



ENGLISH

Calgary Fire Department

# Home fire escape plan

Planning and practising a home fire escape plan can make a life-saving difference in a home fire.



## Practising your home fire escape plan

At least twice a year, plan a home fire drill at unexpected times during the day or evening. Keep the drill as realistic as possible. This will help your family feel prepared and calm in the event of a real fire emergency.

The following tips will help you plan a home fire drill and practise your home fire escape plan:

1. To start your drill, blow a whistle or set off your smoke alarms.
2. Make sure everyone practises escaping from bedrooms as drawn in your home fire escape plan.
3. Practise different scenarios, such as trying different escape routes or scenarios where there is no safe escape route.
4. Practise feeling the door, around the doorframe, the space between the doorframe and the doorknob with the back of your hand to see if the door is warm.
5. Practise escaping through smoke by crawling on your hands and knees with your head one to two feet (30 to 60 cm) above the floor.
6. Time the drill. In a typical home fire, you may have as little as two minutes to escape from the time the smoke alarm sounds.
7. Make sure everyone meets at a designated spot and stays out of your home until the drill is over.
8. Put everything away as it was before the drill.

## Phoning 9-1-1 when you need help

Phoning 9-1-1 any time you have an emergency is the fastest way to get the help you need. It is free to phone 9-1-1. Translation in more than 200 languages is available for non-English speaking 9-1-1 phone calls.

You should phone 9-1-1 when you:

- See a fire. Even if the fire is on a stove or outside in an alley or any other place that seems far away from buildings.
- See a medical emergency or if someone else is seriously injured or sick.
- Smell smoke or your carbon monoxide alarm goes off.
- See a crime, vandalism, assault, robbery, a prowler or an impaired driver.
- Smell natural gas. Natural gas smells like rotten eggs. If you smell natural gas in your home, leave immediately and leave the lights and appliances alone.

## Accidental 9-1-1 phone calls

Calgary 9-1-1 receives more than 300 accidental phone calls every day. Most accidental phone calls to 9-1-1 come from cellphones – so called “pocket dials.” Put your cellphone on standby mode, store it in a holster, or contact your service provider for other solutions to prevent accidentally phoning 9-1-1.

If you do phone 9-1-1 by mistake, don't hang up right away. Stay on the line and let the operator know that you don't require assistance.

Visit [calgary.ca/911](http://calgary.ca/911) for more information.



[calgary.ca/homeescapeplan](http://calgary.ca/homeescapeplan)



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## Creating your home fire escape plan

The following steps will help you create your home fire escape plan:

1. Print and use our home fire escape plan template to draw a floor plan of your home that includes all doors and windows.
2. Draw two ways out of every room for each family member, including infants and family members with limited mobility. The door is your first option. A second option can be a window. Second or third storey windows should have a fire escape ladder in every room. Fire escape ladders can be purchased at your local home improvement store.
3. Pick a meeting place outside your home where everyone gathers after leaving your home. The meeting place can be a neighbour's house or a tree away from your home.
4. Practise your home fire escape plan at least twice a year with a fire drill.
5. Remind your family to never go back into a burning building.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Calling 311 provides you with information on City of Calgary services and bylaws. Citizens can also report concerns or bylaw violations in their community. 311 offers language translation services in more than 200 languages.

Example of a home fire escape plan.

