

EMERGENCY SAFETY PLAN

Approximately one-third of all fire victims in the United States are children under 14 years of age. As a foster care provider it is extremely important to practice fire safety. Here are some helpful suggestions:

- Inform the local fire department that you care for other children in your home/facility.
- Install smoke detectors in the home/facility, and check them monthly to make sure they are in working order.
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher (2A10BC) in the kitchen and know how to use it. It must be serviced and tagged yearly.
- Devise fire escape routes. Follow these steps in planning an escape route:
 - Make a floor plan of the home/facility with all the doors, windows, stairways, fire escapes, and porches shown on it.
 - Determine two ways of getting out of the home/facility from each room.
 - Mark each route with a different colored marker.
 - Designate one route as a primary route of escape through hallways and stairways.
 - Designate the other route as an alternative emergency route to be used if smoke or fire is blocking hallways and stairways.
 - It is best to involve the entire family in this process.
- Practice emergency fire escape drills with the children, minimum monthly. To practice for fire drills:
 - Explain calmly to the children now that you have all made a plan it's time to practice it.
 - Enlist the older children to help the younger ones to get out of the home/facility.
 - Specify one location outside where everyone is to meet in the event of a fire.
 - Conduct surprise drills and be sure that the children know how to follow the escape routes.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF FIRE

In case of fire, get all the children out of the home/facility first and then call the fire department. Once everyone has evacuated the home/facility and has met at the designated location, check to make sure all the children have left the home/facility and make sure that none of the children try to get back inside.