



Greenville Fire Department

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RUSSELL L. THOMPSON, FIRE CHIEF

Public Safety Announcement

Get Out Alive and Survive

Are You Prepared? Fire is Hot, Fast, and Deadly. Within minutes, the temperature in a room can reach 2,000 degrees. You can't survive in that kind of heat. Furniture, carpeting, and other materials give off deadly toxic gases when they burn. Rather you are at home, work, or vacationing, if you follow some simple fire safety practices, you can "Get Out Alive and Survive."

Plan Ahead-Get Out Alive

GETTING OUT

If you get caught in a fire situation, survival is your top priority. You should:

- **FEEL THE DOOR**
 - If the door is **HOT**, don't open it
 - Go to a window and call for help
 - If the handle is **COOL**, open cautiously
 - Check for smoke or fire before going out
- **GET OUT OF THE BUILDING BEFORE PHONING FOR HELP**
- **PULL THE FIRE ALARM ON YOUR WAY OUT**
- **DON'T LOOK FOR OTHER PEOPLE OR GATHER UP YOUR STUFF**
 - Knock on doors as you leave
- Yell 'FIRE' as you leave
- Don't stop or stray from your exit path as you leave
- **CRAWL LOW THE FLOOR**
 - Thick smoke can make it impossible to see anything
 - Toxic chemicals from smoke can be deadly in seconds
 - Heat and gases rise - the freshest air is close to the floor
- **CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU**
 - You may keep the fire from spreading
 - You may protect your possessions from fire and smoke damage



▪ **IF YOU CAN'T GET OUT, GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION**

- Close and seal your door - try to keep the smoke out
- Hang a sheet from the window but keep the window closed if smoke is coming in from a lower level
- Yell and scream

Fire Safety is YOUR Responsibility

PREVENTION

Fires can be prevented if you take some simple precautions:

▪ **TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE PREVENTION**

- Clean up immediately after parties and take all trash outside
- Assign a non-impaired "event monitor"
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Keep space heaters and halogen lamps away from items that can burn
- Put out candles and incense when unattended
- Extinguish all smoking materials thoroughly
- Don't smoke while tired or impaired
- Keep grills away from the building

PROTECTION

You can also protect yourself from becoming trapped in a fire situation by following some important suggestions:

▪ **CHECK SMOKE ALARMS**

- Test them monthly
- Install new batteries twice a year - **Change Your Clock - Change Your Batteries**

▪ **PLAN ESCAPE ROUTES**

- Know where all exits are located in the building
- Know two ways out from every room

▪ **TAKE ALL FIRE ALARMS SERIOUSLY**

- Do not ignore fire alarms
- Do not wait to see fire or smoke
- Do not worry about grabbing your stuff

- If you keep getting false alarms, call the fire department for assistance

Tampering with smoke alarms or pulling false alarms are dangerous pranks and are a criminal offense.

▪ **MAKE A PLAN** for your own safety and protection

- Find all possible exits from your room or residence
- Make a fire escape route plan that includes two escape routes from each room
- Designate a Meeting Place outside so that all of your family members can be accounted for
- Practice your fire escape route plan - most fires occur at night when it is dark and difficult to see
- Conduct a "Home Safety Inspection" for fire and safety hazards

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