Step 1: Prepare and Plan



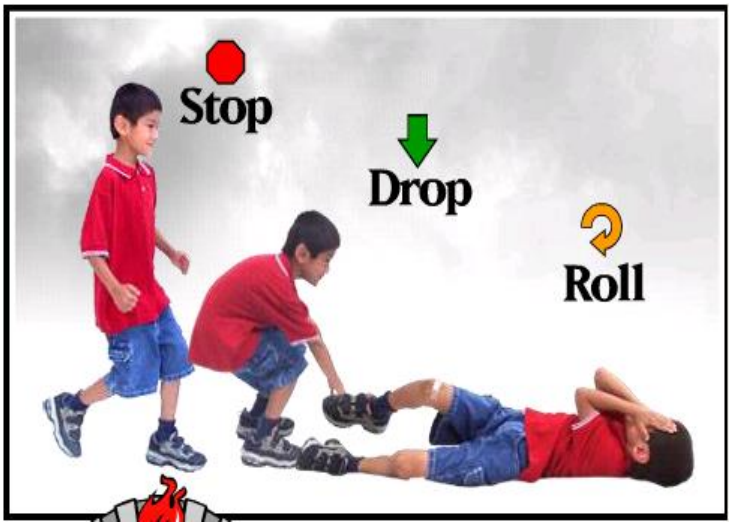
Make home fire safety the whole family's responsibility. Work together, from the oldest to the youngest family member, to come up with an emergency escape plan in case of a fire or other emergency.

Try to include at least two ways to escape from each room in your home (this is not always feasible, depending on your home). Map out your fire plan on paper and be sure it includes emergency phone numbers. Post a copy in each bedroom. Try to review the plan with the whole family once a month.



Retractable ladders are a necessity for bedrooms on the second floor or higher. Everyone in your family needs to know how to climb out of a window and down a ladder in case of an emergency. Be sure everyone knows how to crawl under smoke to escape during a fire and how to cover their mouths and noses with shirts or towels to keep from breathing in smoke. Decide on a meeting spot that is outside and away from the house. All family members living in your home should know the fire plan, including where to gather once they have evacuated the house.

Be sure all children know what smoke and fire alarms sound like so they can recognize them during a fire. Teach your children the "Stop, Drop and Roll" technique for putting out a fire on their clothes or in their hair.



Keep fire extinguishers in the kitchen, garage and basement and go over how to use them with your family. To operate a fire extinguisher, just remember P.A.S.S.: Pull the pin, Aim the nozzle, Squeeze the handle and Sweep from side-to-side as it sprays to extinguish the flames. Recharge all extinguishers after any test.