

Maryland State Firemen's Association

Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee

TIP Sheet: HOME SAFETY



HOME ESCAPE PLANNING

- Teach children how to Dial 911 in an EMERGENCY
- Have a written home escape plan and practice it.
- PRACTICE TWO WAYS OUT of every room.
- KNOW how to open your windows
- BEFORE leaving your room FEEL the door with the back of your hand to see if its HOT.
- CRAWL low under smoke.
- Have a MEETING PLACE location outside of your home. CALL 911 from a safe location.



ONCE OUT...STAY OUT

SMOKE ALARMS

- INSTALL smoke alarms on every level in your home and inside of each bedroom.
- CHECK your smoke alarms each month.
 - ALWAYS THINK 10 YEARS TO REPLACE
- Hardwired Alarms - Batteries – A MUST – Every 6 months, if your smoke alarm still uses the alkaline battery you must change those batteries every 6 months.
- BEST PRACTICE replace all your alarms to the new 10 year smoke alarms.

CARBON MONOXIDE – CO ALARMS

Each year in America, carbon monoxide poisoning claims approximately 480 lives and sends another 15,200 people to hospital emergency rooms for treatment.

What is carbon monoxide? Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes; CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. These symptoms include headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue..

For maximum protection, a detector should be installed on every level of the home.

- Place it at least 15 feet away from fuel burning appliances. Mount the CO Detector on the wall at least 12 inches from the ceiling and no lower than 5 feet from the floor. Make sure nothing is covering or obstructing the unit. Do not place in dead air spaces, or next to a window or door. Carbon monoxide detectors measure levels of carbon monoxide over time and are designed to sound an alarm before an average healthy adult would experience symptoms.