



Fire Safety for Multigenerational Families Living Together



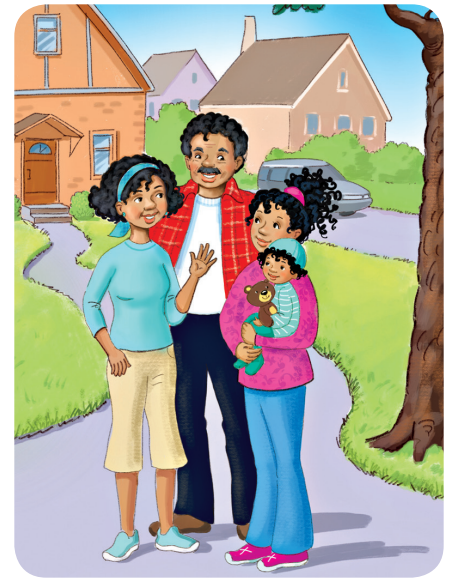
Smoke Alarms are Important

- Make sure your home has working smoke alarms. You need a smoke alarm on every level, inside each sleeping room, and outside each separate sleeping area. Interconnect the alarms so when one sounds, they all sound. Install both ionization and photoelectric alarms for best protection.
- Test your alarms at least once a month. Press each test button to make sure it is working.
- Be safe when testing alarms. Ask for help or stand on a sturdy stepstool or stepladder. Hold onto the handrail when reaching for the alarm to prevent falls.
- Everyone should know the sound of the smoke alarm. Make sure family members can hear the smoke alarm during the day and at night.

Install smoke alarms and alert devices to help family members who are deaf or hard of hearing. Alert devices, such as strobe lights, flash when the smoke alarm sounds. Pillow or bed shakers may be useful to wake a person who is sleeping. These shakers are triggered by the sound of the smoke alarm.

Practice your Fire Drill

- Plan your home escape. The plan should include two ways out of every room and an outside family meeting place.
- Make sure your home has bright lighting in stairways to prevent falls during a fire drill. Remove clutter to avoid trips and falls.
- Install handrails along the full length of both sides of the stairs.
- If you have escape ladders in the home, use them safely. Practice using the ladder from a first floor window. Make sure you can do it correctly and quickly. Children should only practice with an adult.
- Practice the escape plan with everyone who lives in your home. Teach children how to escape on their own in case the adults cannot help them. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire. Install interconnected smoke alarms in every sleeping room.
- Smoke alarms may not wake up children. Older adults may not hear the smoke alarm. Assign someone to help children, older adults and people with disabilities escape.



Get Outside and Stay Outside

If there is a fire, get outside quickly. Then call **9-1-1**.

If there is smoke, use your second way out. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke.

If you can't get to someone needing help, leave the home. Then call **9-1-1**. Tell the fire department where the person is located.

Teach children to wait for family members at the outside meeting place. Once outside, stay outside.

If you can't get outside call **9-1-1**. Let the fire department know you can't get outside. Wave a light-colored cloth or a flashlight from the window.



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