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# Care

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*SPECIALISTS IN FIRST AID, SAFETY, SPILL & FIRE EQUIPMENT FOR OVER 56 YEARS.*

## Home Fire Safety Tips

There are many questions to ask yourself when it comes to protecting yourself and your loved ones from a fire at home. Take a minute to honestly answer the following questions:

- Are you prepared for a home fire emergency?
- Have you tested your smoke detectors within the last month?
- Are your smoke detectors less than ten years old?
- Do you have a smoke detector on every floor?
- Is there a smoke detector in every bedroom?
- Does your family have an established evacuation plan in case of a fire?
- Is the home evacuation plan tested on a regular basis?
- Is home evacuation plan communicated to family and friends when they stay overnight?
- Does the home evacuation plan designate a "family safe meeting place"?
- Do you have fire extinguishers located on each floor? Are these fire extinguishers inspected monthly?

If you can't answer **YES** to each of the above questions, you need to take action **TONIGHT!**

Children are taught the importance of fire evacuation and safe meeting places at school. They know the concept. Ensure that they understand by having regular test drills.

Ensure that your plan has a secondary exit if the main exitway is involved in the fire. Consider that you are in each room of the house, your normal route out is blocked by fire. Ask yourself how to escape your home from each room as safely as possible.

Consider purchasing emergency ladders for second floor bedrooms that do not have a safe exit.

Put the plan onto paper so that it can be reviewed on a regular basis, and communicated to visitors staying overnight.

Test your smoke detectors monthly. Put it on a physical calendar or as a repeating notification on your cellphone.

Don't just rely on the test button. Standing on a safe step ladder (not a chair), light either a candle or match and blow it out. Allow the smoke to set off the detector.

When you vacuum the floors, quickly pass the vacuum hose over the smoke detector.

Change the batteries in your smoke detectors in the spring and fall when the time changes.

This is just a starting point but the hope is that these tips will bring this issue to the top of your mind. It may not be a pleasant topic to think about but if it can help save even one life, it will be well worth it!

If you need more information, contact your local fire department or visit the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs' website at <http://www.oafc.on.ca/public-safety>.



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