Make A Fire Escape Safety Plan

To be prepared in case of a fire, make sure...

❑ You have a smoke detector...
  o on every level of the house
  o in every bedroom
  o outside every sleeping area
❑ The batteries in those smoke detectors are checked/changed every six months.
❑ You explore options regarding personal fire extinguishers.
❑ Your Emergency Kit is complete and in an accessible place.
❑ You have an Escape Plan with a meeting location for your home.

How to create your own Fire Escape Safety Plan:

1. **Make Your Map**: Draw a basic floorplan of your home or apartment, labeling rooms, doors, and windows.
2. **Label Doors**: Over each door, write the words, “Heat check!” to remind family to check the door with the back of the hand before opening. If it is hot to the touch, do not open, and exit another way.
3. **Draw Escape Paths**: As a family, suggest different exit paths based on where the fire starts and where it spreads to. Make sure each family member knows at least 2 ways out of any room in the house.
   a. Draw arrows in one color to indicate primary exits (the most direct route to the outside from each room).
   b. Draw arrows in a different color to indicate secondary exits (backups in case the primary exits are blocked).
4. **Avoid Smoke**: Talk about how to move through the house by staying low to the ground and going below the smoke.
5. **Determine Roles**: Assign roles to each family member. The youngest children’s roles are likely to be simply getting themselves to safety, but adults in the home may be given specific tasks, like tracking down a particular child or waking up sleeping family members if the fire starts at night. Another example is appointing someone who should be on the lookout for the emergency kit (only if it is safe to grab it and does not put the individual in harm’s way!).
6. **Choose A Meeting Place**: Once everyone has exited the house, there needs to be a specific destination. This should be a location that is easy to find, even in the dark, while also being far enough away from the fire to keep everyone out of harm’s way. This could be a large tree in the front yard, a mailbox, or even the leasing office of your apartment complex. Make sure everyone knows exactly where they are meeting – this makes it easy to make sure the entire family is safe and accounted for and can then communicate this to firefighters when they arrive.