



Washington State Patrol

# STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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Government and Media Relations

State Fire Marshal's Office  
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**Date: March 25, 2024**

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## Home Fire Escape

**Olympia** – Your ability to get out of your home during a fire depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and proactive planning. Fire can spread rapidly through your home, leaving you as little as one to two minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

According to a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) survey, only one of every three households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan with only 8 percent saying their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out. The survey also discovered that while 71 percent of American households have an escape plan in case of a fire, only 47 percent of those have practiced it.

In 2022, 7 percent of the fire fatalities that occurred in Washington State were in areas where smoke alarms or detectors were found to be present and operational. It was found that in those fatalities, human factors, such as the individual being asleep, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or having a physical or mental impairment, may have contributed to the individual not escaping the fire. Creating and practicing an escape plan could have resulted in different outcomes.

The SFMO asks that you plan ahead with these safety tips in mind:

- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows and discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- Know at least two ways out of every room and make sure that all doors and windows leading to the outside open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year, and practice using two different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case no one can help them.
- Close the doors behind you as you leave. A closed door may slow the spread for smoke, heat, and fire.
- If there are family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and assign a backup person in case that person is not home or unavailable.

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3929.

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The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington States firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.

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