

# School Crisis Planning: The Parent Factor

## FIRE DRILLS

### What Your School Is Doing

Schools have regular fire drills that teach students the sound of a fire alarm, how to exit the classroom single-file, and how to stay with their teacher to avoid getting lost. Schools usually predetermine which exits a classroom will use in order to exit the building as safely and as quickly as possible. *Below are tips you can use to plan for fire drills with your family to help prepare for fire drills at home.*

### WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

#### Prepare a Home Fire Plan

Develop a safety plan for you and your family for your home. Make sure you practice the plan.

#### Preparing for a Fire Drill:

- ▣ Have a plan as a family
- ▣ Work as a family to identify two (2) escape routes from each room
- ▣ Choose a safe location away from the house for the family to meet once out of the house
- ▣ If you have a 2-story home, consider purchasing and using escape ladders
- ▣ If you have small children, know who is responsible for getting them out of the house.

#### Getting Out of the House:

Pick a place where family members can gather once they are out of the house. The location should be away from the home and familiar to all family members. If you are exiting through windows, pay special attention to how the windows unlock and open, as well as what is outside the window to make sure your escape route is not blocked. Before opening a door, place your hand on it to feel for heat. If it is warm, use another escape route. If you must exit through smoke, crawl as low as possible under the smoke. If both exits are blocked, stay in the room with the door closed, place a rolled towel under the door and signal for help. Once you are out of the house, **DO NOT GO BACK IN!**

#### It's Up to You

The preparedness information in this flyer, combined with timely actions, could save your families lives in the event of a house fire.

#### Conduct a Fire Drill at Home with Family

- ▣ Announce the start of the drill.
- ▣ Family members should act as though a fire is actually occurring. They should move as quickly as possible to exit the house using one of the pre-determined exits.
- ▣ Once family members are out of the house, they should go to the family meeting location and stay there. Account for all involved in the fire drill.
- ▣ Fire drills should be conducted more than once in order to practice utilizing all possible exits.
- ▣ When the drill is over, discuss the drill and ways to improve it, including exit routes. Make improvements or changes if necessary.

#### Actions for Your Family

- ▣ Post emergency telephone numbers by phones.
- ▣ Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of the house, especially near the bedrooms. Change batteries at least twice a year in smoke detectors.
- ▣ Teach children how and when to call 911.
- ▣ Learn basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid.
- ▣ Have a fire extinguisher in your house and know how to maintain it and use it properly.

#### Additional Resources Can Be Found At:

American Red Cross: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

FEMA: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Do 1 Thing: [www.do1thing.org](http://www.do1thing.org)