

HINTS ON HOME FIRE DRILLS

HOME FIRE PREVENTION

Every year, thousands of people die as a result of fire. Most of these people die in their own homes. Let's look at some of the many ways these fires could have been prevented.

- ⇒ Electrical wiring should be checked.
- ⇒ If you smoke, care should be taken to never smoke in bed; always be sure cigarettes are put out.
- ⇒ Fireplace fires should be covered with a screen.
- ⇒ Cleaning fluids and lighter fluids should be kept out of reach.
- ⇒ Old rags and newspapers should be destroyed and not saved in large bundles.

PERSONAL SAFETY IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE

Many people could avoid death in a fire if they don't panic, and if they know what to do - this includes children. To avoid panic, every home should have a planned fire escape route and fire drills should be practiced at home. The following are points one should keep in mind when planning and implementing a fire drill.

- ⇒ Each room should have two ways out, usually a door and a window.
- ⇒ When one suspects a fire, an alarm should be sounded, perhaps a whistle used just for this purpose.
- ⇒ Doors should be kept closed at night. They can help keep out smoke. After they crawl out of bed and crawl on the floor, they should feel the door before opening it. If the door is hot, never open it. If the door is opened, the hot air rushing in can also kill you. If the door is hot, the other escape route should be used. If on the ground floor, the window presents no problem but be sure those windows can be opened by a child and screens can be removed from the inside by a child.
- ⇒ If on second floor, a rope or rope ladder should be kept in the room. Even small children can be taught to get out this way.
- ⇒ Children should be assured that it is all right to break a window or screen in the event either can't be opened, and instructed as to a safe way of doing this.
- ⇒ A ladder should always be kept outside so that once parents or older members of the family are out they can assist others by climbing up to windows.
- ⇒ As everyone gets out they should all meet in a pre-planned place. This helps you discover if anyone's missing.
- ⇒ Be sure that the entire family has practiced a home fire drill. You never know when an actual fire may break out.

IT MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE!!!