



HARTLAND DEERFIELD FIRE AUTHORITY

FIRE MARSHALS OFFICE

Hartland Area Fire Dept.
3205 Hartland Road
Hartland, MI. 48353-1825

Voice: (810) 632-7676

E-Mail: jwhitbeck@hartlandareafire.com

Home Fire Escape

Planning

1. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may require additional smoke alarms to provide a minimum level of protection. Make sure everyone in your home knows the sound and understands the warning of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.
2. Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.
3. Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them.
4. Teach your children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them. Make sure they can open windows, remove screens, and unlock doors.
5. Have a plan for everyone in your home who has a disability.
6. Practice your home fire escape drill at night and with guests staying overnight.
7. Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.
8. If a room has a window air conditioner, make sure there is still a second way out of the room.
9. If allowed in your community and approved by code as a secondary means of escape, windows with security bars, grills, or safety guards should have easy-to-use quick-release devices that are accessible from inside the home.
10. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
11. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area and sleep with your doors closed. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
12. Make sure everyone in your home knows how to call 9-1-1, or your local emergency number, from a cell phone or a trusted neighbor's phone.
13. Have an outside meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance in front of the home where firefighters will easily find you.
14. Make sure your house number can be seen from the street both day and night.

Practicing the Home Fire Escape Drill

1. Push the smoke alarm button to start the drill.
2. Practice what to do in case there is smoke. Get low and go. Get out fast.
3. Practice using different ways out.
4. Close doors behind you as you leave.
5. Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets, or things.
6. Go to your outside meeting place.
7. Practice your home fire escape drill at least twice a year with everyone in your home. Practice at night and during the daytime.
8. After you have practiced your home fire escape drill, evaluate it and discuss what worked and what needs to be improved. Improve it and practice again.

If There Is a Fire

1. When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Go to the outside meeting place. Call 9-1-1 or the fire department.
2. If there is smoke blocking the door or first way out, use your second way out.
3. Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
4. Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and then the door. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
5. If there is smoke coming in from around the door, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
6. If you open a door, open it in a slow manner. Be ready to shut it if heavy smoke or fire is present.
7. If you cannot get out, close the door and cover vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape to keep smoke out. Call 9-1-1 or your fire department. Say where you are and then signal for help at the window with a flashlight or a light-colored cloth.
8. If you cannot get to someone needing assistance, leave the home and call 9-1-1 or the fire department. Tell the emergency operator where the person is located.
9. If pets are trapped inside your home tell firefighters right away. Never re-enter a burning building.

People Who Are Deaf or Have Hearing Loss

1. Install a bedside alert device that responds to the alert sound of the smoke alarms and provides a bed shaker to wake you up.
2. Install a smoke alarm with a strobe light in your living space to alert to smoke when you are awake and not wearing your hearing aids or implant(s).
3. As part of your home fire escape drill, include who will wake up a child or adult who is deaf or has hearing loss and help them to escape.
4. It is safest for people who need more time to escape to sleep on the ground floor and in a room with a door to the outside.
5. Practice the home fire escape drill and include waking and assisting people who are deaf or have hearing loss to escape and meet others at the family meeting place.
6. Sleep with your mobile phone and your hearing aids or implants close to your bed.

People Who Use a Mobility Device (This applies to people who use a cane, walker, wheelchair, or a scooter.)

1. Install a bedside alert device that responds to the alert sound of the smoke alarms with a low frequency sound and a bed shaker. The alert from this device gives you more time to escape.
2. As part of your home fire escape drill, include who will wake up a child or an adult who uses a mobility device and help them to escape.
3. It is safest for people who need more time to escape to sleep on the ground floor and in a room with a door to the outside.
4. Practice the home fire escape drill and include waking and assisting people who use a mobility device.
5. Sleep with your mobility device and mobile phone close to your bed.
6. If someone in your family uses a mobility device and can self-transfer, include this action when you practice your home fire escape drill: wake up, transfer to your wheelchair, get your walker or cane, and get out of your home in less than 2 minutes.

People Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision

1. Install a bedside alert device that responds to the alert sound of the smoke alarms with a low frequency sound and a bed shaker. The alert from this device gives you more time to escape.
2. People who are blind or have low vision may be disoriented when they can't hear the common household sounds that are used to navigate through the home over the continuous high-decibel smoke alarm sound. Practice the home fire escape drill to make sure you can escape while the smoke alarms are sounding.
3. Sleep with your glasses and mobile phone close to your bed.