

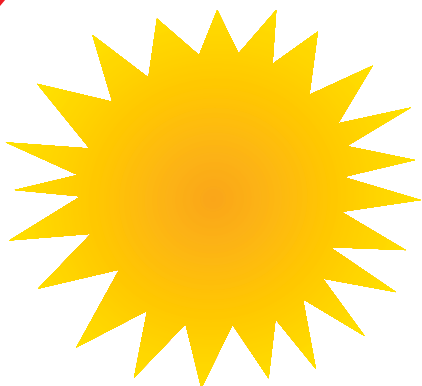


SAMPLE COPY

what to do
IF **FIRE**
HAPPENS
TO **You!**

Fire Drills: the great escape





Can you **GET OUT** in time?

A fire can double in size in 30 seconds and fill the house with toxic smoke within two minutes, making escape impossible. Can you get out in time? With preparation, planning and practice, you can.

step one: 1 **PREPARE**

Install smoke detectors in your home. You should have them on every level of the house, in bedrooms and hallways outside of sleeping areas. Remove unnecessary clutter, especially flammable materials and anything that restricts access to escape routes. Keep keys to doors that are usually locked in an easily reached place nearby. Each room should have at least one window exit; escape ladders should be available for second-floor windows and above.



step two: 2 **PLAN**

Make a fire escape plan. Make sure everyone understands what to do in case of fire. Consider the needs of children, senior citizens, disabled individuals, pets and important papers as well. Make a large floor-plan drawing of your home indicating escape routes, locations of fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and escape ladders, and an outside meeting place. Post the drawing in the kitchen or den.



step three: 3 **PRACTICE**

Hold fire drills, at least two a year, during the day and at night, and time them with a stopwatch. Have everyone do things they would do in case of an actual fire: Roll out of bed and crawl on the floor; check doors for heat with the back of the hand; close doors behind them as they leave; stop, drop and roll if clothing catches fire. Practice escaping through first-floor windows only (but make sure everyone knows how to set up fire-escape ladders from windows on the second floor and higher). Have everyone meet at the designated outside meeting place. Stop the stopwatch when the last person arrives.



step four: 4 **EVALUATE**

Record the amount of time it took to reach safety, and discuss how your performance could be improved.

