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Fire Action Plan

Plan your escape NOW.

A fire can develop and spread in a house very quickly, therefore it is essential for you to plan what actions everyone should take to escape if a fire starts.

Once you have decided on your action plan, make sure everyone in your house understands it and knows what to do.

The best way to protect your escape route from smoke and heat is to keep all room doors closed - particularly at night when the family is sleeping.

What to do when your smoke alarm goes off

When your escape route CAN be used:

- Alert everyone - get everyone **out** as quickly as possible.
- Don't look for the fire but, if possible, close the door of the room where the fire is. This should restrict the spread of smoke and flames.
- When outside get to a telephone and call 999 and ask for the Fire Brigade.
- **Don't go back in the house.**
- Alert your neighbours.

When your escape route CANNOT be used:

- Alert everyone and, if possible gather everyone into one room (if possible with a telephone).
- Don't open the door of a room if it feels warm when touched with the back of your hand.
- Once inside this "safe" room close the door and pack towels, pillows, cushions or clothing around it to keep smoke out.
- Go to a window, open it and shout to attract attention until someone calls the fire brigade. Stay at the open window.
- If you are on the first floor it may be possible to lower yourself from the window sill to arm's length before dropping to the ground. First of all drop pillows or cushions to break your fall.
- If there are two adults one should go to catch the children. Pass them down slowly, stretching to full length before letting go. **No one should ever jump.**
- If you are trapped in a higher storey, lean out of the open window for fresh air until the fire brigade arrives.

Additional Information

- Try to keep calm - think about your fire action plan.
- When moving in a smoke-filled room keep low - the air is clearer near the floor.
- A closed door can restrict the spread of smoke and heat and protect your escape routes.
- In modern flats there are additional safeguards to protect escape routes and limit the spread of fire. Close the door of the flat on fire once everyone is out. And don't use the lifts.
- If you can't open the window, or if it's double glazed and difficult to break, use a heavy object to hit one of the bottom corners. And before climbing out, make jagged edges safe with towel or a blanket.
- Install, check and maintain your smoke alarms - they give you early warning of a fire and time to get out.
- If you require any help in the preparation of your action plan, or information on fire safety, contact the fire brigade. The number for non-emergency calls is in the telephone book.

10 Key Points.

- **PLAN** your escape route now.
- Practise your escape route.
- You only have seconds - **DON'T STOP** for valuables.
- **SHOUT** to alert your family.
- **KEEP LOW** if the house is filled with smoke. Remember, the air is clearer and cooler near the floor.
- **DON'T INVESTIGATE** - keep doors closed.
- If there's no safe way out, get everyone into a **SAFE ROOM**.
- Never jump straight out of a window. **LOWER** yourself onto cushions etc.
- If necessary **BREAK** a window and make safe all jagged edges.
- **WHEN YOU'RE OUT - STAY OUT - DIAL 999.**

If you require further information contact your local Fire Service.