



the Survival **MOM**

BASIC FIRE SAFETY

- Does your home have enough [smoke alarms](#) and are the batteries charged? Make sure you have enough alarms installed throughout your home.
- Gather the kids around a smoke alarm and activate the test button. They should know what the alarm sounds like and understand that it's set off by a sensor that can detect smoke.
- Do your kids know the signs of a house fire? They might think a house has to be fully engulfed in flames in order to, "be on fire."
- Spending some time around a few safe campfires will teach kids what smoke smells like. This is a good opportunity to chat for a couple of minutes about smoke being a sign of a house fire. "Where there's smoke there's fire," isn't just an idiom. It's a good safety rule.
- Children have been known to sleep through the sound of fire alarms. Check out the voice alarms that will record your voice and a message telling kids to wake up and get out of the house.
- Kids need to understand that [smoke](#) presents the most urgent danger. Most fire deaths are a result of smoke inhalation, not burns. They should understand that smoke rises and the freshest air will be close to the floor.
- Every member of your [family](#) should know how to get outside from every room of the house. Do the kids know how to unlatch and open every window? Do they know to get out immediately from whatever room they happen to be in?
- Review a fire exit plan in a family meeting. Everyone should practice opening windows and even crawling to an exit. If the kids are willing, blindfold them for a more realistic experience.
- If a family member is disabled or very young, assign an older child or adult to help them in both a fire drill and in evacuating in case of a fire.
- Establish a single meeting place outdoors.
- Buy a small size fire extinguisher. Take the kids outside and have them practice activating and spraying the extinguisher.
- If there isn't a chance to call 911 from inside your home, assign someone ahead of time to make the call either from a cell phone, if they have it with them, or from a neighbor's house.
- It will be a child's natural instinct to want to rescue a family member, a pet, or a beloved toy. Impress upon them that once they are out of a burning building, they are to never go back inside no matter what.
- If you can safely rescue your pet(s), don't leave them behind! I have heard that dogs will bolt when frightened, but cats will hide. If you know your cat's favorite hiding places, check them out if there's time before you evacuate.
- Include pet evacuations in your fire drills.

- Call your nearest fire house and ask about pet rescue stickers for windows. Sometimes they're available for free.
- Have your [emergency kits](#), aka Bug Out Bags, packed and ready near a convenient exterior door. Depending on circumstances, you may not be able to access them, but it's better to have them ready to go than leave a burning house with nothing but the clothes on your back.
- Prepare in advance for a house fire by gathering together [important papers](#) and storing them either in a fireproof safe or in another secure location. I do not recommend the use of [safe deposit boxes](#), ever.
- Visit the website of [National Fire Protection Association](#) for more tips and downloads.