

How to Save Your Life in a House Fire



Knowing how to react fast in a house fire can save your life and the lives of those you love. Here are some guidelines to follow.

- Keep the phone number of your local fire department clearly posted near all telephones in the house. (Try to memorize the number, in case you have to use a neighbor's phone.) Use 911! where the service is available.
- Prearrange a plan for family members to follow in case of fire. Conduct fire drills using your escape route.
- If you live in a two-story house, purchase and install an emergency escape ladder and practice using it.
- If a fire breaks out, don't stop to collect personal possessions. **Get people out of the house!**

- If you can't get to within 10 to 12 feet of a fire, you can assume it's too big to handle on your own. Call the fire department immediately. (Call them for small fires, too.)
- If you try to put out the fire, make sure you can get to an exit. Don't back yourself into a corner.
- Smother a fire thoroughly and keep it covered so it doesn't ignite again. The fire department will determine if the fire has been contained or if it has spread.
- If you fail to extinguish the fire and smoke is accumulating, **get out of the house quickly!**

Poisonous gases and smoke are often more dangerous than flames. (Smoke rises, so remember to "stay low and go." Crawl if you must. And if you can, place a wet towel over your face to filter out smoke and fumes.)