

How will they escape a fire?



Checklist

Now check that your smoke alarm is working (and check at least once every week from now)

Now make an escape plan

In a fire try to keep calm, remember your escape plan

if you're in a flat, close the outside door when everyone is out. It will help to stop the fire spreading

never use the lifts – go down the stairs



Visit www.dontgivefireahome.com for practical fire safety advice. Or talk to your local firefighters. You'll find contact details on the website, in your local library and in the phone book.



Make an escape plan

You're twice as likely to die in a house fire in Scotland than in any other part of the UK. Making an escape plan for your home could save your life. You don't need to be an expert. Just think it through.

How would you get everyone out at night? How would you get the kids out? How would granny cope? Then tell everyone what the plan is. Practise what you'd do. You could live to regret it if you don't.

Expect the worst

- close all doors, especially at night. It will help to keep your escape route clear of smoke and heat. A closed door can keep fire back for 10 to 20 minutes
- make sure your smoke alarm is working. Check and test every week



Plan A – When your escape route is clear:

Get everyone out as quickly as you can. A life is worth more than the most valuable thing you own.

Don't look for the fire. If you can, close the door of the room where the fire is to give you more time to get out.

When you get out, stay out

- phone the fire brigade. Dial 999
- alert your neighbours
- never try to go back inside until the firefighters tell you it's safe

Plan B – If you can't get out:

Get everyone into one room (if possible one with a phone). This is your 'safe' room. But never open a door if it's warm to touch.

When everyone's in the room, pack clothes, cushions, pillows or towels around the door to keep smoke out.

Open a window and shout until someone calls the fire brigade. Stay at the open window.

If you're on the first floor, you might be able to drop some pillows or cushions and then lower yourself from the windowsill. But only ever attempt this as a last resort.

If there are two adults, one should go first to catch children. Pass them slowly and stretch full length before you let them go.

No-one should ever jump

If you're on a higher floor, lean out of the window for fresh air until the firefighters arrive.



9 steps to safety

Plan your escape route now. Practise with your family.

If a fire starts, shout to warn everyone in the house.

Get out quickly. Don't stop for valuables.

Keep low down. Air is cleaner and cooler nearer the floor.

Don't look for the fire – keep doors closed.

If you can't escape, get everyone in a safe room.

Never jump out of a window – if you can, lower yourself onto cushions. But only ever attempt this as a last resort.

When you're out, stay out.

Phone the fire brigade.

