



## FACT

Of the 144 home fatalities caused by fire that have occurred in NSW between 2000 and June 2005, the NSW Fire Brigades Fire Investigation and Research Unit advise that based on case study research, approximately one third to half those fatalities MAY have been prevented if the people concerned had, and had practised a home escape plan. (Statistics correct as of 24/08/2005)

## HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN CHECKLIST

Every home and workplace should have a fire escape plan. Accidental home fires by their very nature can catch people unawares. Without an escape plan you are placing your life and your families' lives in jeopardy. For a safer home regularly practice the following escape tips:

- Know two safe ways out of every room
- Draw your escape plan on paper and discuss your escape plan with your family
- As you escape make sure you close internal doors behind you
- Decide on a safe outside meeting place eg. Near the letterbox
- Make sure that your windows and doors can quickly open if and when required
- Install smoke alarms: test them regularly and change the batteries at least every year
- Smoke alarms can alert you to a fire, an escape plan can then help get you out alive
- Practise your escape plan regularly with all your family members / householders
- If there is a fire in your home, do not wait, EVERY SECOND COUNTS, escape immediately and then call 000 from a neighbours home
- Once you get out, STAY OUT, never go back inside a burning building
- Remember to consider the special needs of children, the elderly or the disabled when developing your escape plan

A COLLABORATION OF THE NSW FIRE BRIGADES, NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE, ACT FIRE BRIGADE AND ACT RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## SAFETY TIPS

- Remember that smoke from a fire will make you confused and that you cannot see in smoke
- When asleep you will not smell smoke and it will in fact put you into a deeper sleep
- Oil, gas or wood heating units may require a yearly maintenance check
- Only ever use fuses of the recommended rating and install an electrical safety switch
- Home fire safety is important for the whole family and preparation can prevent a tragedy

