FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Homeowners Reminded to Plan and Practice Two Home Escape Routes

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" reinforces the message that seconds can mean the difference between residents escaping safely from a fire or having their lives end in tragedy. Escape plans are key to saving lives.

Fire Prevention Week, an annual observance promoted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), is October 8-14. The NFPA offers the following tips for creating a home fire escape plan:

- Involve all members of the household in drawing a map of your home showing every room and all doors and windows.
- Visit each room and find two ways outside.
- Make sure all windows and doors open easily so you can get out.
- Ensure that your home has working smoke alarms.
 - Choose a place for everyone to

meet outside, ideally in front of your home.

- Review the plan with everyone in your home.
- Practice your home escape plan twice a year. Conduct one drill at night and one during the day for everyone in the home and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- 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.



• Make sure the street number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.

As in previous years, the association has developed free Fire Prevention Week materials, available at www. firepreventionweek.org. The site features downloadable documents, including children's activities, fact sheets, and more. Public service announcements, communication tips, and a step-by-step media primer for fire departments are also available on the website.

The National Fire Protection Association has been the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for 93 years and helps fire departments promote their public education efforts.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week, call the National Fire Protection Association at (617) 770-3000 or go to www.fireprevention-week.org. •

