

## Plan your home fire escape (taken from <https://www.ontario.ca/page/fire-safety-home> )

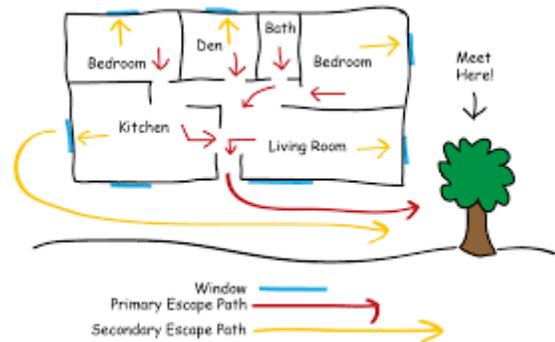
If a fire occurred in your home or cottage tonight, would your family be able to get out safely? It is important that everyone know what to do and where to go when the smoke alarm sounds. Take a few minutes to make a home fire escape plan, by following these steps.

### 1. Draw a floor plan of your home

Draw a plan for each level of your home or cottage.

### 2. Include all possible emergency exits

Draw in all doors, windows and stairways. This will show you and your family all possible escape routes at a glance. Include any features, such as the roof of a garage or porch, that would help in your escape.



### 3. Show two ways out of every room, if possible

The door will be the main exit from each room. However, if the door is blocked by smoke or fire, choose an alternate escape route, which could be a window. Make sure that all windows can open easily and that everyone knows how to escape through them to safety. If windows have security bars, make sure they have a quick release.

### 4. Identify anyone who needs help to escape

Decide in advance who will help the very young, older adults or people with disabilities in your household. A few minutes of planning will save valuable seconds in a real emergency.

### 5. Choose a meeting place outside

Choose a meeting place a safe distance from your home that everyone will remember, for example a tree or a neighbour's cottage.

In case of fire, everyone will go directly to this meeting place so they can be accounted for.

### 6. Call the fire department from outside your home

Don't waste valuable seconds calling the fire department from inside your home. Once you have safely escaped, call the fire department from a cell phone or neighbour's home.

## **7. Practice your escape**

Review the plan with everyone in your household. Walk through the escape routes for each room with the entire family. Use this walk-through exercise to check your escape routes, making sure all exits are practical and easy to use. Hold a fire drill twice a year and time how long it takes. In a real fire, you must react without hesitation as your escape routes may be quickly blocked by smoke or flames.