



How to Prepare for a Fire

Prepare

WHAT TO DO

- **Create and practice** a fire escape plan
 - Have at least two ways to get out of a room
 - Make sure windows do not stick and security locks can be disabled
- **Install smoke alarms** on every level of your home
 - Frequently test them and change the batteries when necessary
- **Make digital copies of important documents** (ie: birth certificates, policies)
- **Invest in a fire extinguisher**
 - Get it checked regularly and learn how to properly use it
- **Consider** installing an automated sprinkler system in your home

During

WHAT TO DO

- **If you can, stay low to the ground** to avoid excess smoke
 - Heavy smoke and other poisonous gases collect along the ceiling
- **Feel closed doors** before you open them
 - Use the back of your hand or other extremities to touch the door
 - DO NOT open doors that feel hot or have smoke coming through them
- **If your clothes catch fire - STOP DROP & ROLL**
 - Cover your face with your hands and roll on the ground
 - For those who cannot stop, drop and roll smother the flames with a blanket
 - Use cool water to treat any burns
- **Tell first responders** if you were unable to help someone evacuate
 - Let first responders know if there are pets inside
- **If you cannot evacuate**, close any doors and cover vents and cracks with cloth
 - Call 9-1-1 and signal for help when first responders arrive

After

WHAT TO DO

- **Contact your local disaster relief service** for help during the recovery process
 - They may be able to help with temporary housing or food and medicine
- **Contact your insurance company** for instructions on how to protect property
 - If you are not insured, try contacting private organizations for aid
- **Check with the fire department** to make sure your home is safe to enter
 - They should make sure that utilities are safe to use or are disconnected
- **Conduct an inventory** of damaged property
 - DO NOT throw away anything that has not been accounted for
- **Locate** important documents and records

