

EDITH (Emergency Drills In The Home)

Does your family have an escape plan?

Do your children know what to do in case of a fire?

Do you have a special meeting place?

Does your family practice fire safety in your home?

Are you aware of the many hazards in your home?

Do you have smoke detectors and fire extinguishers? Are they in the proper locations?

E.D.I.T.H.'s Advice:

HAVE A PLAN. A fire does not give you time to plan once it starts. Let us assist you and your family with your plan.

Here's how:

HAVE A MEETING PLACE. This is a place outside the home where everyone will go and wait for the Fire Department. This allows you to confirm everyone is out of the house and inform the fire department if anyone is trapped inside.

PRACTICE YOUR PLAN. Practice at least twice a year. *Remember, this is not a race.* Practice quickly, but VERY carefully.

MAKE YOUR DRILL SEEM REAL. You may want to pretend that some exits are blocked by fire and try a second way out. Or, pretend the lights are out and the room is filling with smoke...what would you do?

ALWAYS BE PREPARED. If you live in an apartment or house, be sure all doors and windows can be unlocked easily, even in the dark. Never use an elevator to leave a building. Always use another way out. If your home has more than one level, make sure everyone can unlock all doors and windows quickly. If you must escape from a second-story window, be sure there is a safe way to reach the ground. An escape ladder or knotted rope should be available to those who can use it.

Special arrangements should be made for children, older adults, and people with disabilities. If possible, people with disabilities should sleep on the first floor and have a telephone in their bedroom. It is best to sleep with the bedroom doors closed. A smoke detector should be placed just outside the sleeping area so all can hear the alarm.

Feel the doors before you open them. While kneeling at the door, reach up as high as you can and touch the door, the knob, and the frame with the back of your hand. If the door is hot, use another escape route. If the door is cool, open the door with caution.

If you are trapped, close the doors between you and the fire. Open a window and signal for help with a flashlight, light-colored cloth, or yell for help. If there is a telephone in the room, call 911 and tell them *exactly* where you are.

In a real fire, get out and stay out! Do not stop to rescue pets or take possessions. Go directly to the meeting place. Call 911 from a neighbor's house, but be sure someone knows you left your family to make the call---so everyone is accounted for!!!

If you must exit through smoke, crawl low on your hands and knees. Smoke contains deadly gases and heat rises. Cleaner air will be near the floor.

A group of Town of Menasha Fire Fighters began this service to the Town of Menasha residents. The E.D.I.T.H. program has been used and has been helpful to a number of families.

If you are interested in having us share our knowledge with you and your family, please call the Fire Department Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM.

A group of firefighters will be assigned to your program and will contact you to schedule and appointment at your convenience.

We have seen the program used. And, we have seen the program work for the people who use it.



*Town of Menasha Fire Department
Public Education: Our first line of defense*