



North Country  
Insurance Co.

## REDUCING RISK FIRE ESCAPE ROUTE PLANNING

*None of us wants to think about the possibility of our home catching on fire. While we may take all the steps to prevent this from happening, we should also be prepared in the event that a fire does occur.*

### *Keep in mind...*

To help you and your family be ready, we've developed this outline. Call a family meeting and complete this together. Once finished, try your escape plan. Work out any problem areas until you have it perfected. Then remember to practice it at least twice a year.

**Create a floorplan.** Make sure to indicate where doors and windows are located. Pick a place outside of the home where everyone should meet in case of a fire. Make sure it is a safe distance from the home.

**Check your fire alarms.** Are all the batteries working? Do you have one on every floor and outside each sleeping area? Assign a family member to check on these. Make sure that all family members know what the alarm will sound like.

**No obstructions.** Are there any objects or furniture blocking a possible exit? If so, try and move the item to another location in the home so that every possible exit is available to you.

**Accessibility.** Can everyone in the household open every window and door? Make sure there are no windows painted or nailed shut. If you use security bars, make sure they all have a quick

release mechanism on them so everyone can get out in the event of an emergency.

**Assistance.** Are there children, elderly or disabled people in the home? Discuss how to help get them out of the home and to safety.

**Pets.** Use pet finder stickers on your windows so that fire fighters know there are animals in the house.

**Apartments.** If you live in an apartment building, make sure you are familiar with the building's fire plan. Never use an elevator during a fire, always take the stairs.

**Once out, stay out.** Never go back into a burning building. Stay in your meeting spot until help has arrived and the home has been cleared of any danger.

**Practice.** Mark your calendar to remind you to practice your plan every six months.



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