



The New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board Family Fire Escape Plan Tips

This fall, National Fire Prevention Week focuses on the importance of practicing a fire escape plan with your family. To help keep your family and home safe from fire, here are some tips to follow on developing and practicing your escape plan provided by the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board.

Be Prepared

- ❖ Every household – no matter how large or small, house or apartment – should have a family escape plan.
- ❖ Make sure you have at least one working fire alarm per floor of your home that can be heard loudly from each room.
- ❖ Take the time now to examine doors and windows to make sure they are accommodating in the event of an emergency. This includes making sure windows are easy to unlock and open, and considering personal fire escape ladders for second-story rooms.
- ❖ If you live in an apartment building, make sure you are aware of all the building's fire exits, fire escapes and rules in the event of an emergency. Each apartment building should have a set meeting place outside for residents and practice apartment-wide fire drills at least once a year.
- ❖ Consider purchasing a lock-box or fire-proof safe for your home, and keep important papers and resources in an easy-to-access place in the event of a quick escape.
- ❖ Consider researching and investing in a residential fire sprinkler system to protect your family and property. Fire sprinklers respond to a fire immediately and allow optimum time for your family to escape to safety unharmed.

Practice, Practice, Practice!

- ❖ Make sure your plan includes escape routes from all floors of your home, including basements and upper levels.
- ❖ Everyone in your household should be able to clearly identify two safe exits from each room of your house. A proper fire exit is a door or window that leads directly outside and does not include going through other rooms of the house.
- ❖ Set a family meeting place outside your home that is a safe distance away from the property and streets where you can easily be spotted by fire and other emergency professionals.
- ❖ Once you leave a building during an escape, leave all windows and doors you came through open to allow others to escape and allow fire professionals better access inside.
- ❖ Make sure that all members of the family – especially small children – understand that in the event of a fire, the most important thing is escaping and getting to safety. Children especially are to understand not to return inside a burning building for people, items or pets.
- ❖ **Practice, practice, practice!** Practice your family escape plan at least twice a year.