yard, or by the sidewalk. Show it on your map.



Draw a diagram of your house showing the primary and secondary exit routes.

# IN THE HOME

## STEP 2: THE FAMILY MEETING

- Discuss your plan and these points and procedures with your family.
- Always sleep with bedroom doors closed. Find a way for everyone to sound a family alarm. (i.e. yelling, pounding on walls, whistles.)
- Call 911 from a neighbor's house. Tell the dispatcher if anyone is left in the house. Once outside, go to the family meeting place and stay there. Wait for the other family members to show up. Never go back in a burning house for any reason.

## STEP 3: THE FIRE DRILL

- Begin with everyone in their bed.
- Everyone should roll out of bed, keeping heads low. Crawl on the floor, maintain constant contact with the wall, and follow the designated exit path.
- *First Time:* Use the normal exit. Test doors for heat and open slowly; always be ready to slam a door shut at any sign of heavy smoke or fire.
- *Second Time:* Pretend doors are hot. Everyone should use their second way out.

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- Gather at the meeting place and have someone pretend to call the Fire Department.
- After the drills talk about what happened, what worked and what needs to be improved.
- Conduct a drill at least twice a year; more often, if you have children. Practice makes perfect and can save your life.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER DURING A FIRE

- If you are trapped, close all doors between you and the fire. Wait at the window and signal for help. If there is a phone in the room, call the fire department, and tell them exactly where you are.
- In a fire, crawling is the best way to move around a smoke-filled house. Always close doors behind you as you go through your house. If your clothes catch fire, **STOP DROP and ROLL.**
- In a fire, seconds count. Don't waste time getting dressed, searching for pets or valuables. Remember...

**...GET OUT AND STAY OUT!!!**