

# Your Exit Plan



# Exit Drills In The Home



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY  
IN COOPERATION WITH  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Operation EDITH was introduced in Kansas City, Mo., in 1958, spread to other cities and towns, and since 1966 has been sponsored by the Fire Marshals Association of North America – an affiliate of the National Fire Protection Association.

Standing for Exit Drills In The Home, Operation EDITH is a major effort to reduce the toll of dwelling fires, which now claims some 6,000 lives each year. EDITH encourages families to plan ahead for escape in case of fire.

Summarized below are the basic points of an effective, possibly lifesaving, Exit Drill In The Home.



**TWO WAYS OUT** of each room is the starting point for a home fire escape plan. Keep in mind that fire can sweep up stairways and through halls with alarming speed. For this reason, bedroom and/or hall doors should always be closed at night.



Most fatal home fires occur at night when the family is asleep, so it is especially important that each bedroom have at least two avenues of escape. A window is usually the alternate exit – be sure it is low enough and large enough to climb through; that access to it is not blocked by furniture; that it can be opened easily, even by children; and that storm windows and screens can be removed easily.



If the window leads to a porch or garage roof, fine. Otherwise, second-floor bedroom exit can be via an escape ladder. Keep in mind, however, these two important limitations: it requires agility to use an escape ladder; and, if the ladder must pass a lower floor window from which smoke and flames are issuing, it becomes unusable.



Adults can help children escape by leaning over a second-floor windowsill, lowering children by their arms, and gently dropping them to the ground – preferably into bushes to – break the fall.



Don't risk serious injury or death by jumping in panic from a window high above ground. In case of entrapment, make sure the door to your room is closed tight, open a window a little at the top and bottom to let in some fresh air, and hang out a sheet to signal rescuers as to your location.



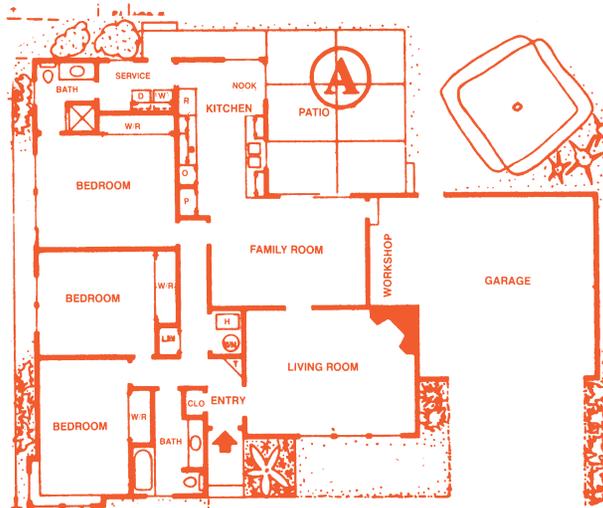
A HOME FIRE ALARM SIGNAL should be discussed and agreed upon by your family. Most houses are small enough so that shouts and banging on the wall will be heard by other members. Some families hang a whistle on the back of their beds.



**GET OUT FAST** is the rule once the fire alarm has sounded in the house. Don't stop to dress or gather valuables. Don't let the children look for favorite toys or even the family pet. And don't risk lives trying to find the source of the fire or fighting flames yourself.



Have a common meeting place once outside. This will eliminate someone returning to find someone who is already outside.



## Provided in the Interest of Public Safety by Riverside County Fire Department

### Emergency Phone Numbers:

TO REPORT A  
**FIRE-RESCUE**  
 DIAL  
**911**  
 RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPT.  
 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Sheriff's Dept. \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor \_\_\_\_\_