



2022 FIRE SAFETY

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Harper Woods - Grosse Pointe Chapter

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CREATE A FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

Families should discuss the following questions and answers as they develop their fire escape plan:



What do we do if our house is on fire?

- Escape as quickly as possible through the nearest exit. Close the door behind you to slow the fire growth. Have two ways out of every room in the house and practice both on a regular basis. Once you escape your home, go to your designated meeting spot and call 911.



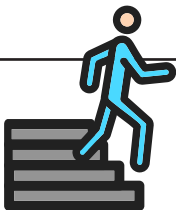
What do we do once we are outside?

- Meet at your designated meeting spot away from the house, such as at the mailbox, a large tree, a barn, a streetlight, or at a neighbor's house. Your neighbors can help you call 911 even if your cellphone is still inside the burning building.



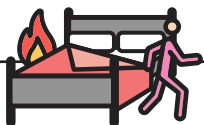
What do we do if a fire breaks out in the kitchen?

- If you have an extinguisher in the kitchen with you, try to quickly put the fire out while instructing your family members to escape and call 911.
- If you do not have an extinguisher, you and your family evacuate the house and go to your family's designated meeting spot.
- Close the door behind you exiting the house to slow the fire growth.



What if a fire happens upstairs?

- If the fire is on the first floor and you are on the second floor, you should gather your family members on the second floor. Move your family into a bedroom, close the door, and exit out the bedroom window.
- If the fire is burning on the second floor, instruct your family to leave the second floor. Exit the home using the closest exit door and close the door as you leave. Go to your designated meeting spot and call 911.



What if the fire happens while I am asleep?

- Get out of bed, close your bedroom door and escape out the window. Go to your designated meeting place and call 911.
- If the fire happens inside your bedroom, leave your bedroom and close the door behind you. Instruct your family to evacuate the house through the closest exit door, go to your designated meeting spot, and call 911.



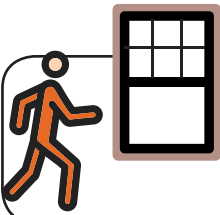
What if the fire is blocking our main exit?

- Most fatal fires in Michigan start in the living room. If the fire is in a living room, the fire will quickly cut off your ability to exit out the front or back door as the fire grows.
- Instruct your family to move toward a bedroom if you can't escape out a front or back door. Close the bedroom door behind you.
- Once you've reached the bedroom, close the door and move to a window. If possible, exit out the window, move to your designated meeting spot and call 911.
- If you can't exit out of the bedroom window, call 911 and share your location. Wait by the bedroom window for the fire department to rescue you. The closed door not only buys you time to exit and be rescued, but your door becomes a barrier, allowing you to breathe fewer toxic gases and smoke.



What are the two ways out of every room?

- If the you're on the main floor of your home, most likely you can use the front or back door to escape. Move towards the closest exit while moving away from the fire. Make sure to close the door behind you as you exit.
- If you're in a bedroom, you must decide if moving to the front or back door is taking you towards the fire. If the answer is yes, you should go away from the fire by closing the bedroom door and moving towards the window. The best decision is to move toward an escape point while moving away from the fire.



How do we get out of the windows?

- Before you open a window, always make sure to close the nearest door. Open the window, push the screen out and lower yourself out the window to the ground or on to a roof. After you escape, go to your designated meeting spot and call 911.



Where do we store the window ladder in our home?

- Store the ladder in a known location of all family members. Practice using it until everyone in
- your family is comfortable setting it up and using it to climb to safety. Windows that open onto a deck, porch or roof get you out of the structure and put you in a position of using a ladder to rescue others.



Inform visitors of your fire escape plan!

- Kid Sleepover - it is best to go over where all the closest exits are to where the kids plan to sleep that night. Share the layout of your home and include the exits beyond the door they used to enter your home.
- Dinner Guests or Holiday Gatherings- It is important to show your guests the layout of your home as well as several exits beyond the front door where they entered.
- Hosting Holidays (With more than 10 people in your home) - it is important to make temporary "Exit" signs to use in your hallways directing your guests towards marked exit doors.

This information is brought to you by:



For more information, please visit michigan.gov/miprevention



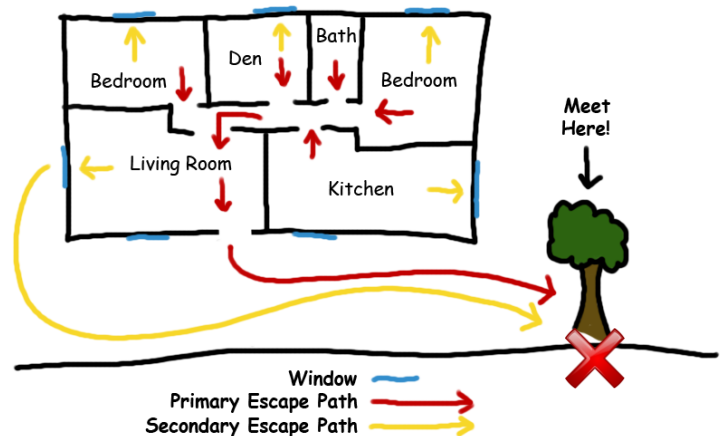
ARLINGTON COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE PREVENTION OFFICE



Home Fire Escape Plan

Using the grid on the other side of this paper, draw a floor plan of your house:

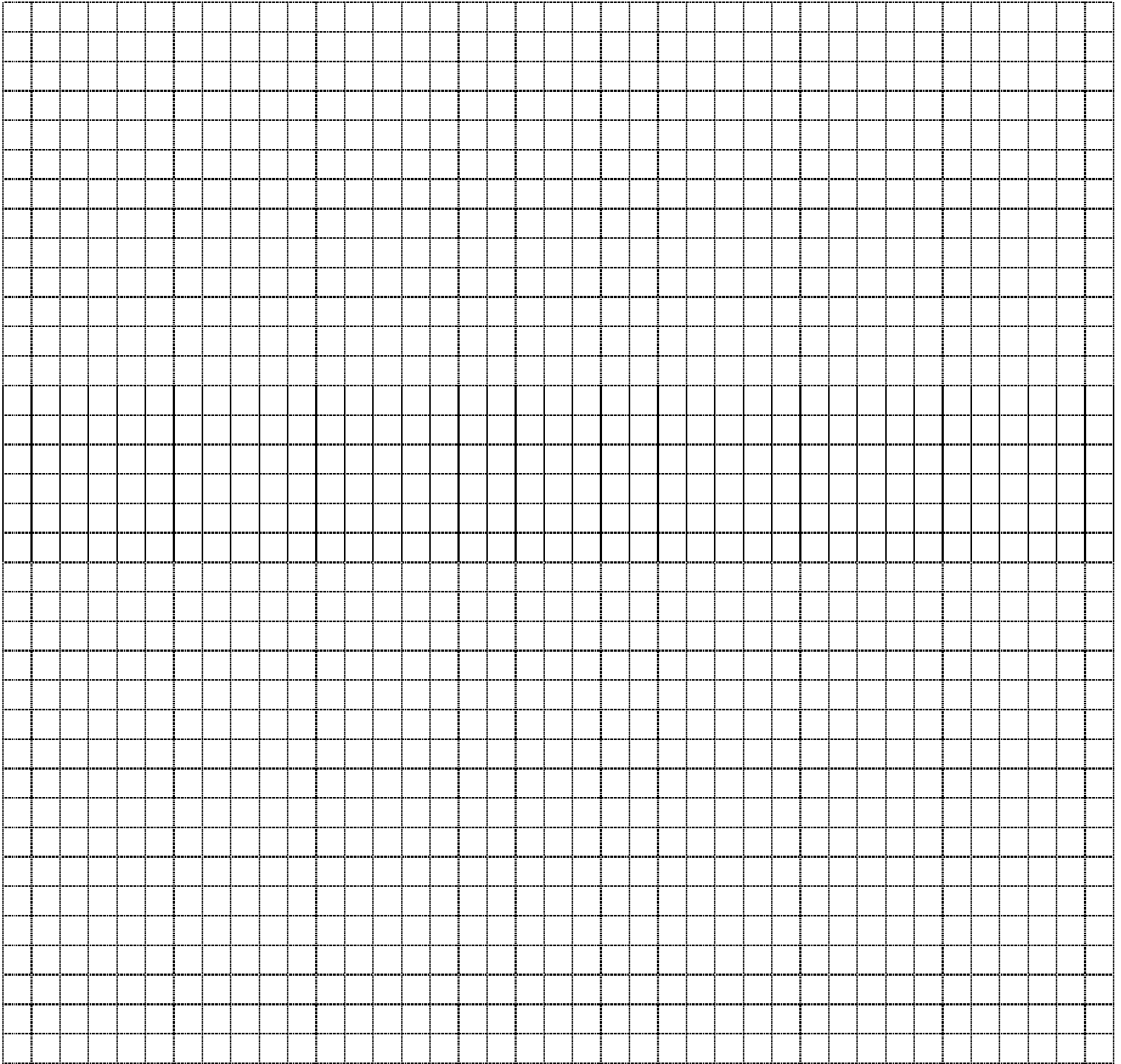
- Make sure each room is identified, as well as the doors and windows – these are your escape routes!
- Plan two escape routes from each room and mark the way out on the plan
- Agree on a meeting place outside the house and mark it on the plan with a big "X"
- Mark the location of smoke alarms in your home with an "S" with a circle around it, there should be at least one smoke alarm in every bedroom or sleeping area



Fire safety is everyone's business. If you make a home fire escape plan and practice it regularly, your family will know what to do in event of an emergency in your home. Check your smoke alarm batteries every month and change them at least twice a year. Here are some simple fire safety rules:

- Smoke kills! Do not get up and run when your smoke alarm goes off. Instead, roll out of bed, and then **crawl on the floor** to the door. Smoke rises, so the air will be easier to breathe at floor level. Heat also rises, so it will be cooler there as well.
- Before you open the door, check it with the back of your hand for heat. Start feeling at the bottom and work your way up to the door handle. If the door or handle is hot – do not open the door! Find a second way out of the room!
- If there is smoke outside the door, close the door and stuff the cracks to keep the smoke out. Go to the window instead. If you can get out of the window, escape that way. If you cannot, open the window and call for help. If smoke comes inside the window – close it!
- **Don't hide!** Firefighters can't help you if they can't find you. Make as much noise as you can and let the firefighters know where you are.
- If you can, close doors behind you as you leave. This will slow the spread of smoke and flames throughout your home.
- Go directly to your meeting place. Do not stop to find your pets or valuables.
- **Get out and stay out.** Never go back inside a burning building for anything.
- **Call 9-1-1** from a cell phone or neighbor's home.
- Account for every family member at the meeting place and report any missing members to the fire department and their last known location.

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



**Practice your escape plan! Remember, a fire drill is not a race!
Get out quickly, but get out safely!**

- Crawl low to avoid heat and smoke.
- Feel doors with the back of your hand before opening them.
- Do not open the door if it feels hot - use your second exit.
- Meet outside and then **call 911** for help.
- Stay outside no matter what - don't go back for anything!