

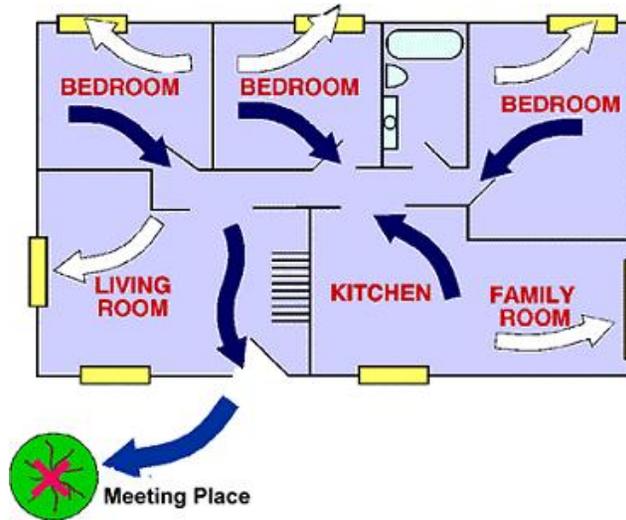
## Fire Escape Plan Tips

Having two accessible ways out of each room greatly improves your chances in escaping a fire in your home. Practicing your escape before fire strikes will enable you to get out faster with less panic.

Unlike Hollywood and television, real fire is dark, the smoke is thick and black, you can't see through it and there are toxic gases in the smoke that can be disorienting. But if you have practiced crawling below the smoke level, feeling your way along the walls and counting doors to your exit, you will know exactly what to do and be better prepared to exit safely if a fire occurs.

If you know your escape route by heart you will be able to get out quickly even if you've been exposed to disorienting smoke and gases.

## An Example of a Home Escape plan...



## When Practicing your Escape Plan...

Include calling for help from a neighbor's phone. Once outside **NEVER** go back into a burning building for any reason.

Establish a meeting place a safe distance from the home.

If you have very young, very old, or disabled occupants, try to locate their bedroom on the ground floor and designate someone to help.

### E.D.I.T.H.

Stockton Fire Department  
Fire Prevention Division  
345 N. El Dorado Street  
Stockton, CA 95203  
Phone: 209.937.8271  
[www.stocktongov.com/fire](http://www.stocktongov.com/fire)

### E.D.I.T.H.

# Exit Drills In The Home

STOCKTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



Fire Prevention 209.937.8271

# Practice Your Exit Drills...

## Some Key Things To Remember When Exiting...

If you encounter smoke on your way out, use your alternative exit. If you must escape through smoke, stay down and crawl under the smoke where the air is clearer and cooler. If your clothing catches fire, **Stop, Drop and Roll** (covering your face with your hands) to extinguish the flames.



STOP...before opening a door, feel the door. While remaining on your knees reach up and feel the door as high as you can reach without standing up. Feel the door knob, around the edges and bottom of the door. If you feel heat don't open that door, use your alternative exit.

## Some Key Things To Remember When Making your Escape Plan...

All members of your household should participate in the process of developing your plan, even young children.

Take a walk through your home and locate two escape routes from each room. Make sure each exit is accessible. Check for windows that could be painted shut, make sure they open.

### Things to Consider...

⇒ DO YOU HAVE BARS ON YOUR BEDROOM WINDOWS?

If so do they open from inside the room? If not, they must be made operable so they can. Those bars can and will trap you inside of your own home. Also California law requires that bars installed on bedroom windows must open from inside of the room. If you are contemplating installing bars on your windows please contact the City of Stockton Building Division at 209-937-8561. They will give you the more information.

## More Things to Consider...

⇒ IS THERE ANYTHING THAT WOULD OBSTRUCT YOUR ESCAPE OR INJURY YOU IF YOU NEEDED TO USE THE WINDOW FOR AN EXIT?

If so, clear the area of all obstructions to insure a safe and quick escape.

⇒ IF YOUR BEDROOMS ARE LOCATED ON THE SECOND FLOOR, DO YOU HAVE ESCAPE LADDERS FOR EACH BEDROOM?

⇒ ANY DOORS BLOCKED BY FURNITURE OR STORAGE?

⇒ DO YOU HAVE AT LEAST ONE WORKING SMOKE DETECTOR IN YOUR HOME?

If you do not have one the Stockton Fire Department will install one at no charge (Contact Fire Prevention at 209-937-8271). It is highly recommended that you test your smoke detectors weekly, and install new batteries at least once a year.