

# GET OUT ALIVE

## In an apartment

It is important that everyone be able to unlock all locks quickly. Use stairways to leave the building. Don't use an elevator.

## In a two-storey house

Make sure everyone can unlock all locks and open all windows and doors quickly. Know how to escape safely from the second floor. Make special arrangements for small children and people with disabilities.



## Get out fast

Make sure your family members know that if they hear a smoke alarm or someone yelling fire, they must leave immediately. Don't try to take possessions or pets. After you are out, call 9-1-1.

## Don't go back, no matter what

Once out of the house and at the meeting place, no one should re-enter the burning house. Firefighters are equipped and trained to handle rescue operations and they will let you know when it is safe to go back into the house. Get out and stay out!



## PLAN YOUR ESCAPE, FIRE WON'T WAIT

In case of an emergency call  
Markham Fire & Emergency  
Services at 9-1-1

For more information,  
contact the  
Fire Prevention Division at  
(905) 415-7521,  
or visit our website at  
[www.city.markham.on.ca](http://www.city.markham.on.ca)



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Plan your escape from fire



Did you know that 7 out of 10 fires in Canada occur in the home? Protect your family and home from fire by planning your escape.

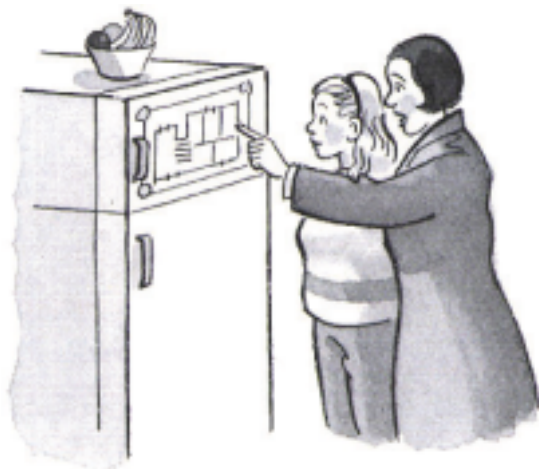
## Install smoke alarms

Smoke alarms warn you of a fire in time to let you escape. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, especially near each sleeping area. Test smoke alarms regularly and replace weak or dead batteries immediately with new batteries. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.



## Plan your escape

Draw a floor plan of your home showing all possible exits from each room. Plan a main escape route and an alternate escape route from each room, especially bedrooms. A planned step-by-step route can reduce panic and confusion. Most of all it can save lives.



## Choose a meeting place



Arrange an outside meeting place and a safe location to call 9-1-1. The best place to meet is in front of your home, where Markham Fire and Emergency Services will arrive.

## Practice your plan

Conduct a fire drill at least once every six months. Sound the alarm and get everyone in the home to participate. In a real fire, you must be prepared to move quickly and carefully without confusion. Don't rush through the drill. Make sure everyone knows exactly what to do. After the drill, discuss what took place and how to improve on performance.

Make your fire drill as realistic as possible. Practice two escape routes. Vary your drills. For example, one drill might place a fire in the attic while another might place it in the kitchen. Make sure everyone understands how escape routes are altered by different fire locations. Pretend that there are no lights, and that your escape routes are filling with smoke. The best place to practice your drill is from a bedroom. The majority of fatal fires occur at night, while people are asleep.



## Tips during a fire

### Crawl low under smoke

Heat and smoke rise so the air by the floor is the coolest and clearest. If you're caught in smoke, stay close to the floor. Get down on your hands and knees and crawl to the nearest safe exit.



### Test every door



Before opening any door, make sure it is safe to do so. Reach up with the back of your hand to touch the door, the door handle, and the space between the door and the frame. If any of them feel hot, use your alternate exit. If everything

feels cool, brace your shoulder against the door and open it carefully. Be ready to close it quickly if heat or smoke rush in. As you leave, close the doors behind you. Closed doors slow down the spread of fire and smoke.

### If you are trapped

Close doors between you and the fire. Use blankets or towels to cover vents and cracks between floors and doors. Wait at the window and signal for help by using a flashlight or by waving a bright coloured sheet or cloth. If there is a phone in the room, call 9-1-1, and tell the operator exactly where you are.

