

# *E.D.I.T.H. can save your life!*

Who is this E.D.I.T.H. that can save your life? This E.D.I.T.H. is not a person, but a plan you make to escape from fire in your home.

This E.D.I.T.H. stands for

Exit  
Drills  
In  
The  
Home



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## Fires kill

Fires in the home are the cause of many deaths. In fact, 70 percent of all fatalities by fire occur in private residences. And, most of these could have been prevented if the families had a fire escape plan and if they had practiced the plan *regularly*. A good time to practice is during Fire Prevention Week in October.

## Design a plan

If you haven't already designed a step-by-step plan for your emergency fire escape, sit down with your family today and make one. Diagrams showing emergency escape routes would be a helpful visual aid for all family members. (You can use the handy grid included in this brochure to map out your home's floor plan.)

Plan for at least two escape routes, in the event fire blocks one of them. Also, make sure children can work all the windows, doors and locks they may have to use with an alternate escape route. If the escape route is from a second floor, be sure there's a safe way to the ground.

If fire strikes, get out as quickly as possible. If it's smoky, get down, stay low and crawl fast. And, make sure everyone in your family understands that they must not go back into your home. Not for anything!

## Pick a place to meet

One of the most important parts of your plan is to designate a place outdoors where your family is to meet for a head count. That way you can make sure everyone has exited your home safely.

## Practice your plan

After checking the plan on paper, actually go over the *entire* escape route with your family. Have everyone start in their own bedroom, with the doors closed. One person should shot, ring a bell

or push the smoke detector's test button to start the drill. Everyone should then crawl under the "smoke" and meet outside at the prearranged meeting place.

## Test smoke detectors

For the plan to be effective, your home must also be equipped with operating smoke detectors. They should be placed on every level of your house and outside each sleeping area. Test your smoke detector every month and replace the battery every year.

Make certain the fire department's phone number is attached to your telephone so it can be found and dialed quickly in an emergency.

## Check the door

If you do suspect fire, test the door! If it's warm, use your alternate escape. If it's cool, brace your shoulder against the door and open it a crack. If smoke and heat come in, slam the door shut and use your alternate escape. Try to keep closed doors between you and smoke.

## Tell the kids

Tell little kids to *never* hide if there's a fire...not in a closet or under a bed. Tell them to wait by a window and signal with a bed sheet or a flashlight.

Sit down with your family and make your escape plans and practice them! Exit drills in the home may save your life (or the life of someone you love)!

**E.D.I.T.H. can save your life!  
Make your escape plans and practice them today!**

Use this grid to draw a floor plan of your home. Be sure to indicate all doors and windows, as well as stairways and porches. Determine and indicate two ways to reach the ground or another safe place from each room, especially each bedroom. Make copies for every member of your family.

