

Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Management

Home Fire Escape Plan

Our emergency number is:

Our home address is:

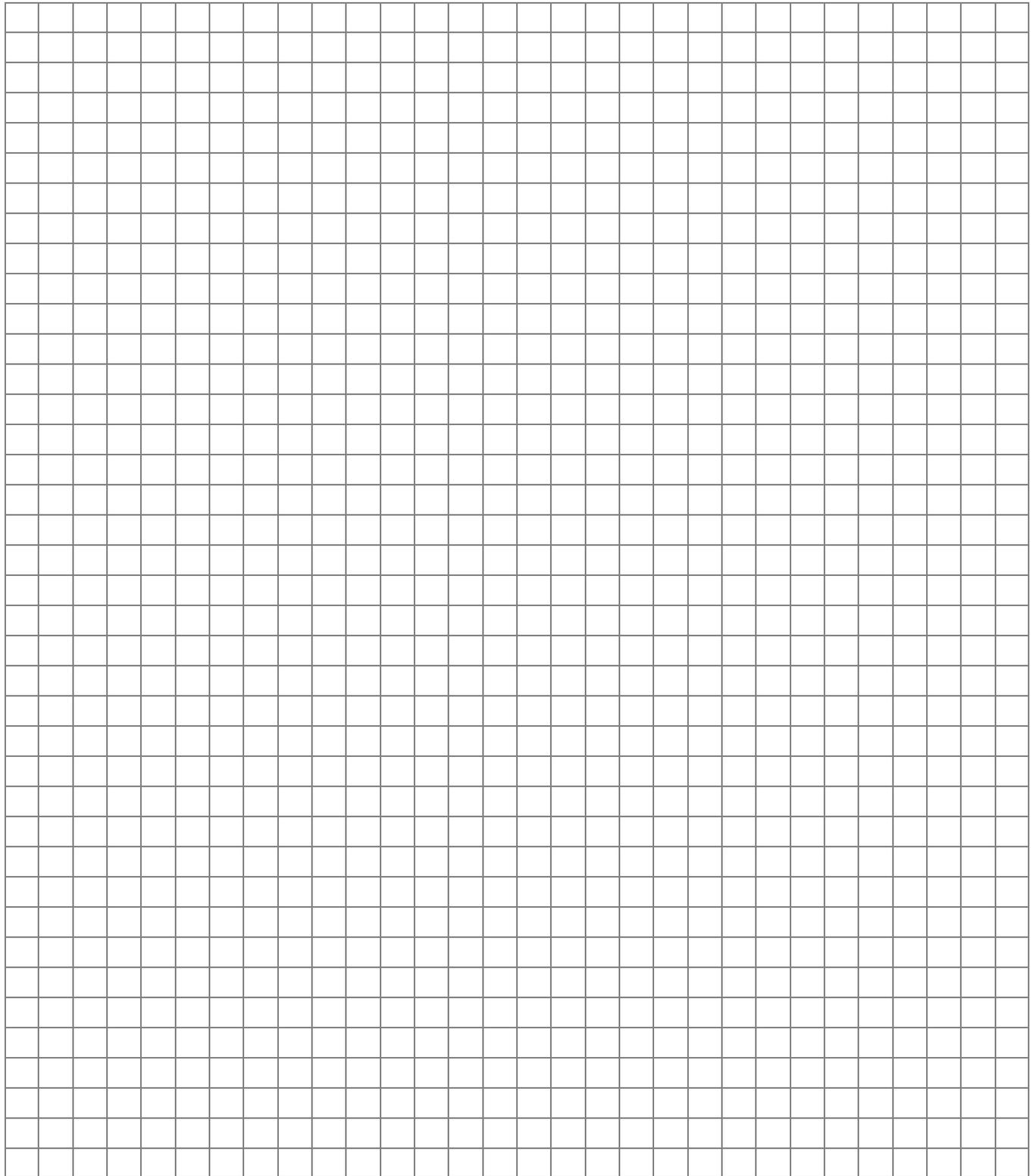
Our telephone number is:

Our meeting place is:

Use this grid to draw a floor plan of your home. Be sure to indicate two ways out of each room and the location of your meeting place outside. Additional tips can be found on the other side of this sheet.



For more fire safety information visit
www.loudoun.gov/fire



A fire can occur at any moment! Even a small fire can quickly get out of control and release toxic smoke and gases that can harm you. Having a home escape plan and practicing it regularly can increase your ability to get out safely. Every second counts! Follow these safety tips to help ensure that you and your family will know what to do if there is ever a fire in your home.

Test smoke alarms.

First, you need to have working smoke alarms in the home. Ideally, there should be one on every level, outside sleeping areas, and inside each bedroom. For best protection all alarms should be hardwired (with battery back up) and interconnected. Smoke alarms should be tested monthly and batteries should be changed annually. When you change your clocks, change your batteries. Smoke alarms generally have a 10 year life limit. They may need to be replaced sooner if they do not respond properly when tested. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance and replacement.

Create a plan.

Draw a map of you home including doors and windows. Find two ways to get out of each room. Be sure all door and windows open easily. Practice your plan twice a year both during the day and at night. Teach children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them. Have a plan for everyone in your home who has a disability. Escape ladders should only be used in an actual emergency and should be evaluated by a recognized testing laboratory.

Pick a meeting place.

Choose a place outside where the family will meet once they have left the home. The meeting place should be a safe distance from the front of your home. For example, meet under a specific tree or at the end of the driveway or front sidewalk. This allows you to make sure everyone had gotten out safely and when firefighters arrive they know that no one is inside.

If you have a fire.

Leave immediately! Crawl low below the smoke. Check doors for heat before opening them. Feel it with the back of your hand to be sure it is cool. If it is cool, slowly open the door and proceed to your exit. If it is hot, use your second way out. Once you get out, stay out! Never go back inside for anything. Go to your meeting place. Once everyone is out call 911 or send someone to a neighbor's house to call.

Other Important Tips

Teach children not to hide from firefighters. When firefighter have all their gear on they can look and sound scary to a young child. Tell them to wait by a window and use a flashlight or light colored pillow case to signal for help.

If your clothes catch on fire Stop what you are doing, Drop to the ground and cover your face, and Roll back and forth to smother the flames.

How Fire-Safe Is Your Home?

- Keep clothes, blankets, curtains, towels, and other items that can easily catch on fire at least three feet from space heaters and away from stove burners.
- Place space heaters where they will not tip over easily.
- Have chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a professional.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces and leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Be sure your stove and small appliances are off before going to bed.
- Check for worn wires and do not run cords under rugs or furniture.
- Never overload electrical sockets.
- Keep lighters and matches out of the reach of children.



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Fire Marshal Division-
Public Education

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