



Vacaville Fire Department Prevention Bureau
650 Merchant St., Vacaville, CA 95688 (707) 449-5453

Exit Drills In the Home

E.D.I.T.H.

In 2005, 3,175 Americans died in home fires. Tens of thousands more were injured. People can survive even major fires in their homes if they are alerted to the fire and get out quickly. Exit Drills in the Home (E.D.I.T.H.) is about having a plan for everyone in your home to follow in case of a fire. This plan should be practiced at least twice a year with everyone who is living in the home. Remember E.D.I.T.H. can help save you and your loved ones. Here is how to set up an E.D.I.T.H. plan in your home.

How to survive:

- Install and maintain smoke detectors.
- Make an escape plan and practice it.
- Consider installing an automatic fire-sprinkler system.

Plan your escape:

- Draw a floor plan of your home. Show two ways out of each room. Discuss escape routes with everyone in your home; make sure children and seniors have a clear understanding of the plan.
- Agree on a meeting place outside where everyone will gather once you've escaped. Having a meeting place will allow you to count heads and inform the fire department if anyone is trapped inside the burning building.
- Practice your escape plan at least twice a year. Have a fire drill in your home. Appoint someone to be the monitor and have everyone participate. Remember a fire drill is not a race. Get out quickly and carefully.
- Make your exit drill realistic. Pretend that some exits in the home are blocked by fire and practice alternative escape routes. Make sure everyone also practices crawling low under the smoke.

Be prepared:

- Make sure everyone can clearly hear and recognize the sound of your smoke alarms. If you sleep with the bedroom door closed, have a qualified electrician install interconnected smoke alarms in each room so that when one alarm sounds they all sound.
- Some studies have shown that some children may not awaken to the sound of a smoke alarm. Know what your child will do before a fire occurs.
- Make sure everyone in your house knows how to dial 9-1-1. You should call from a neighbor's phone or portable phone once you've escaped.
- Teach everyone in your home how to unlock and open all windows and doors.
- If your windows have security bars, make sure they have a quick release on them.
- Keep all stairways and exits clear and free from clutter.

Remember E.D.I.T.H. saves lives. If you have any questions or concerns about your home escape plan, please call the Vacaville Fire Department at 449-5453.