



HOME SAFE ADVISOR



RESIDENTIAL FIRE SAFETY

Prevent fires. Plan your escape. Protect what matters.

A practical guide for adults, seniors, families and caregivers

Free e-book edition | July 2026

Prepared by Patrick W. Upman | HomeSafeAdvisor.com



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SOURCE NOTE

This original Home Safe Advisor guide was developed using the U.S. Fire Administration and FEMA publication Fire Safety for Older Adults, FA-221 (October 2018), together with updated official guidance from the U.S. Fire Administration, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Fire Safety Research Institute.

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Important disclaimer

This guide provides general education, not fire code, engineering, electrical, medical or legal advice. Follow local laws, manufacturer instructions and guidance from your fire department. Call 911 for an active fire, smoke condition, suspected carbon monoxide emergency or immediate danger. Home Safe Advisor provides educational assessments and recommendations, not firefighting, code enforcement, repairs or installations.

A Safer Home Starts Before the Alarm Sounds

Most home fires are not mysterious. They often begin with an unattended pan, damaged cord, overloaded outlet, portable heater, smoking material, open flame or battery that is charged or stored unsafely. The good news is that many of these hazards can be reduced with simple habits and a realistic escape plan.

This guide is designed to help you look at your home with fresh eyes. It is written for homeowners, renters, older adults, caregivers and families. It focuses on practical actions rather than fear. You do not need to become a fire expert. You need working alarms, safer routines, clear exits and a plan everyone can follow.

THE GOAL IS LAYERS, NOT PERFECTION

No single product or habit can make a home fireproof. Safety improves when prevention, early warning, escape planning and professional maintenance work together.

How to use this guide

- Start with the ten actions on the next page.
- Read the chapters that match your home and household risks.
- Complete the printable checklists and escape plan worksheets.
- Review the plan whenever someone moves in, mobility changes or the home is renovated.
- Ask your local fire department about smoke alarm programs, home visits or extinguisher training.

Start Here: 10 Actions You Can Take Today

1. Test every alarm Press the test button on every smoke and carbon monoxide alarm. Replace any unit that fails.	2. Check alarm dates Look for the manufacture date. Replace smoke alarms at 10 years or sooner if required by the manufacturer.
3. Clear exits Remove clutter, furniture, cords and storage that could slow an escape.	4. Choose a meeting place Pick a fixed location in front of the home where everyone will meet after escaping.
5. Practice two ways out Identify a primary and alternate exit from every bedroom and living area.	6. Stand by your pan Stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling, boiling or broiling. Turn the burner off if you leave.
7. Create a 3-foot zone Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from heaters, fireplaces, furnaces and other heat sources.	8. Inspect cords and chargers Stop using frayed cords, loose plugs, damaged power strips or swollen and overheating batteries.
9. Close bedroom doors A closed door can slow smoke, heat and fire. Make sure alarms can still be heard with the door closed.	10. Talk about assistance needs Plan who may need help with mobility, hearing, vision, cognition, children or pets.

IN AN ACTIVE FIRE

Get out, stay out and call 911. Do not delay your escape to collect belongings, find pets or fight a growing fire.

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PRINT-FRIENDLY

The last section contains a room-by-room checklist, alarm inventory, household assistance plan and blank escape map.

CHAPTER 1

Fire Safety Is a System

The safest homes use multiple layers that prevent fires, warn occupants early and support a fast escape.

Think of residential fire safety as four connected layers:

PREVENT Reduce ignition sources and unsafe habits.	DETECT Use working smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms.
ESCAPE Keep exits usable and practice a plan around real abilities.	SUPPORT Maintain equipment and involve family, neighbors and qualified professionals.

A home can have excellent alarms and still be unsafe if a person cannot hear them, hallways are blocked or no one knows where to meet. A careful cook can still be at risk if the electrical system is overloaded. The best approach is to improve each layer a little at a time.

Know the household, not just the house

- Who sleeps in the home and where?
- Can everyone hear and recognize the alarms?
- Who uses a walker, wheelchair, cane, hearing aid, oxygen or medication that may cause drowsiness?
- Who may freeze, hide or become confused during an emergency?
- Are there pets, children or visitors who need to be included in the plan?

A HOME ASSESSMENT IS NOT A CODE INSPECTION

A practical safety walk-through can identify hazards and priorities. Electrical, heating, chimney, alarm and construction work should be completed by qualified professionals when required.

Guidance references: [1], [9], [10], [15]

CHAPTER 2

Smoke Alarms and Heat Alarms

Early warning is one of the most important protections in a home fire.

Where smoke alarms belong

- Inside every bedroom.
- Outside each separate sleeping area.
- On every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnected when possible, so one alarm activates all alarms.

Place and install alarms according to the manufacturer instructions and local code. Hardwired alarms should be installed by a qualified electrician. Avoid disabling alarms because of cooking or steam. Use the hush feature, improve ventilation or ask whether relocation is appropriate.

Choose alarms for the people in the home

- Standard audible alarms may not protect a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Consider alarms or accessories with strobes, vibration, bed shakers or lower-frequency sound where appropriate.
- Test whether alarms can be heard from bedrooms with the doors closed and while common devices such as fans, televisions or CPAP machines are operating.

Maintenance routine

- [] Test every smoke alarm monthly using the test button.
- [] Replace removable batteries at least annually, or sooner when the alarm chirps, unless the manufacturer says otherwise.
- [] Do not replace the sealed battery in a 10-year alarm. Replace the entire alarm when required.
- [] Replace smoke alarms 10 years from the manufacture date, or sooner if they fail or the manufacturer requires it.
- [] Gently vacuum or dust alarms as directed by the manufacturer.

HEAT ALARMS

A listed heat alarm may be appropriate in a garage or another area where smoke, dust or temperature conditions would cause nuisance smoke alarms. Ask your local fire department, alarm professional or electrician about proper placement and interconnection.

Guidance references: [1], [2], [14]

CHAPTER 3

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide is colorless and odorless. A working alarm may be the only warning.

Carbon monoxide, often called CO, can be produced when fuel-burning equipment is not working or venting properly. Furnaces, fireplaces, generators, vehicles, gas appliances and some portable heaters can create dangerous conditions.

Protect the household

- Install CO alarms outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, following manufacturer instructions and local requirements.
- Test CO alarms monthly and replace batteries or devices according to the manufacturer schedule.
- Have fuel-burning heating equipment, chimneys and vents inspected and maintained by qualified professionals.
- Keep dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace vents clear of debris, snow and animal nests.
- Use portable generators outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents. Never operate a generator in a home, garage or enclosed porch.
- Never use a stove, oven, charcoal grill or outdoor heater to heat the home.

WHEN A CO ALARM SOUNDS

Move everyone to fresh air and call 911 or the fire department from outside. Do not search for the source or re-enter until responders say it is safe. Seek medical evaluation when anyone has symptoms or responders recommend it.

Guidance references: [1], [7]

CHAPTER 4

Kitchen and Cooking Safety

Cooking is a leading cause of home fires. Attention and distance are the best defenses.

Stay with what you are cooking

- Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, boiling or broiling.
- If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.
- Remain in the home when simmering, baking or roasting. Check the food regularly and use more than one timer when needed.
- Do not cook when sleepy, impaired by alcohol or affected by medication that causes drowsiness or confusion.

Create a safer cooking zone

- Keep towels, paper, packaging, curtains, potholders and loose clothing away from burners and hot appliances.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove.
- Keep children and pets away from the cooking area.
- Clean grease and food buildup from the stovetop, oven and hood filters.
- Keep a lid or baking sheet nearby while cooking on the stovetop.

If a pan catches fire

1. Do not move the pan and do not throw water on a grease fire.
2. If it is safe to do so, slide a lid or baking sheet over the pan and turn off the burner.
3. Leave the lid in place until the pan is completely cool.
4. If the fire is spreading, smoke is building or you are unsure, get out and call 911.

OVEN OR MICROWAVE FIRE

Turn the appliance off if you can do so safely and keep the door closed. Get out and call 911 if smoke continues, the fire spreads or you feel unsafe.

Support for memory or mobility concerns

- Use large, loud timers and smart speaker reminders, but do not rely on a single device.
- Consider safer meal options when a person can no longer monitor a stove reliably.
- Ask an occupational therapist, caregiver or home safety professional about adaptive kitchen tools and routines.

Guidance references: [1], [4], [9]

CHAPTER 5

Electrical and Appliance Safety

Heat, damaged wiring and overloaded circuits can turn everyday equipment into an ignition source.

Warning signs that deserve attention

- Frequent tripped breakers or blown fuses.
- Lights that dim or flicker when an appliance starts.
- Warm, discolored, buzzing or sparking outlets and switches.
- Plugs that fit loosely or fall out of outlets.
- Cracked cords, exposed wiring, melted plastic or a burning smell.

STOP AND GET HELP

Unplug an item only if it is safe to do so. Turn off power at the breaker when necessary and contact a licensed electrician for persistent electrical warning signs.

Safer daily use

- Plug refrigerators, ranges, washers, dryers and other major appliances directly into wall outlets.
- Do not use extension cords for major appliances or space heaters.
- Do not overload outlets or power strips. Use power strips with internal overload protection.
- Do not run cords under rugs, through doorways or where furniture can pinch them.
- Use the bulb type and wattage listed on the lamp or fixture.
- Unplug small heat-producing appliances when not in use, when practical.

Extension cords are temporary

An extension cord should not become permanent wiring. If a room routinely needs multiple extension cords, ask a licensed electrician whether additional outlets or circuit improvements are needed.

Older homes

Older electrical systems may not have the capacity or safety features needed for modern appliances, chargers, air conditioners and heating equipment. An electrical evaluation is especially important when you see warning signs, add major loads or renovate.

Guidance references: [1], [5]

CHAPTER 6

Heating, Fireplaces and Chimneys



Keep heat where it belongs and combustible materials outside the safety zone.

The 3-foot rule

Keep furniture, bedding, clothing, paper, decorations, pet beds and other materials that can burn at least 3 feet from fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, wood stoves, furnaces and similar heat sources.

Portable heater safety

- Choose a listed heater with automatic tip-over shutoff and overheat protection.
- Place it on a solid, flat surface where it cannot be knocked over.
- Plug it directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip.
- Turn it off when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Stop using a heater with a damaged cord, broken plug, unusual smell or overheating outlet.

Fireplaces, wood stoves and furnaces

- Have heating equipment, vents and chimneys inspected and cleaned at least annually by a qualified professional.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen and keep the area around the hearth clear.
- Burn only appropriate, dry fuel. Do not burn trash, packaging or treated wood.
- Place cooled ashes in a covered metal container outdoors on a noncombustible surface and away from the home. Follow local disposal guidance.
- Never use an oven or stovetop to heat the home.

WATER HEATER SAFETY

To reduce scald risk, many safety agencies recommend setting household water heaters no higher than 120°F (49°C), unless a qualified professional advises otherwise for a specific system or health need.

Guidance references: [1], [6]

CHAPTER 7

Smoking, Candles and Medical Oxygen

Open flames and hot smoking materials require strict boundaries, especially when drowsiness or oxygen is involved.

Smoking materials

- The safest place to smoke is outside, away from anything that can burn.
- Use a deep, sturdy ashtray with a wide base.
- Put smoking materials out completely. Wet ashes and butts before disposal.
- Never smoke in bed or while drowsy, impaired or using medication that makes you sleepy.
- Check furniture and nearby areas for dropped smoking materials before leaving or going to bed.

Candles

- Use battery-operated flameless candles whenever possible.
- Keep lit candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
- Use stable holders and keep candles where they cannot be knocked over.
- Blow candles out before leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Use flashlights instead of candles during power outages.

Medical oxygen

NO SMOKING OR OPEN FLAME

Never smoke or use candles, matches, lighters or other open flames where medical oxygen is used or stored. Keep oxygen equipment away from heat sources and electrical devices as directed by the supplier. Oxygen can make materials ignite more easily and burn rapidly.

- Post clear no-smoking signs and tell visitors about the rule.
- Store and secure oxygen cylinders according to supplier instructions.
- Keep equipment and tubing away from escape paths to reduce trip hazards.

Guidance references: [1], [11]

CHAPTER 8

Lithium-Ion Batteries and Charging

Phones, tools, power banks, e-bikes and other rechargeable devices require safe products, chargers and habits.

Choose and charge carefully

- Buy products that are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory when possible.
- Use the charger supplied or specifically recommended by the manufacturer.
- Do not charge large mobility devices while sleeping or when no one is home.
- Do not charge e-bikes, scooters or large battery packs where they block an exit or stairway.
- Do not use modified, rebuilt or incompatible battery packs or chargers.
- Protect batteries from crushing, puncture, water, direct sunlight and extreme heat.

Warning signs

Heat The battery or charger becomes unusually hot.	Shape change Swelling, bulging, cracking or a warped case.
Odor A sharp, sweet, chemical or burning smell.	Sound Hissing, popping or crackling.
Leak or smoke Fluid, vapor, smoke or visible gas.	Performance change Unexpected shutdowns, charging problems or rapid loss of capacity after damage.

IF A BATTERY SHOWS WARNING SIGNS

Stop using it. Do not touch, move or charge a smoking, hissing, swelling or overheating battery if doing so could put you in danger. Leave the area, close the door if possible, call 911 and keep others away. Lithium-ion batteries can reignite.

Disposal and recalls

- Do not place lithium-ion batteries in household trash or curbside recycling.
- Use a local battery recycling or household hazardous waste program.
- Check the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recall database for chargers, power banks, e-bikes and other battery products.

Guidance references: [12], [13]

CHAPTER 9

Laundry, Basement, Garage and Outdoor Areas

Storage, fuel, appliances and charging equipment can create hidden risks away from living spaces.

Laundry area

- Clean the dryer lint filter before or after every load.
- Inspect and clean dryer vent ductwork regularly. USFA guidance recommends annual cleaning.
- Use rigid or semi-rigid metal venting where required and avoid crushed or blocked ducts.
- Keep combustible storage away from the dryer, water heater and furnace.
- Do not run the dryer when leaving home or going to sleep.

Basement and utility areas

- Keep the electrical panel, furnace, water heater and shutoffs accessible.
- Keep at least 3 feet of clear space around heat-producing equipment.
- Store oily rags in a listed, tightly covered metal container and follow local disposal rules.
- Keep stairs and pathways clear for a fast exit.

Garage

- Store gasoline, propane, paint, solvents and similar products in approved containers and according to local requirements, preferably away from living areas.
- Do not charge large batteries or tools with extension cords.
- Do not use grills, generators or fuel-burning heaters in the garage, even with the door open.
- Keep the door between the garage and home closed. Ask a qualified professional whether it meets current fire-separation and self-closing requirements.

Outdoor cooking and fire features

- Use grills and fire pits outdoors, away from siding, overhangs, decks, dry vegetation and foot traffic. Follow manufacturer clearances.
- Keep a child- and pet-free zone around hot equipment.
- Never leave a fire unattended. Fully extinguish coals and ashes before disposal.

Guidance references: [14]

CHAPTER 10

Fire Extinguishers

An extinguisher is a backup tool, not a reason to delay escape.

Select the right type

Many homes use a multipurpose extinguisher labeled ABC. Class A covers ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper and cloth. Class B covers flammable liquids. Class C is suitable around energized electrical equipment. Choose a listed extinguisher that household members can lift and operate safely.

Use an extinguisher only when every answer is yes

- [] Everyone else is leaving or already outside.
- [] Someone has called 911 or the fire department.
- [] The fire is small, contained and not spreading.
- [] There is little smoke and you can breathe safely.
- [] You have the correct extinguisher and know how to use it.
- [] Your back is toward a clear exit and you can leave immediately.
- [] You are physically able to operate the extinguisher.

WHEN IN DOUBT, GET OUT

Older adults, children and anyone with limited strength, balance, breathing capacity or mobility should not be expected to fight a fire. Leave and call 911.

Remember PASS

P - Pull Pull the pin.	A - Aim Aim low at the base of the fire.
S - Squeeze Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.	S - Sweep Sweep the nozzle from side to side.

Inspect extinguishers regularly for access, pressure, damage, corrosion and expiration or service requirements. Ask the local fire department about hands-on training.

Guidance references: [8]

CHAPTER 11

Make and Practice a Home Escape Plan

A written plan turns panic into practiced actions when seconds matter.

Build the plan

1. Draw each level of the home and mark every door and window.
2. Identify two ways out of every room whenever possible.
3. Make sure windows and doors open easily and are not blocked by security devices, furniture or storage.
4. Choose a meeting place in front of the home where firefighters can see the household.
5. Assign help only when it can be provided without trapping another person.
6. Practice at least twice a year and whenever the household or home changes.

Practice realistically

- Start drills using the sound of the smoke alarm test button.
- Practice during daylight first, then consider a nighttime drill with adequate supervision.
- Practice with eyeglasses, hearing aids, mobility devices and assistive equipment in their normal locations.
- Teach everyone to close doors behind them when possible and never re-enter.
- Make sure the home address is visible and everyone can state it to 911.

CLOSE BEFORE YOU DOZE

Closing bedroom doors can slow the spread of heat, smoke and fire. Test alarms with the doors closed so occupants know they can hear or feel the alert.

Apartments and high-rise buildings

- Know the location of exit stairs and building alarms.
- Use stairs, not elevators, unless firefighters direct otherwise.
- Close the apartment door when leaving.
- Tell firefighters immediately if someone remains inside or needs assistance.

Guidance references: [1], [3], [16]

CHAPTER 12

Planning for Older Adults, Disabilities and Caregivers

The plan must work with the person's actual hearing, vision, mobility, memory and nighttime routine.

Plan around abilities

- Confirm that walkers, wheelchairs and scooters fit through each planned exit.
- Keep exits wide, well lit and free of cords, rugs and clutter.
- When practical, choose a sleeping location on the level of an accessible exit.
- Keep a phone, glasses, hearing aids, keys, flashlight and mobility device within reach of the bed.
- Use alarm accessories such as strobes, vibration or bed shakers for hearing loss.
- Add simple visual instructions for a person with memory or cognitive impairment, while recognizing that written instructions do not replace supervision when needed.

Create a support network

- Discuss assistance needs with family, trusted neighbors, caregivers, the building manager and local fire department.
- Identify at least two people who can help with planning, maintenance and drills.
- Update the plan after a fall, hospitalization, new medication, change in hearing or vision, or new mobility equipment.
- Caregivers should test alarms and check exits when the resident cannot do so safely.

DO NOT CREATE A RESCUE PLAN THAT REQUIRES HEROICS

The priority is for everyone to escape. A helper should not enter smoke, return to the home or attempt a carry that is likely to injure both people. Tell 911 and firefighters exactly who needs help and where that person may be.

Medication, alcohol and fatigue

Anything that causes drowsiness, slower reaction time or confusion can increase fire risk. Review cooking, smoking, heater and nighttime routines when medications change or when alcohol is used.

Guidance references: [1], [9], [10]

CHAPTER 13

What to Do When There Is Smoke or Fire

The safest response is fast, simple and practiced.

GET OUT. STAY OUT. CALL 911.

Leave immediately when the alarm sounds, you see smoke or you suspect a fire. Do not wait to investigate. Do not go back for people, pets, medication or belongings.

During escape

1. Check the door and handle for heat before opening. If it is hot, keep it closed and use the second exit.
2. Stay low if smoke is present and move toward the nearest safe exit.
3. Close doors behind you when possible to slow smoke and fire.
4. Go directly to the outside meeting place.
5. Call 911 from outside and tell dispatch whether anyone may still be inside.

If you cannot get out

- Keep the room door closed.
- Call 911 and give your exact location in the building.
- Block smoke around the door and vents with cloth if available and safe to do so.
- Signal from a window with a flashlight or light-colored cloth.
- Do not hide. Stay where firefighters can find you.

After escaping

- Account for everyone at the meeting place.
- Tell firefighters about missing people, pets, oxygen cylinders, batteries, fuel or other hazards.
- Do not re-enter until the fire department says it is safe.

Guidance references: [1], [3]

CHAPTER 14

Home Checklists and Worksheets

Use these pages during a home walk-through, family discussion or caregiver visit.

Room-by-Room Fire Safety Check

Whole home

- ☐ Smoke alarms are inside bedrooms, outside sleeping areas and on every level.
- ☐ CO alarms are outside sleeping areas and on every level where required.
- ☐ Alarm dates, batteries and test results are documented.
- ☐ Hallways, stairs, doors and windows are clear and usable.
- ☐ The address is visible from the street.
- ☐ Everyone knows the meeting place and two ways out.

Kitchen

- ☐ Combustibles are kept away from the stovetop.
- ☐ Pot handles can be turned toward the back.
- ☐ A lid or baking sheet is within reach while cooking.
- ☐ Cooking timers are available and working.
- ☐ The stove, oven and hood are free of grease buildup.

Bedrooms and living areas

- ☐ Bedroom doors close properly and alarms can be heard or felt with doors closed.
- ☐ Candles are replaced with flameless alternatives where possible.
- ☐ Space heaters have 3 feet of clearance and plug directly into the wall.
- ☐ Phones, glasses, hearing aids and mobility devices are within reach at night.
- ☐ Windows used for escape open easily.

Electrical and appliances

- ☐ No cords are frayed, pinched, under rugs or warm to the touch.
- ☐ Major appliances are plugged directly into wall outlets.
- ☐ Power strips and outlets are not overloaded.
- ☐ Breakers do not trip repeatedly and outlets do not buzz, spark or discolor.
- ☐ Damaged appliances and chargers are removed from use.

Laundry, basement and garage

- ☐ Dryer lint filter is cleaned every load and vent is maintained.
- ☐ Furnace, water heater and electrical panel have clear access.
- ☐ Fuel and chemicals are stored correctly and away from ignition sources.
- ☐ Battery charging does not block exits and uses approved chargers.
- ☐ Garage and basement stairs are clear.

[illegible]

Test alarms and check extinguisher access and pressure. A phone calendar reminder can help, but the responsibility should also be shared with another trusted person when possible.

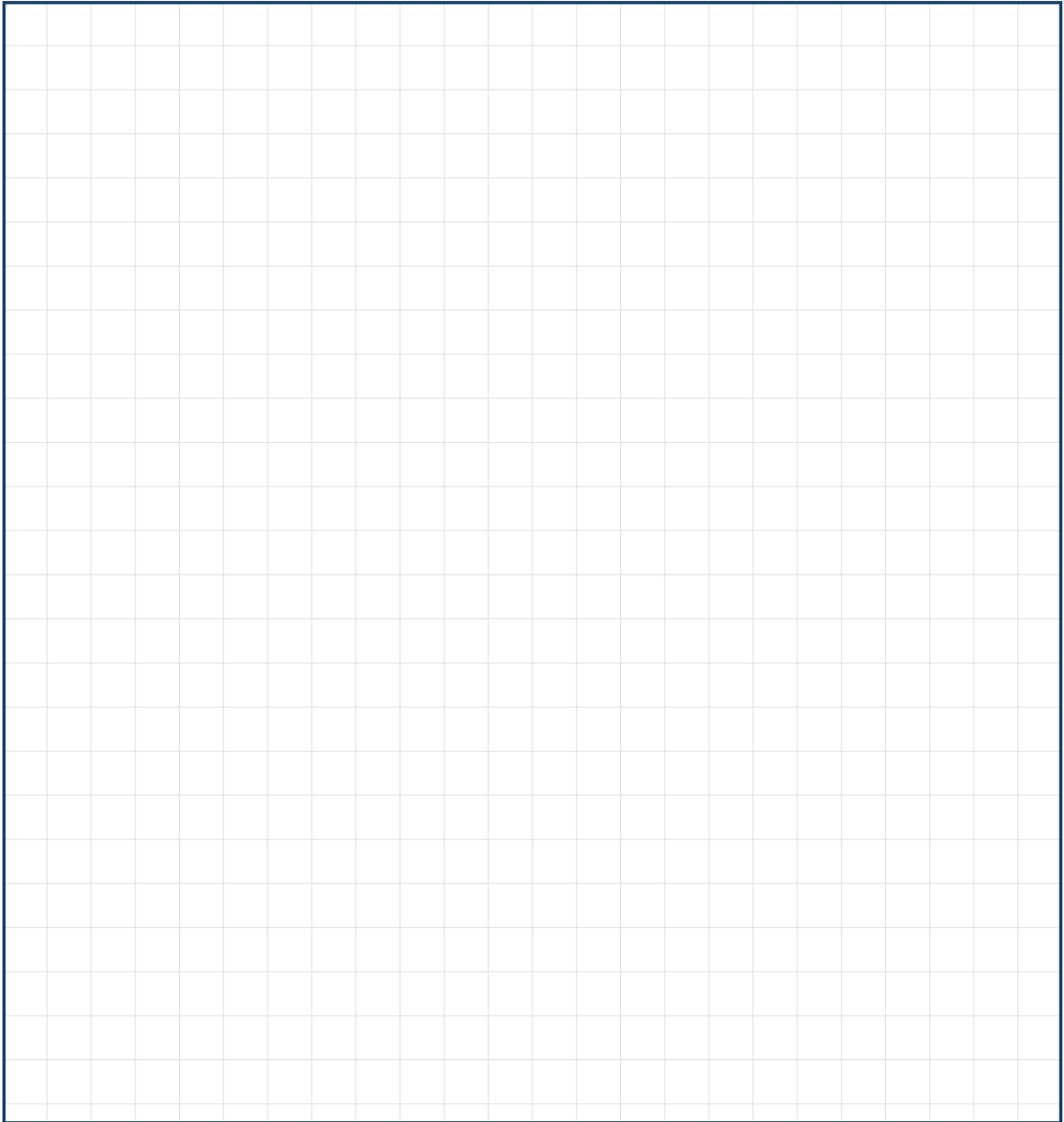
Household Fire Assistance Plan

Complete this page with the people who live in or regularly visit the home. Review it after health, mobility, medication or household changes.

Household members and usual sleeping locations: 	Outside meeting place:
People who may not hear, see or understand the alarm: 	Person responsible for calling 911 after escaping:
People who need mobility assistance: 	Trusted neighbors or support contacts:
Medical oxygen, battery storage or responder hazards: 	Local fire department non-emergency number:
Primary exit for each sleeping area: 	Date the plan was last practiced:
Second exit for each sleeping area: 	Changes needed before the next drill:

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN WORKSHEET

Sketch one level of your home. Mark doors, windows, smoke alarms, two exits from each room

A large rectangular grid for sketching a floor plan. The grid is composed of 20 columns and 20 rows of small squares, providing a structured area for drawing the layout of a home level.

Level / floor: _____ Meeting place: _____

Make a separate map for each level. Walk the routes and confirm doors, windows and mobility devices work in real life.

The 30-Minute Home Fire Safety Walk-Through

Minutes 0-5: Alarms Test smoke and CO alarms, check dates and confirm alarms can be heard or felt in sleeping areas.	Minutes 5-10: Exits Open planned doors and windows. Remove clutter and check exterior steps, locks and lighting.
Minutes 10-15: Kitchen Clear the stovetop, inspect cooking habits, locate timers and review pan-fire actions.	Minutes 15-20: Electrical Look for damaged cords, overloaded outlets, loose plugs, hot power strips and improper extension-cord use.
Minutes 20-25: Heating and batteries Measure clearance around heat sources and inspect chargers and batteries for damage or unsafe placement.	Minutes 25-30: Plan Choose the meeting place, discuss assistance needs and schedule the next drill or professional service.

Top three improvements to complete first

1.

 Responsible person: _____ Target date: _____

2.

 Responsible person: _____ Target date: _____

3.

 Responsible person: _____ Target date: _____

Resources and Source References

Primary reference supplied for this e-book

[1] U.S. Fire Administration / FEMA. Fire Safety for Older Adults, FA-221, October 2018. The supplied guide informed the structure and older-adult safety emphasis of this e-book.

Official guidance used for updates and expansion

[2] [U.S. Fire Administration - Smoke Alarms](#)

[3] [U.S. Fire Administration - Home Fire Escape Plans](#)

[4] [U.S. Fire Administration - Cooking Fire Safety](#)

[5] [U.S. Fire Administration - Appliance and Electrical Fire Safety](#)

[6] [U.S. Fire Administration - Heating Fire Safety](#)

[7] [U.S. Fire Administration - Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention](#)

[8] [U.S. Fire Administration - Choosing and Using Fire Extinguishers](#)

[9] [U.S. Fire Administration - Fire Safety for Older Adults](#)

[10] [U.S. Fire Administration - Fire Safety for People with Disabilities](#)

[11] [U.S. Fire Administration - Smoking Fire Safety](#)

[12] [U.S. Fire Administration - Battery Fire Safety](#)

[13] [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission - Micromobility Information Center](#)

[14] [U.S. Fire Administration - Basement and Garage Fire Safety](#)

[15] [U.S. Fire Administration - Home Fire Sprinklers](#)

[16] [Fire Safety Research Institute - Close Before You Doze](#)

Web guidance reviewed July 27, 2026. Fire safety guidance, products and local codes can change. Confirm current requirements with your local fire department, fire marshal and qualified contractors.

Where to get local help

- Call 911 for an active fire, smoke condition, CO alarm emergency or immediate danger.
- Call your local fire department non-emergency number to ask about smoke alarm installation, home visits, escape planning or extinguisher training.
- Use licensed or otherwise qualified electricians, heating professionals, chimney professionals and alarm installers when required.
- Check the CPSC recall database when an alarm, heater, charger, power bank, e-bike or appliance may be unsafe.

About Home Safe Advisor



Home Safe Advisor helps households identify practical safety, security, aging-in-place and technology risks. Our assessment-focused approach provides clients with clear findings, prioritized recommendations and referrals to qualified professionals when specialized work is needed.

Residential fire safety is one part of a larger whole-home safety picture. Clear exits, reliable alarms, safer routines, home security, fall prevention and emergency planning should support each other rather than compete.

About the author

Patrick W. Upman is the founder of Home Safe Advisor. He has worked in information technology since 2008 and cybersecurity since 2012, and holds credentials including CISSP and CRISC. His work with Home Safe Advisor focuses on helping adults, seniors, families and organizations understand risk and make practical safety improvements.

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