

Fire Safety

- Smoke alarms and a fire extinguisher must be considered for any family with young children. Update your existing alarms to include a carbon monoxide monitor in addition to just a smoke detector.
- They should be outside every bedroom or any area where someone sleeps. Be sure there is at least 1 alarm on every level of your home, including the basement, or at each end of a mobile home.
- They should not be placed near the kitchen or bathroom since false alarms can occur while cooking or even showering.
- Ideally test smoke alarms every month by pushing the test button. It is best to use smoke alarms that have long-life batteries. If you are not testing monthly then at least change the batteries once a year, such as when you change your clocks in the fall. If they are hard wired to your electrical panel then at least test the alarm once or twice a year when you change the time on your clocks.
- Regardless, change your smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Never paint a smoke alarm as it may affect its performance.
- Clean (dust or vacuum) smoke alarms once a month.
- Use smoke alarms equipped with a flashing light in addition to an audible alarm in homes with children or adults who are hard of hearing or deaf.
- Have an escape plan and practice it with your family at least twice a year
- Draw a floor plan and discuss two possible ways to exit every room in case of an emergency.
- Agree on a meeting place outside your home.
- Know how to call the fire department.

What do you do in case of an actual fire:

If you have actually caught fire remember to stop, drop and roll until the flames are extinguished

- Test any closed doors with the back of your hand for heat and do not open them if they feel warm. When you exit a room, close the door to prevent a fire from spreading.
- Crawl low to the floor until you exit.

- Do not stop or go back for missing pets or possessions. Once you exit the house, notify firefighters about missing people or pets. They are better trained to get them to safety.