



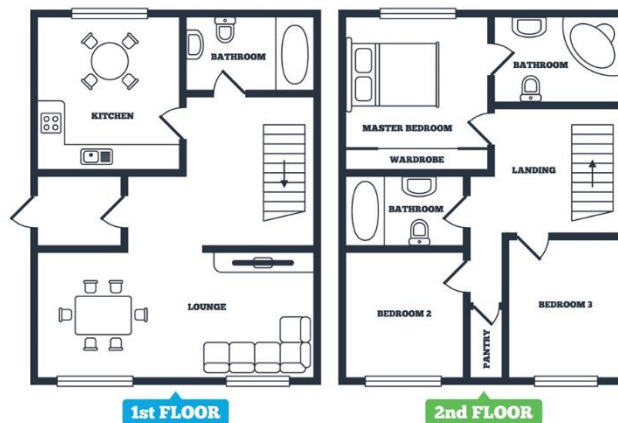
Township of Lower Makefield
OFFICE OF THE FIRE SERVICE DIRECTOR
1100 Edgewood Road Yardley, PA 19067
(267) 274-1127 firesafety@lmt.org



Escape Planning

Fire can spread rapidly through your home, leaving you as little as one or two minutes to escape safely once the alarm sounds. Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke detector.

CREATE A HOME ESCAPE PLAN



Fire drills are important for all homes, including apartment buildings and other high-rise structures. You need to know the basics of escape planning, from identifying two ways out of every room to getting low and going under smoke, and the importance of practicing how you would respond in an emergency.

- Only 26 percent of families actually develop and practice a home fire escape plan.
- Eighty percent of Americans don't realize that home fires are the single most common disaster across the nation. Every two and a half hours someone is killed in a home fire, in a typical year, 20,000 people are injured in home fires.
- Children and older adults are twice as likely to die in a home fire as the American population at large.



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Making a Fire Escape Plan

- Everyone in the household must understand the escape plan. When you walk through your plan, check to make sure the escape routes are clear, and doors and windows can be opened easily.
- Choose an outside meeting place (such as a neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan.
- Go outside to see if your street number is clearly visible from the road. If not, paint it on the curb or install house numbers to ensure that responding emergency personnel can find your home.
- If there are infants, older adults, or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and in the event of an emergency. Assign a backup person in case the designee is not home during the emergency.
- If windows or doors in your home have security bars, make sure that the bars have emergency release devices inside so that they can be opened immediately in an emergency. Emergency release devices won't compromise your security - but they will increase your chances of safely escaping a home fire.
- Tell guests or visitors to your home about your family's fire escape plan. When staying overnight at other people's homes, ask about their escape plan. If they don't have a plan in place, offer to help them make one. This is especially important when children are permitted to attend "sleepovers" at friends' homes.
- Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately. Residents of high-rise and apartment buildings may be safer "defending in place."
- Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the 911 dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.





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Test Your Fire Escape Plan

Practice the plan with a realistic fire drill so that when the smoke alarm sounds, family members will immediately move to a safe location outside of the home. Get the entire family involved!

- Teach everyone in your home how to unlock and open the windows and doors.
- Teach your kids:
 - To touch doors to see if they are hot before opening. If so, use an alternate route.
 - How to cover their nose and mouth to reduce smoke inhalation.
 - Not to hide from firefighters. Uniforms can be very scary in times of crisis. Firefighters are there to help.
 - To never go back inside the burning house.
- Since most home fires occur in the early morning hours, have your family (including children, baby-sitter, and older family members) pretend they are sleeping.
- Make the house dark as if it is smoke filled.
- Begin the fire drill with the sounding of your smoke alarm, making sure everyone can clearly hear and recognize the sound.



If anyone would like assistance with creating their home fire escape plan, please contact the Office of the Fire Service Director at 267-274-1127.