

Home Fire Drill

- Walk through each room in your home together as a family.
- Identify 2 exits from each room.
- Remind everyone how to crawl on the floor if there is smoke, to test the door handle to see if it is hot (DO NOT OPEN if hot), cover space under the door with a blanket or towel if you can't get out.
- Show the family pillows or couch cushions that will be used to indicate the location of the fire. May use multiple locations throughout the home to indicate flames or severe smoke.
- Each family member goes to their own bedroom.
- Ring a bell, sound an alarm or blow a loud whistle to signal the start of a fire alarm drill.
- Time everyone to see how long it takes everyone to meet at your closest family meeting location.
- Remind everyone that you get out then call 911 from your meeting location.
- Evaluate what they should do if there is only one exit from their room and the door handle is hot. Remind them that in a real fire it is OK to break a window! What could you use to break it? Do you need escape ladders for second story bedroom windows?
- Discuss what happened in your drill, and then repeat with everyone in a different room in your house.
- Evaluate again. What can you do better?
- Remember NOBODY goes back into the house for pets or anything else!
- Frequently review your plan and have practice drills throughout the year.
- Remind everyone frequently of your 3 emergency meeting locations throughout the year.

Family Emergency Meeting Locations

- In case of a home fire or natural disaster, identify 3 different meeting locations for your family.
- Location #1 is close to your house – like the driveway of the neighbor across the street.
- Location #2 is in case you can't get that close to your house. Decide on this next closest meeting location – like the corner at the top or bottom of your street, a street sign or stop sign there.
- Location #3 is a meeting spot further away in case your whole neighborhood is inaccessible. This could be someplace specific like the NE corner of your church parking lot or flag pole. Be specific in case the area is crowded during a disaster!
- Frequently review with your family, especially young children where your 3 emergency meeting locations are!

Extended Family Meeting Locations & Contacts

- Share your 3 family emergency meeting locations with extended family members.
- Exchange information for where their families will meet, especially relatives living in the same city.
- As a family, decide on a close friend or family member WHO LIVES OUT OF STATE, and ask them if they would be willing to be the emergency contact for your family.
- In some disasters, phones can connect with someone out of state easier than a local connection.
- Make sure each family member has the name and number for your emergency contact person in their phone. Also have it written down in your home where they can find it.
- In a disaster, each family member can report in with your contact person, let them know where you are and if you are OK and safe.
- Your contact person can then share this information with your immediate family members as they report in and help your family get reunited.

911 Training for Kids

- Even very young children can be taught when and how to call 911.
- Teach them this is for EMERGENCY USE ONLY in words they can understand. Give them some examples like they are home alone with mommy and they can't wake her up.
- Show them how to dial 9-1-1 on a phone.
- Teach them to say their name clearly; what is wrong/why they need help, and what their address is if they are old enough.
- Teach them NOT to hang up until help arrives!
- Review frequently throughout the year.
- Post your address on your fridge or central location along with other emergency numbers and family contact numbers.
- It's easy to get upset and unable to remember this information in an emergency.
- For older children and adults, remember the call taker will ask questions such as the location & address of the emergency; the phone number you are calling from; the nature of the emergency; details about the emergency. These question help the call-taker send the right kind of help to you quickly.

Family Security Code Word

- As a family, decide on an unusual code word to be used in case of a security situation such as strangers telling children their parents sent them to pick them up after school.
- Discuss other possible situations where this code word might be needed.
- Your code word could be an odd animal, like “octopus” or “alligator” that children can remember.
- Remind children to always walk in groups, run if approached, yell for help, tell a teacher, etc. in addition to being able to ask what your family’s code word is.
- Remind children throughout the year what your code word is and not to tell anyone outside the family what it is.