



## Evacuation - get out, stay out

During a fire in your home, you will only have one to two minutes from the sounding of the alarm to when your life is seriously threatened by fire or smoke. It is very important that you prepare and practise an escape plan, and that everyone in the household knows what to do.

One of the key reasons people lose their lives in house fires is because they haven't planned their way out.

Take the time to sit down and draw up a home escape plan. It will be half an hour well spent in an emergency where every second counts.

### You should:

- ✓ Start with a floor diagram of the home;
- ✓ Make sure that everyone knows the sound of the smoke alarm and what to do if a fire occurs;
- ✓ Plan escape routes. Identify a primary escape route out of every room, then pick a secondary route in case the first is blocked by fire (always plan two ways out of each room);
- ✓ Select and indicate a meeting place outside of the home (e.g. the letterbox);
- ✓ Dial 000 - the number to call in an emergency - from a neighbour's home or mobile phone.

### Home Security vs. Fire Safety

People have died in fires because they had dead-locked themselves in and removed the key from the lock. You must be able to quickly escape from your home in the event of fire.

### Tips

- ✓ Install deadlocks that can be opened from the inside without keys;
- ✓ If keys are needed, leave the key in the lock or on a hook on the centre of the door, but out of reach of potential intruders;
- ✓ Limit the number of keys needed to open doors by having locks keyed alike;
- ✓ When installing security grills on windows, select a unit that feature keyless options on the inside;
- ✓ Ensure that any window grill bars/screens readily open outwards from the inside;
- ✓ Be prepared to smash a window as a means of escape. Use a solid object to break the window, clear away jagged glass to protect yourself against cuts;
- ✓ If grills are key locked, the key should be readily on hand.

For further information on home evacuation go to the Queensland Fire & Rescue Service website at [www.fire.qld.gov.au](http://www.fire.qld.gov.au)