

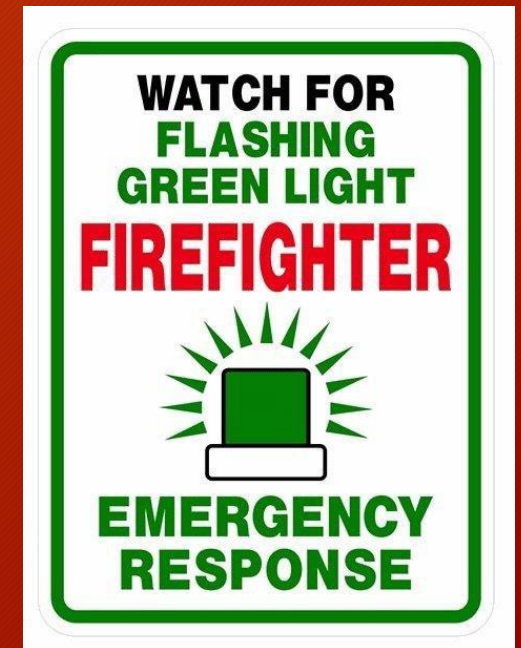
Fire Safety & Home Escape Planning



April 19/2023

A little about us!

- The Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services is a Volunteer Fire service.
- 5 Fire stations (Old Town, St Davids, Virgil, Queenston, Glendale)
- 110 Volunteer Firefighters
- 6 Full-time administrative staff
- Respond to approx. 700 call per year
- Firefighters complete a 300 hour training/certification program to become a member



Today's Topics

- Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms
- General Fire Safety
- Home Escape Planning
- Questions & Answers

Smoke Alarms

- Every home in Ontario **MUST** have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas
- For added protection, install a smoke alarm inside every bedroom
- Test and clean your alarms monthly
- Smoke alarms expire after 10 years and must be replaced!
- Batteries should be replaced at least once per year
- A hard-wired smoke alarm must be replaced by a hard-wired smoke alarm



Expired Smoke Alarm example

- If your smoke or carbon monoxide alarm looks like this, its time to replace it!



Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

- Any home with a fuel burning appliance, fireplace, or attached garage is legally required to have a CO alarm installed.
- CO alarms are required on any level that has a bedroom.
- Myth : CO sinks and I need to have my alarm installed near my furnace.
- Fact: CO mixes equally with air, alarms must be installed outside of any bedrooms.
- CO alarms can be hard-wired, plug in, or battery operated
- CO alarms expire! Most alarms only last 7-10 years.



Nuisance Alarms

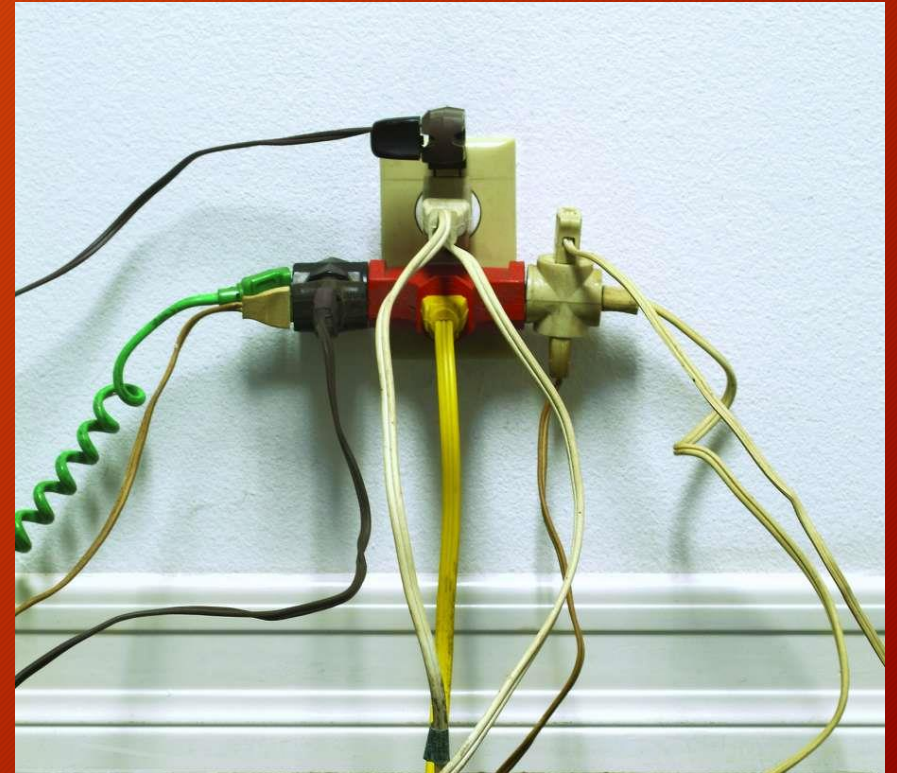
- Smoke or CO alarms will “chirp” when they have a problem
- Typically a chirping alarm is indicating a low battery (even on hard wired alarms)
- Smoke and CO alarms should be cleaned, a dirty or dusty alarm may activate from dust particles and insects
- DO NOT remove an alarm that is chirping. Always service the alarm first, if they alarm still chirps it must be replaced.

Kitchen Fire Safety

- Unattended cooking is a leading cause of residential fires on NOTL
- Avoid clutter near your cooking appliances, combustibles such as utensils, dishcloths, paper towels and pot holders can ignite!
- Keep young children away from the stove.
- Ensure electrical cords are not dangling from countertops
- Always keep a tight fitting lid near the stove. If a pot or pan catches fire, slide the lid over the pot and turn off the stove.
- Never use water on a grease fire!

Electrical Fire Safety

- Extension cords should be used as a temporary source of power only
- Check cords for fraying or nicks. Exposed wires can cause a shock or fire hazard
- Only 1 high wattage appliance should be connected to an outlet at a time
- Never run extension cords under carpets or rugs, this can overheat the cord and cause a fire.



Fire Extinguishers

- Using a fire extinguisher is always voluntary.
- Consider purchasing a multi purpose ABC fire extinguisher for your home and kitchen
- When using a fire extinguisher remember the acronym P-A-S-S
- P- pull the pin
A- aim the nozzle at the base of the fire
S- squeeze the handle
S- sweep side to side until the extinguisher is empty
- Always keep your exit at your back, never let the fire get between you and your escape.



Home Escape Planning

- Why do I need a home Escape Plan? I will have plenty of time to escape my home.
- 133 Fire related Fatalities in Ontario in 2022

Fire Happens Fast!



Home Escape Planning...the basics

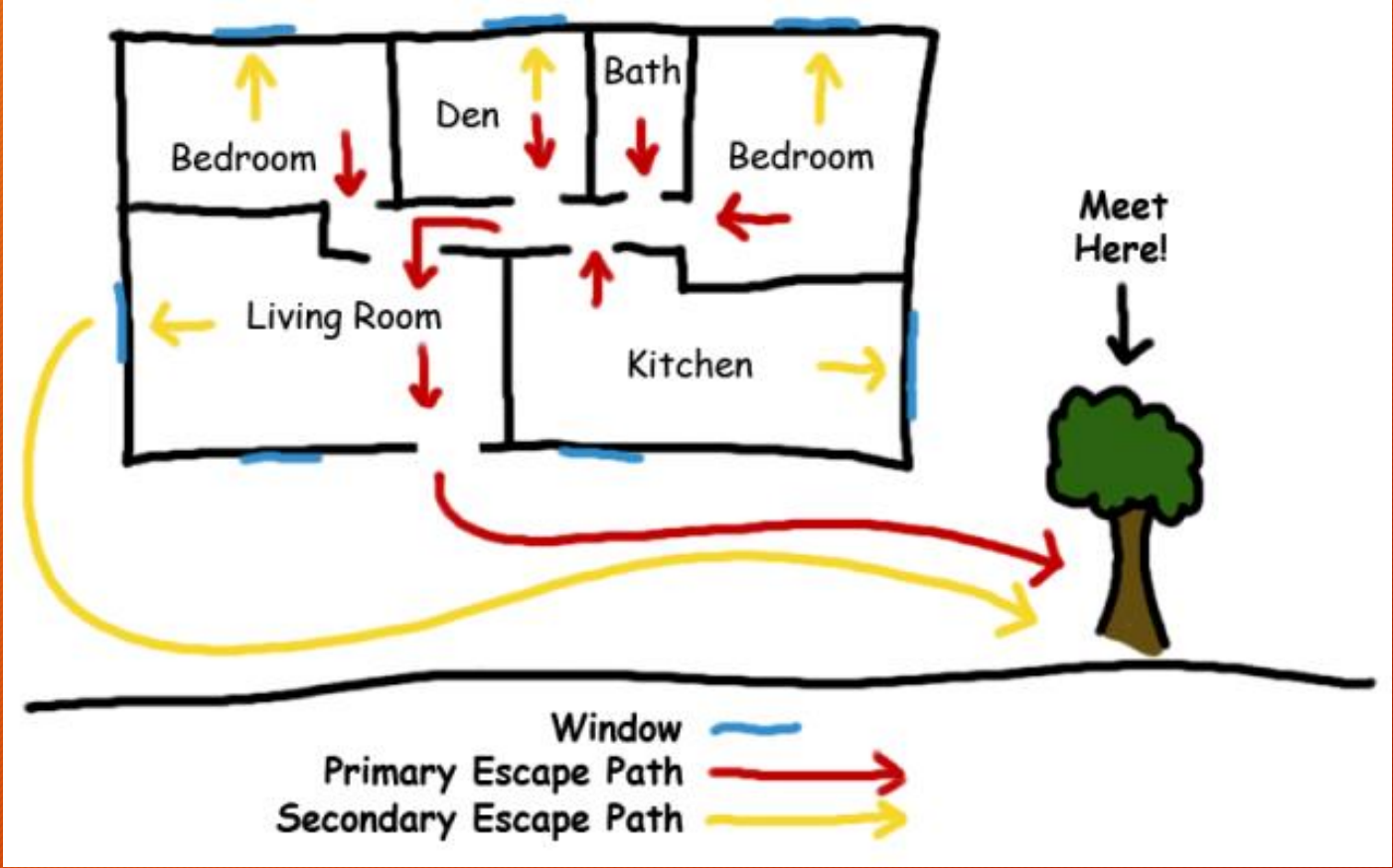
- Homes burn up to 8x faster than homes built 50 years ago
- You may have as little as 2 minutes (or less) to escape your home
- The first line of defense is having enough time to safely escape and ensure you have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home
- Know the sounds of your alarms. If your alarms sound exit your home immediately and call 911 from outside

Home Escape Planning

- Know two ways out of every room in your home (where possible)
- If your second exit is a window, make sure you know how to open it to escape
- Practice escaping from every room
- Have an alternate exit plan incase an exit becomes blocked.
- If you encounter smoke stay low to the ground and exit as quickly as possible
- Have a plan for who is going to get young children or pets and who is going to call 911 (from outside)

Home Escape Planning

- Choose a meeting place a safe distance from your home. Ensure everyone in the home knows where to meet incase you become separated
- If you live on second level of home and cant escape, close the door and place a towel under the door. Open a window and signal for help. Call 911 if possible and tell them where you are trapped
- Escape ladders can be purchased from a second storey window
- Ensure all exits are clear of any obstructions
- Practice your home escapes! It could save your life!



Questions?



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