



NEWS RELEASE

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HOME ESCAPE PLANS SAVE LIVES

It only takes a few moments every few months, and having a home escape plan could save your family's lives in an emergency.

"If a fire starts in your home, you may only have a few minutes to get out, once the smoke alarm sounds," said Krista Barton, Public Fire and Life Safety Educator with the Township of Langley Fire Department. "Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire. Being prepared could mean the difference between life and death."

To make a home escape plan, draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows.

Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and, if possible, find at least two ways out of every room. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home and determine an outside meeting place, such as a tree, light pole, or mailbox that is a safe distance from the home. Close doors behind you as you leave and call the fire department from outside.

Practice the escape plan by holding a home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year. Practice using different ways out and teach children how to escape on their own in case adults can't help them.

"Practicing will help children remember and learn," Barton said, "and the experience will stay with them, so they are less frightened if a real emergency strikes."

"Walk through it with them and reassure them," she said. "Give children responsibilities and challenge them with activities, such as drawing a map of the home or picking the meeting place. They will feel better because they are helping make sure everyone is safe."

"Always remember, if the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out," Barton said. "Never go back inside for people or pets. And if you have to escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out."

"It is easy to think it won't happen to you," she added, "but if a fire should happen, the planning and preparation can pay off by saving lives."

For more information, call the Township of Langley Fire Department at 604.532.7500.