

Making a Fire Escape Plan

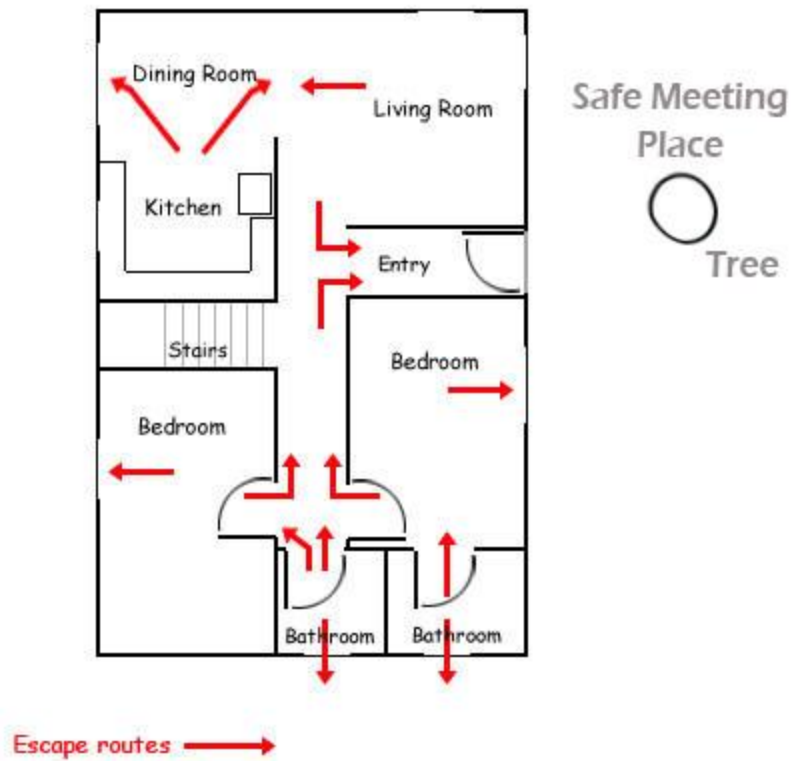
Below is an example of a family escape plan. Notice that it is simple and easy to understand. Children must be able to comprehend the information shown, so only include information that's necessary to accomplish this goal.

What to include-

- **Names of each room-** (kitchen, bath, master bedroom, girl's bedroom, Timmy's room, etc.)
- **Two exits from every room-** You should make every effort to include at least TWO escape routes from every room. In the event that fire blocks one exit route, a secondary exit becomes the difference between life and death. Your secondary, or *alternate*, exit can be another door or window. If using a window as a secondary exit, make sure the window is (1) easy for a child to open and (2) easy for a child to drop to the ground once outside. If the window is located on a second level or high enough from the ground to make impossible to drop safely, think about the purchase of a safety ladder.
- **Safe Meeting Place-** A "Safe Meeting Place" is a designated location outside the home where your family will gather once outside the home.

Choose your meeting place with these thoughts in mind:

- a) **Proximity-** A safe meeting place should be close to the home, but not so close as to be in danger from the fire.
 - b) **"Location, location, location!"-** It's important that your safe meeting place is located in front of the house. It is very important that fire safety personnel easily see you as they arrive so (a) they will know you are out of the home, and (b) you will be able to quickly inform them if someone has not made it out of the house.
 - c) **"X marks the spot!"-** Pick a safe meeting place that will be easy to find whether it is day or night. The best way to do this is by selecting a safe meeting place that is clearly marked by a **non-moving item**, such as a *telephone pole, tree* or *neighbor's front porch*. Do not use anything that may move, such as a car, and avoid picking a location that will place you in the way of emergency personnel or equipment.
- See the example below:



The best Family Escape Plan will mean very little if it's not practiced! Together as a family, you should practice escaping from a fire at least twice a year. Practice your escapes from all rooms of the house. At the same time, you should be practicing Fire Safety Basics, going over the concepts of fire safety, including staying low when there's smoke, getting out quickly, and once outside, staying outside.

