



Home fire

A house or flat fire can fill rooms with smoke in moments, leaving little time to escape. This page helps your family prevent fires, get out safely and recover afterwards.

CHECKLIST

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| ☐ Working smoke alarms with spare or long life batteries | ☐ Towels or tape to seal door gaps |
| ☐ Kitchen fire extinguisher | ☐ Written escape plan with two exits per room |
| ☐ Torch for escaping and signalling | ☐ Digital copies of key documents |
| ☐ Light coloured cloth for signalling from a window | |

BEFORE

- Fit smoke alarms on every level of your home and never disable one while cooking.
- Make a fire escape plan with two exits from every room and practise it twice a year.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and learn how to use it.
- Stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling or broiling food.
- Replace damaged cords and never run cables under rugs or furniture.
- Lock matches and lighters away from children and teach them not to hide from firefighters.

DURING

- Get out immediately and leave belongings behind.
- Stay low and crawl under smoke towards your exit.
- Feel doors before opening; if hot or smoky, keep it shut and use another exit.
- Close doors behind you and never use lifts.
- If you cannot reach someone who needs help, get out and call the fire service.
- If trapped, shut the door, seal gaps with cloth, call for help and signal from a window.
- If clothes catch fire, stop, drop, cover your face and roll until the flames are out, then cool the burn with cool water.

AFTER

- Do not go back inside until fire officials say it is safe.
- Leave utilities for professionals to reconnect.
- Contact a relief service such as the Red Cross for shelter, food and medicine.
- List and photograph damaged items before throwing anything away.

IN THE UAE

In the UAE call Civil Defence on 997, walk calmly to marked exits and avoid lifts.

MY NOTES

Sources: Ready.gov (FEMA), Home Fires (<https://www.ready.gov/home-fires>); UAE Government Portal (u.ae), Handling emergencies (<https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/justice-safety-and-the-law/handling-emergencies>)
General guidance in our own words. Always follow your local authorities.