

In case of a fire in your home:

- 1.** Use the family escape plan to get out of the house and meet at the designated safe place.
- 2.** Use a neighbor's phone to alert the fire department.
- 3.** Never return to a burning building once you escape.
- 4.** Alert the fire fighter concerning the people or pets believed to still be inside.
- 5.** If you are unable to escape:
 - ▶ Seal off the room you are in, using items such as clothing, towels, and tape.
 - ▶ Call 911 to alert the fire department.
 - ▶ Open a window and wave light-colored clothing or a flashlight. Close the window immediately if smoke should begin entering the room.
 - ▶ Remain patient and try not to panic.

Important Telephone Numbers:

Alabama State Fire Marshal's Office:
334-241-4166

Emergency:
911

National Fire Protection Association:
1-800-344-3555

Poison Control Center:
1-800-222-1222

SAFE KIDS:
202-662-0600

Consumer Product
Safety Council:
1-800-638-2772



ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

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Informational materials in alternative formats
will be made available upon request.

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Alabama Smoke Alarm Initiative

A Home Fire
Safety Initiative

Alabama Department of
Public Health



Important Facts

- ▶ Alabama ranks 6th in the nation for fire-related fatalities and injuries.
- ▶ The most common causes of residential fires are cooking and heating equipment.
- ▶ Smoking in the home is the leading cause of fire deaths.
- ▶ In a typical home fire, families have approximately 2 minutes to escape.
- ▶ Approximately 59% of fatal home fires occur in homes without smoke alarms.
- ▶ Smoke alarms can reduce home fire deaths by as much as 50%.
- ▶ Only 16% of American families have a home fire escape plan.
- ▶ The groups at highest risk are kids 5 and under, adults age 65 and older, minorities, low income families, people in rural areas, and people in manufactured homes or substandard housing.

Smoke Alarm

- Smoke alarms need to be tested at least twice a year. The best times to check are when you change your clocks in the spring and fall.
- One alarm is needed for every level of a home.
- Alarms should be placed just outside the family sleeping area.

Cooking

- Always wear fitted clothing.
- Do not leave stoves unattended.
- Keep children away from cooking areas.
- Keep flammable and combustible material away from the cooking area.

Smoking

- Never smoke in bed.
- Never leave lit cigarettes unattended.
- Keep lighters and matches away from kids.

Heating

- Do not leave fireplaces unattended.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet from a flammable source.
- Make sure heating units contain a label stating that they have been tested by an independent laboratory.
- Clean wood stoves and fireplaces yearly.

Evacuation Plans

- Plans should include two escape routes from every room.
- There should be an outside meeting place.
- The plan should be practiced at least twice a year.

Electricity

- Do not use damaged cords or overload outlets.



HOME FIRE SAFETY TIPS