

# EXIT DRILLS IN THE HOME

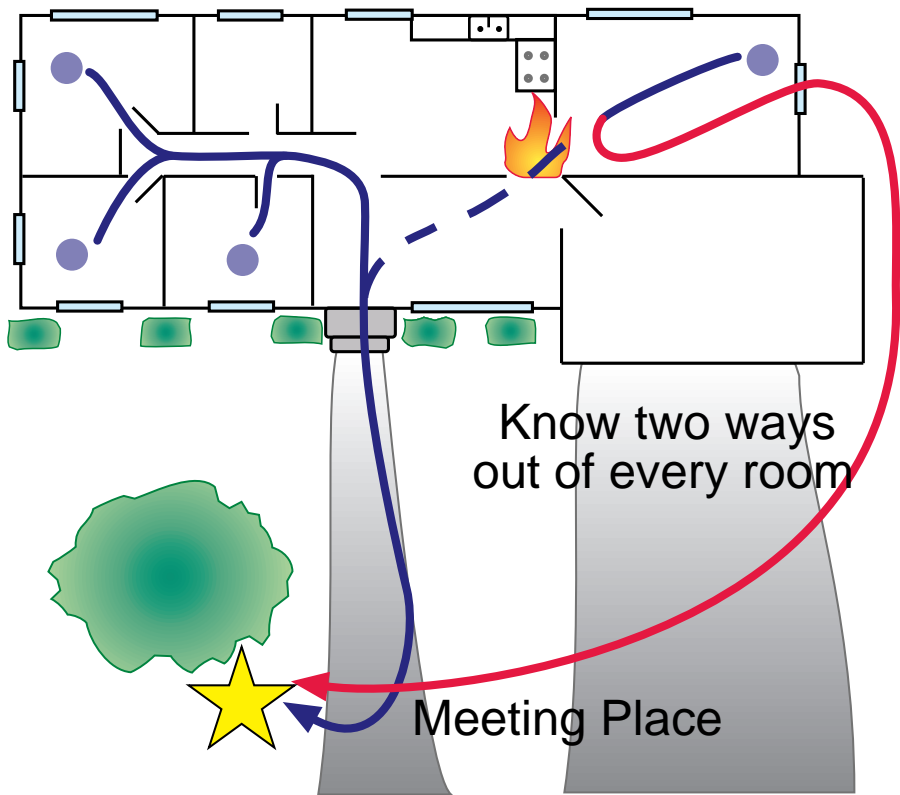
**E.D.I.T.H. stands for Exit Drills In The Home.** Despite the outstanding efforts of Fire Departments in fire prevention activities, fires do occur. Most fatal home fires happen between midnight and 8 a.m., while most people are asleep. Most of these people die without burns but are, suffocated by toxic gases and lack of oxygen created by the fire. If you have a properly working smoke detector you may still have less than 2 minutes to get out. A well practiced escape plan will increase your chances of survival. The following are some ingredients for a successful plan.

## What makes an effective escape plan?

A careful escape plan begins with careful preparation, proper placement of smoke detectors and regular **E.D.I.T.H** practice. Hopefully, you will never have a fire in your home. However should a fire occur, your safety and that of your family will depend on your calm, rational actions. **E.D.I.T.H** and a carefully designed escape plan can be the key to a safe escape.

## How do I put together a fire escape plan?

Advanced planning will ensure that you are ready for any fire emergency, and can provide you and your loved ones with peace of mind. To design your own fire escape plan, sketch the floor plan of your home on a piece of paper. Indicate on the plan all doors, windows and other avenues of escape from each room in your home. Draw arrows to indicate the normal exits which would be your primary escape route. With alternate colors, draw arrows to indicate a secondary exit from each room of the home.



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**Choose a location** outside of the home where family members should meet once they have safely escaped. A neighbors front yard or side walk may be an ideal meeting place. From there call 911 and **NEVER** allow anyone to return into the building.

**Practice your drill** after your escape plan is on paper. Practice regular fire drills to test

the plan's effectiveness. Time the drill and remember to use secondary means of escape in some of your drills. Actually use the windows and doors to make sure that children and adults can fit through them and function the locking devices. Make corrections where necessary.