



Did you know that if a fire starts in your home, you may only have minutes to safely escape? A working smoke alarm and a fire escape plan that is practiced regularly can save lives. Help protect yourself, your loved ones and your home from fires.



**Install working smoke alarms in every room**

Test smoke alarms monthly and change batteries yearly or immediately when you hear them begin to chirp.



**Have fire extinguishers in critical areas**

Keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen and each floor of your home. Familiarize yourself with the rating system and be sure you know how to use them correctly.



**Make a plan**

All household members should know how to escape from each room in the house if a fire breaks out. The plan should also include a safe meeting place outside the house and a contact in case family members can't find each other. Practice your plan regularly.



**Have fire escape ladders**

Keep escape ladders in each room above the first floor. Store them near windows and make sure household members know how to use them. Make sure windows and screens open easily.

[Click here for past newsletters and other emergency preparedness tips](#)



How is your emergency kit coming along? We want to see it. Send pictures of your progress to [communications@tvwd.org](mailto:communications@tvwd.org). We will feature customer photos in future newsletters.

