



# Howell Fire Bureau Presents "E.D.I.T.H."

## Exit Drills In The Home

**Planning a Safe Escape** Your family can survive even a major fire in your home if you have working smoke alarms to alert you of a fire and have practiced a home escape plan to get out quickly.



### Important Survival Tips:

- Install working smoke alarms and test them every month.
- Make a home escape plan and practice it. Once you are alerted to a fire there is no time to plan your escape. Take time now to make a home escape plan.
- Draw a **floor plan of your home**: Show two ways out of every room - especially the sleeping areas. Everyone in the household should know the escape routes.
- Determine a **meeting place**: Everyone in the household should gather in the family meeting place after escaping a fire. One person should go to a neighbor's house or the nearest phone in a safe location to contact the Fire Department. Be sure to know the emergency telephone number for your area.
- Practice **your plan**: Hold regular fire drills in your home so that everyone can practice the plan. Make your practice realistic by blocking some exits and using alternate escape routes.

### Simple Survival Tips:

- Check **doors before opening them**. Be sure to check a door by kneeling or crouching behind the door, reach up high and touch the door, knob and the frame. If the door feels cool, open it with caution. Put your shoulder against the door and open it slowly. Slam the door shut if you see smoke or flames on the other side.
  - Windows and locks** should be easy for any family member to quickly open and unlock. Security bars on windows should have a quick release mechanism.
  - If **you are trapped**, close all the doors between you and the fire. Use blankets or clothes to fill the cracks around the door to keep out the smoke. Signal for help at a window by waving a light colored cloth or flashlight and yelling for help. If there is a telephone in the room call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number and report where you are.
  - Crawl low under smoke**. In a fire, smoke containing toxic gases and heat rises toward the ceiling. This means the cleanest air is closest to the floor. If there is smoke blocking your primary exit, use another escape route. However, if you must exit through the smoke, stay low by crawling on your hands and knees.
  - Get out quickly and safely**. When the smoke alarm sounds, immediately start your escape. Do not try to gather possessions or pets. No possessions are worth your life!
  - Get out and stay out**. Once you have escaped from the burning building, do not go back inside for any reason.
- If you must escape from an upper story window of a multi-level home, make sure you have a safe way to the ground, such as a fire escape ladder.

