

## Family Emergency Escape Plan

Planning ahead can save lives! Every person in your home should know what to do in the case of an emergency (like a fire). Remember that your plan needs to be suitable for everyone – including babies, children, older adults and people who may be disabled. Remember any guests in the home too!

### Plan beforehand:

- Agree your escape route – it's best to use the normal route in and out of the home (but have an alternative ready in case it's not possible to get out the normal route).
- Think about the best way of escaping from a window (including one on the second floor - is there a flat roof outside, or can a rope ladder be left by the window?).
- Think about who might need help (e.g. babies, pets) and who will be responsible for helping them. Choose a meeting point for people to gather when they are outside (and also a room in the house, if you can't get out).
- Make sure everyone knows where torches, door keys and window keys are kept.

### The action plan:

- Make sure everyone gets out safely and quickly.
- If there's a fire, shut the doors of each room as you leave, to prevent it spreading.
- Don't waste time looking for valuables or possessions (e.g. toys, clothes or pets).
- In case of smoke, stay as close to the ground as possible, as you move through the house.
- Make sure someone calls the emergency services, once everyone is outside.
- Once you have created your emergency plan, make sure that every person understands and remembers it.
- Practise it once a month so you do it automatically in a real emergency, when people might panic.
- Write it out (or draw pictures showing what to do) and display it in the house (e.g. on the fridge).
- The best plan of all is to try to prevent the emergency in the first place! Do a safety check every evening before bed to make sure routes and exits are clear, doors are closed, electrical items are switched off and candles/cigarettes are put out properly.