



TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

# RISK REMINDER

PARTNERING WITH TOWNSHIPS

**IT'S NIGHT TIME, YOU'RE SLEEPING AND ALL OF A SUDDEN...  
YOUR SMOKE ALARM GOES OFF.**

## WHAT DO YOU DO?

The Fire Department wants you and your family to be prepared in case a fire breaks out in your home. Seconds can mean the difference between life and death.

### PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

Once a fire has started, there is no time to plan how to get out. Sit down with your family TODAY, make a step-by-step plan for escaping a fire, and practice it often. A fire drill is not a race. Get out quickly, but carefully.

Draw a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of every room especially sleeping areas.

Agree on a meeting place where every member of the household will gather outside your home after escaping a fire to wait for the fire department. This allows you to count heads and inform the fire department if anyone is missing or trapped inside the burning building.

### GET OUT FAST

In case of a fire, don't stop for anything. Do not try to rescue possessions or pets. Go directly to your meeting place, and then call the fire department from a neighbor's phone, a portable phone, or an alarm box. Every member of your household should know how to call the fire department.

Crawl low under smoke. If you must exit through smoke, crawl on your hands and knees, keeping your head 12 to 24 inches above the floor.

...and stay out. Once you are out of your home, don't go back for any reason. If people are trapped, the firefighters have the best chance of rescuing them.

Escaping a fire may not be as easy as walking out the door. Dark smoke and fright can affect your thinking during a fire. The more you practice the plan with your family, the more likely they will remember what to do in an emergency.

### SMOKE DETECTORS

More than half of all fatal home fires happen at night while people are asleep. With smoke detectors, your risk of dying in a home fire is cut nearly in half. Install smoke detectors outside every sleeping area and on every level of your home, including the basement. Follow installation instructions carefully, and test smoke detectors monthly. Change all smoke detector batteries at least once a year. If your detector is more than 10 years old, replace it with a new one.



**For more information, contact your Loss Control Consultant at (800) 252-5059, ext. 1387 or 1384.**

CLAIM REPORTING HOTLINE (844) 562-2720 | Available 24/7