

NEWS RELEASE

Date: September 24, 2007

Release: Immediately

Contact: Connie King, PIO, 503-201-5497 mobile, 503-615-6666 pager



(Fire Prevention Month – *Practice Your Escape Plan*)

October is National Fire Prevention Month, and this year's theme is "*Practice Your Escape Plan.*" What better time than now, to make your home fire escape plan and practice it?

Everyone thinks that tragedies like home fires happen to other people in other communities; it is the "it can't happen to me" syndrome. Yet, 3,030 people were killed in 381,000 house fires last year – that's one person every three hours. But, fewer than 20% of all people in the US have made a home escape plan, and even fewer have practiced their plan. Does making and practicing your home fire escape plan sound like something that can be put off for another day?

Here's what you need to do right now:

1. Develop a fire escape plan that marks two ways out of each room and a family meeting place outside.
2. Make sure your plan allows for any specific needs in your family. If everyone knows what to do, everyone can get out quickly.
3. Practice your plan, at least twice a year. A fire, with its thick, black smoke and extreme temperatures, is not the time to figure out how to get out!
4. Some children and adults may not awaken to the sound of the smoke alarm; know if someone needs help before a fire.
5. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and have one inside each bedroom and outside of each sleeping area.
6. Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

It's time for the residents of Hillsboro to get ready for the very real possibility that a fire can occur in their home. Don't let another day go by without planning and practicing your home fire escape plan – you never know when you may need to use it. Remember to practice it at least twice a year. Go to www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire/lifesavers to download your copy of a home escape planning guide or call the fire department at 503-681-6166 to get your copy mailed to you.

-END-