



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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If a fire started in your home, would you know what to do?

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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According to a 2004 National Fire Protection Association survey, approximately 23 percent of American households have developed and practiced a home fire escape plan. Given that the typical family has approximately two minutes to escape, creating a fire escape plan can mean the difference between life and death.

The Alabama Department of Public Health and other authorities offer the following suggestions for creating a home fire escape plan.

Install and Test Smoke Alarms: Install smoke alarms near sleeping areas and test them monthly. Change alarm batteries yearly and replace alarm units that are over 10 years old. **A useful tip to follow:** When resetting clocks on April 3 as daylight savings time begins, change smoke alarm batteries.

Create a Family Fire Escape Plan: Know two ways out of every room to include doorways or windows. Never use elevators. Designate a safe place to meet once the family escapes, such as a neighbor's front porch, and alert your local fire department. The goal is to get out safely and to stay out.

Practice Your Fire Escape Plan: Practice your plan at least two times per year. If children or others do not quickly react to the sound of the smoke alarm, or if there are infants or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them during the family fire drill.

For more information on fire safety, please contact the Injury Prevention Division of the Alabama Department of Public Health at 334-206-5300, or visit the web site, www.adph.org/injuryprevention.

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