

PUSH



PRACTISE USING SAFETY AT HOME

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency wants to **PUSH** your buttons.



HALIFAX

The **PUSH** program is a “boots on the ground” public safety campaign asking residents to **P**ractise **U**sing **S**afety at **H**ome. The focus of the PUSH Program is on civic number visibility, working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms, home escape planning, and emergency preparedness.

Did You Know?

Most fire-related deaths happen in the home. Being trapped by spreading fire and smoke is the leading reason people do not escape.

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PREVENTION

Home Fire Safety Checklist

(for occupants to complete following a PUSH Program visit)

Cooking Safety	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Does an adult always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are stove tops and nearby counters clear and uncluttered?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are pot handles turned inward when using the stove so they can't be bumped?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are curtains, utensils, paper towels and other things that can burn kept well away from the stove?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Is there a "kid-free" zone of one metre around the stove when adults are cooking?
Heating Safety	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If space heaters are used in your home, are they at least one metre away from things that can burn?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Does your fireplace have a sturdy screen to catch sparks?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are portable space heaters always turned off when adults leave the room or go to sleep?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Is your chimney cleaned and inspected each year?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Is your furnace serviced by a professional each year?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are propane tanks, gasoline, or other fuels stored safely outside your home?
Candle Safety	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are candles placed in sturdy holders, out of reach of children and pets so they can't be knocked over?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Do you cover lit candles with glass chimneys?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Do you always extinguish candles before leaving the room or going to sleep?

Learn more: halifax.ca/fireprevention 1

Smoking, Matches and Lighters Safety

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are matches and lighters stored out of the reach of children, in a locked box or cabinet?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If you smoke, do you have just one lighter or book of matches and keep it with you always?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If you smoke do you smoke outside and extinguish all smoking materials safely and completely?

Electrical Safety

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are extension cords used for temporary use only and never run under carpets or doors?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are electrical cords in good condition?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are small appliances such as toasters, kettles and irons unplugged after each use?

Home Fire Escape Planning and Practice

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Are the exits in your home clear and free of clutter?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Do you have and practise a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of every room (if possible)?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Do your bedroom windows open easily and do you keep them clear of snow and ice in the winter?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Has your family picked a safe place outside where everyone will meet after exiting the home?

What's your score? Add up the number of “yes” responses and give yourself one point for each one.

Your score: _____ points

If you answered “yes” to all the questions that apply to your home, congratulations! ***You Practise Using Safety at Home!***

If you did not answer “yes” to all the questions that apply to your home then you have some work to do.

DETECTION

PUSH Your Buttons

Only working smoke alarms save lives!



Have you ever wondered why most home fire deaths happen at night, while people are sleeping?

The answer is as plain as the nose on your face. In fact, it is your nose! When you go to sleep your nose goes to sleep; strange as that may sound, it is also the reason smoke doesn't wake people up.

Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency recommends a smoke alarm be installed in **every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every floor**, including the basement. These alarms should be connected so that if one sounds, they all sound.

The law requires, at a **minimum**, a working smoke alarm installed **between each sleeping area and the remainder of the home**.

- **Test** smoke alarms **every month**
- **Change** smoke alarm **batteries** at least **once a year**
- **Clean** smoke alarms **twice a year** to reduce false alarms
- **Replace** smoke alarms every **ten (10) years**



Are false alarms driving you crazy? Does your smoke alarm go off whenever someone takes a shower, or cooks, even if they're not burning anything?

Try installing photoelectric smoke alarms instead. They are less susceptible to nuisance false alarms from cooking and steam.

Learn more: halifax.ca/fireprevention 3

PUSH Your Buttons

Only working carbon monoxide (CO) alarms save lives!



Often called the silent killer, CO is an invisible, odorless and colorless gas created when fuels (such as wood, natural gas etc.) burn.

- The first line of defense to avoid CO poisoning is to have your fuel burning appliances, vents and chimneys **inspected each year**.
 - CO can accumulate in the home if there is a blockage in the appliances venting system (birds/rodents, collapsed liners etc.).
 - CO can also accumulate in the home if the appliance is not operating properly.

If you don't inspect, you won't know.

- The second line of defense is to **install CO alarms on every level of your home** and inside every bedroom.
 - **Test** CO alarms **every month**
 - **Change batteries** at least **once a year**
 - **Clean** CO alarms **twice a year** to reduce false alarms
 - **Replace** CO alarms as **per manufacturer's instructions**



What to do if the CO alarm(s) go off

- Immediately move to an area with **fresh air**.
- Call **911** from a safe location.
- Do not go back until emergency personnel say it is safe to do so.

ESCAPE

911 Saves Lives!



But, we can't help you if we can't find you.



To get a blue and white civic sign visit halifax.ca/civicsign



Displaying Your Civic Number

- Be sure it is visible from the street, day or night all year long.
- Numbers should be big and easy to read.
- Blue and white civic numbers are highly recommended. See the difference contrasting colours make.

Learn more: halifax.ca/fireprevention 5

Home Fire Escape Planning



Increase your chances of surviving a fire in your home by planning and practising a home fire escape plan. Remember, every second counts!

Together with other household members, draw a floor plan of your home **showing two ways out of each area** and where your **meeting place** is.



What to do if the smoke alarm(s) goes off

Situation A: If you **smell smoke**:

React immediately.

- Stay **low under smoke** and follow your home fire escape plan.
- If conditions allow, yell fire and close doors behind you.
- Call **911** from a safe location.
- Go to your “meeting place” so all family members can be accounted for.

Situation B: If you **do not smell smoke**:

React immediately.

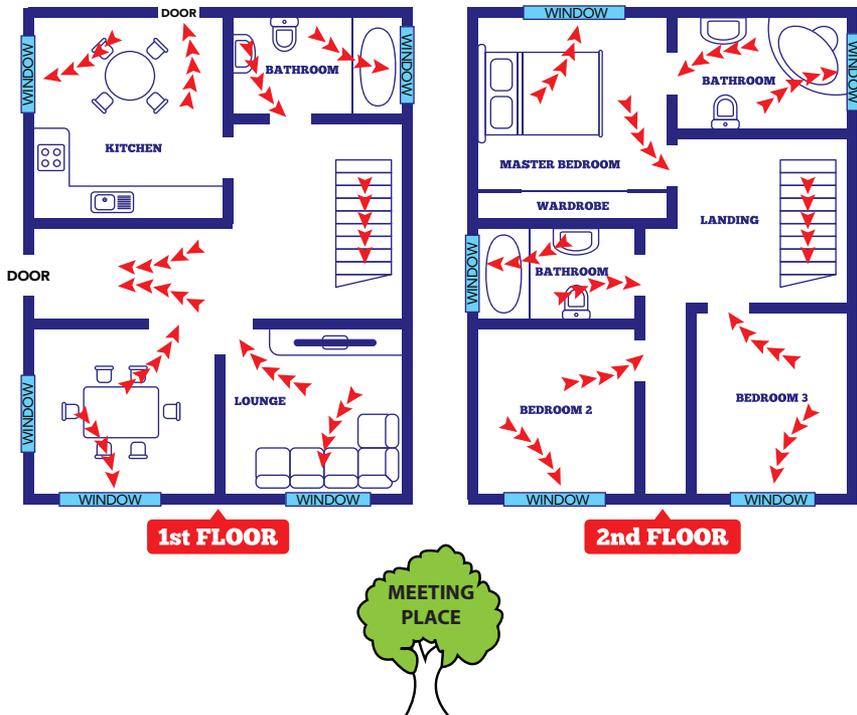
- Proceed with caution and investigate.
- If there is an unsafe condition **leave the building immediately**.

Drawing the floor plan for your home is an important part of your home fire escape plan

It's easy:

1. Draw a floor plan for your home on the grids provided on the following pages. Show all exits (windows and doors) and be sure to include the location of your outside meeting place.
2. Talk about your Home Fire Escape Plan with everyone in your home and review and practise it twice a year.

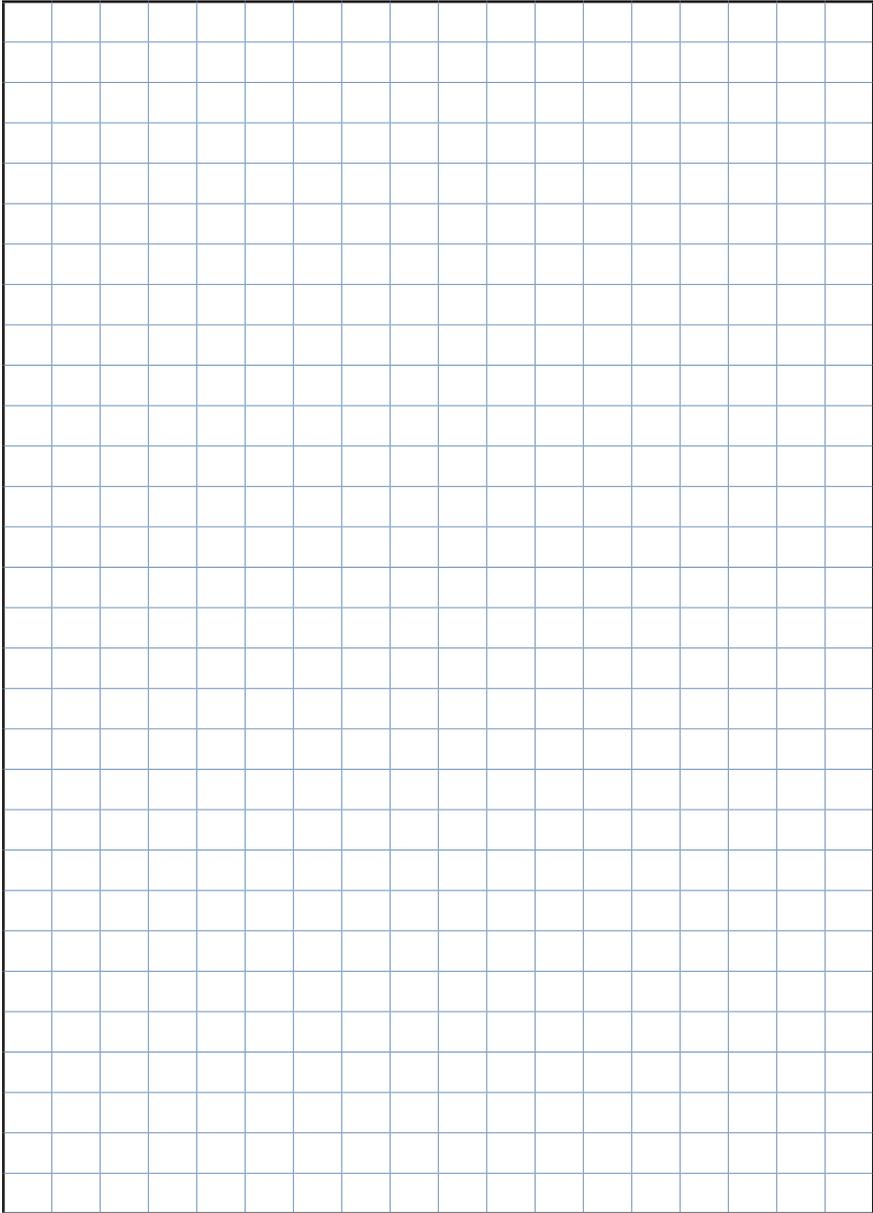
Escape plan example



3. Be sure to include the location of your outside meeting place or muster point.

**Draw your fire escape plan here and
post in a visible spot**

Practise Regularly



**Draw your fire escape plan here and
post in a visible spot**

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