

# HOME ESCAPE PLANNING

## BASICS

- ◆ EVERY GOOD HOME ESCAPE PLAN MUST START WITH HAVING AT LEAST ONE WORKING SMOKE ALARM ON EVERY LEVEL OF YOUR HOME.
- ◆ IF YOU CAN AFFORD IT, YOU SHOULD HAVE ONE IN EVERY ROOM EXCEPT THE BATHROOM AND KITCHEN.
- ◆ A TEN YEAR LITHIUM-POWERED SMOKE ALARM WITH A NON-REMOVABLE BATTERY WILL GIVE EVEN LONGER LASTING PROTECTION.

## WHAT NEXT?

- ◆ NEXT YOU MUST HAVE A HOME ESCAPE PLAN.
- ◆ THIS MEANS SITTING DOWN WITH YOUR FAMILY AND DESIGNING A PLAN THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO EXIT THE HOME QUICKLY AND SAFELY IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE.
- ◆ YOUR PLAN SHOULD HAVE TWO EXITS FOR EVERY ROOM IN THE HOME. THE PRIMARY EXIT WILL, OF COURSE, BE THE DOOR; BUT, IF THAT ROUTE IS BLOCKED BY FIRE, THEN YOU SHOULD PLAN TO CRAWL TO THE WINDOW AND CALL FOR HELP.

- ◆ **YOU CAN CLIMB OUT TO A PORCH OR SHED ROOF, OR LOWER YOURSELF TO THE GROUND USING AN EMERGENCY ESCAPE LADDER.**

## **HOW DO I EXECUTE THE PLAN?**

- ◆ **THE BASIC PLAN IS - IF YOU HEAR THE SMOKE ALARM, YOU SHOULD ROLL OUT OF BED TO THE FLOOR AND CRAWL TO THE BEDROOM DOOR, WHICH SHOULD BE KEPT CLOSED AT NIGHT.**
- ◆ **CHECK THE DOOR WITH THE BACK OF YOUR HAND AND FEEL FOR HEAT.**
- ◆ **USE THE BACK OF YOUR HAND SO IF IT IS HOT, YOU WILL NOT BURN THE PALM THAT YOU NEED TO CRAWL ON.**
- ◆ **IF THE DOOR IS HOT, STUFF CLOTHING AT THE BOTTOM TO HOLD BACK THE SMOKE.**
- ◆ **WET THE CLOTHING IF YOU CAN FOR A BETTER SEAL, THEN CRAWL TO YOUR WINDOW AND OPEN IT.**
- ◆ **CALL FOR HELP, EITHER BY PHONE OR YELLING TO YOUR NEIGHBORS.**
- ◆ **IF YOU USE A PHONE, DIAL 9-1-1 AND STAY ON THE LINE UNTIL THE DISPATCHER TELLS YOU TO HANG UP.**
- ◆ **LET THEM KNOW WHICH ROOM YOU ARE IN AND WHEN THE FIRE TRUCK ARRIVES, WAVE A LIGHT COLORED PIECE OF CLOTHING OUT THE WINDOW TO SHOW WHERE YOU ARE.**

- ◆ **YOUR RESCUE WILL BE THEIR MAIN CONCERN.**
  
- ◆ **AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF PROPERLY MAINTAINED SMOKE ALARMS, CORRECTLY MOUNTED, WILL GIVE YOUR FAMILY ENOUGH ADVANCE WARNING TO EXIT THE FRONT DOOR AS A GROUP.**
  
- ◆ **IF THE DOOR IS NOT HOT WHEN YOU FEEL IT, CRACK THE DOOR AND LOOK OUT FOR SMOKE IN THE HALLWAY.**
  
- ◆ **IF YOUR WAY IS CLEAR, CRAWL TO THE STAIRS AND SLIDE DOWN TO REMAIN BELOW ANY POSSIBLE HEAT AND SMOKE.**
  
- ◆ **GET TO AN EXIT AND JOIN YOUR FAMILY AT A PRE-DESIGNATED FAMILY MEETING PLACE. MAKE SURE EVERYONE IS ACCOUNTED FOR, AND LET ARRIVING FIREFIGHTERS KNOW IF PEOPLE ARE STILL IN THE HOME.**
  
- ◆ **THIS INFORMATION WILL EITHER ASSIST IN THEIR RESCUE OR ALLOW FIREFIGHTERS TO BEGIN SAVING YOUR HOME.**
  
- ◆ **PEOPLE SURVIVE HOUSE FIRES IN PHILADELPHIA ALMOST EVERY DAY.**
  
- ◆ **PROPER PLANNING AND REGULAR PRACTICE CAN HELP ENSURE THAT YOUR FAMILY WILL ESCAPE.**
  
- ◆ **DO IT FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S SAKE.**