



This year's **Fire Prevention Week** campaign, "**Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere.**" works to educate about three basic but essential steps, **Prevention, Detection and Escape**, to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire – and how to escape safely in the event of one:

**"LOOK"** Identify potential fire hazards or places around your home where fires could start and take steps to eliminate those hazards: That's **Prevention!**

**"LISTEN"** Make sure you have working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. Test them monthly to ensure they are working and install new batteries at least once a year or when the low battery warning sounds. Make sure everyone in the household can hear the alarms when they sound: That's **Detection!**

**"LEARN"** Make sure you develop and practice a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of every room, if possible, and a meeting place outside. Practice your plan to make sure everyone learns what to do in the event of a fire: That's **Escape!**

#### **How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan**

- Draw a floor plan or a map of your home, with all members of your household, show all doors and windows, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit. Mark all of the smoke alarms in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Pick a family meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Review the plan with everyone in your household. Walk through the escape routes for each room with the entire family. Use this walk-through exercise to check your escape routes, making sure all exits are practical and easy to use. Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Decide in advance who will assist the very young, older adults or people with disabilities in your household. A few minutes of planning will save valuable seconds in a real emergency. Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the road.
- Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

#### **Cottage Fire Safety Tips**

To minimize the risk of fire and burn injury, the municipality recommends the following cottage fire safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. It's the law for all Ontario homes, cottages, cabins and seasonal homes to have working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. Test smoke alarms at least monthly or each time you return to the cottage. Pack a new smoke alarm and extra smoke alarm batteries in case they need replacement.
- Install and ensure carbon monoxide alarms in your cottage if it has a fuel-burning appliance.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan to ensure everyone knows what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Know your cottage's emergency 9-1-1 number in case of emergency.
- Clean barbecues before using them. Keep an eye on lit barbecues and ensure all combustibles, as well as children and pets are kept well away from them. Fires can happen when barbecues are left unattended.
- Keep barbecue lighters and matches out of sight and reach of children.
- Remember to bring a flashlight with extra batteries.
- Check heating appliances and chimneys before using them.
- Check with your municipality or Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry to determine whether open air burning is permitted before having a campfire or burning brush. If open burning is allowed, fires should be built on bare soil or on exposed rock. Remove leaves and twigs from around the fire to keep it from spreading. Always keep a bucket of water, sand, or even a shovel close by and supervise the fire at all times.
- If you must smoke, do so outside. Keep a large can with water nearby so cigarette butts can be safely discarded. If you drink, do so responsibly. Tobacco use and excessive alcohol consumption are contributing factors in many fires and can lead to serious injuries.
- Burn candles in sturdy candleholders that will not tip and are covered with a glass shade. When you go out, blow out!