

Contact Us

Emergency (police, fire, medical) 9-1-1

Fire Departments—Non Emergency

Burlington Fire Department..... 905.637.8207
 Halton Hills Fire Department 905.877.1133
 Milton Fire Department 905.878.9251
 Oakville Fire Department..... 905.637.8253

Other Contacts

Halton Children’s Aid Society 905.333.4441
 Halton Regional Police Service..... 905.825.4777
 Halton Region.....3-1-1
 Ontario Poison Centre.....1.800.268.9017
 Telehealth Ontario1.866.797.0000



Fire and Burn Prevention

a parent's guidebook



In partnership with the Halton Children’s Aid Society, the Burlington Fire Department, the Halton Hills Fire Department, the Milton Fire Department and the Oakville Fire Department

Burn Awareness



Fires and burns are a leading cause of deaths that occur in the home and a leading cause of injury-related fatalities among children. Many of these incidents could be prevented by following some simple prevention tips and precautions.

Dangers of Hot Liquids

Scalds are burns from hot water or liquids. Children under the age of five suffer 83% of all scald injuries requiring hospital admission. Scald burns are typically related to ordinary activities—bathing, cooking and eating—and often happen due to a lack of adult supervision or protective measures.



Draw Your Fire Escape Plan

Walk through your home with your family. Make note of all windows, doors, smoke and CO alarms.



Plan Two Ways to Escape Each Room

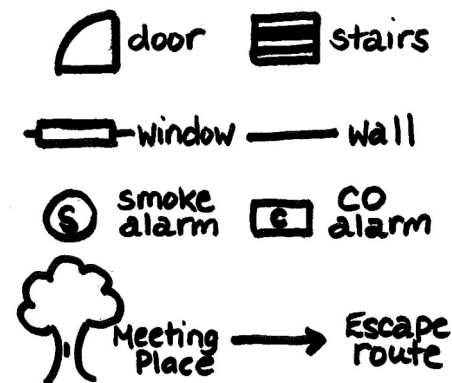
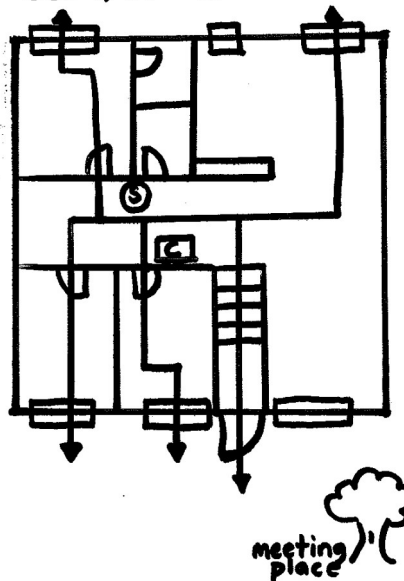
Draw escape routes on the map of your house. Always plan an alternate route in case the primary route is blocked.



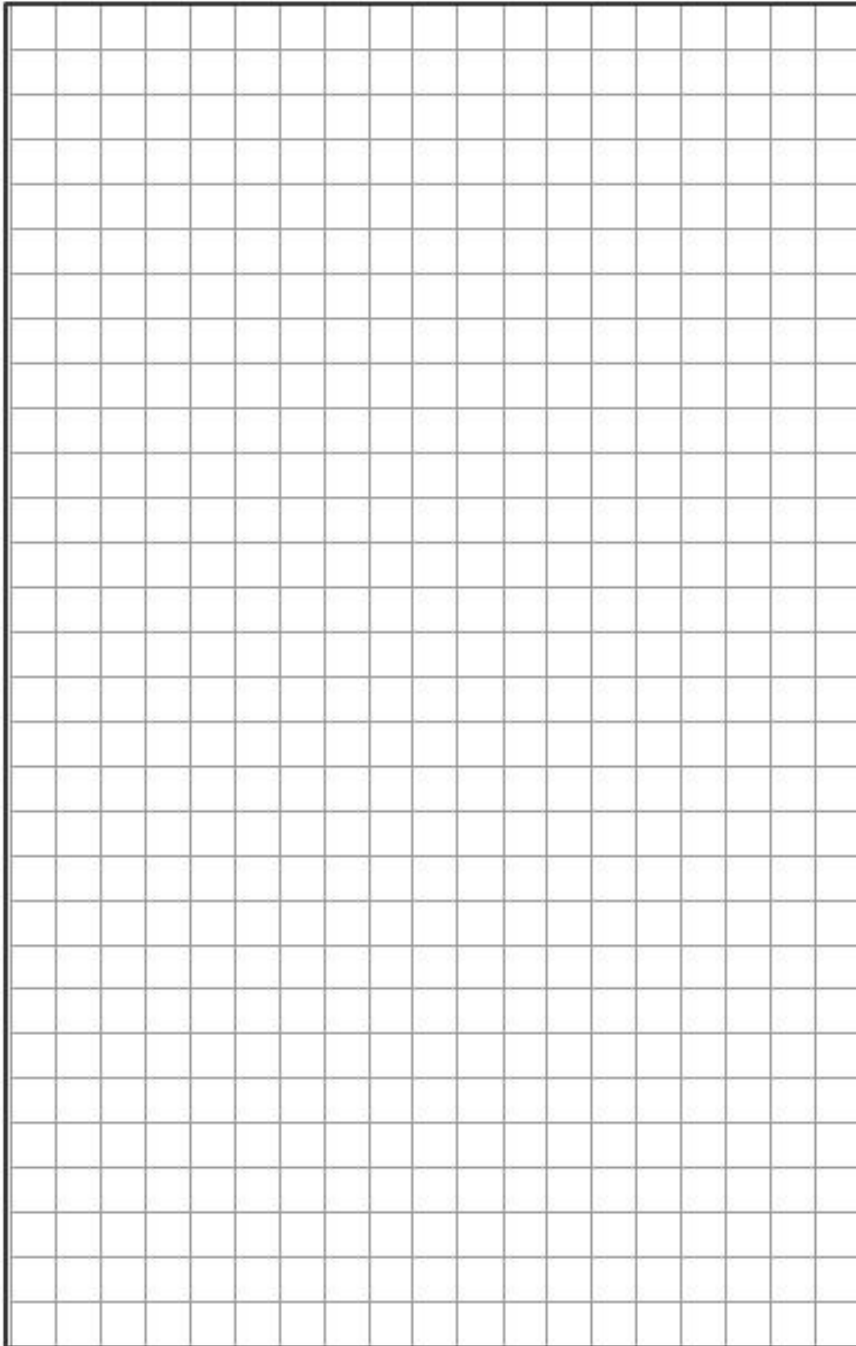
Pick a Safe Meeting Place Away from Your Home

Use a neighbour's house, light post, stop sign or mailbox as a nearby meeting place.

Sample Plan



Draw Your Escape Plan



Tips to Keep Children Safe from Scalds



Set It (or Them) Down

85% of scalds are from cooking, drinking or serving hot liquids. Never hold a child while handling hot items.



Create a No-Kids Zone

Keep kids at least one meter away from the stove. Use back burners and turn pot handles inward. Use safety gates as needed.



Keep Hot Items Out of Reach

Keep hot items away from all edges and out of reach. Make sure electrical cords are not dangling from the countertops where they could be pulled on by small children.



Put a Lid on it to Prevent Burns

The number one injury risk to young children is spills and reaching for hot drinks. Use mugs with tight-fitting lids, like a travel cup.



Tap Water

Tap water causes nearly one-third of scald burns requiring hospitalization. Many homes have hot water that is 60°C (140°F). Consider setting your water heater at 54°C (130°F).



Test Bath Water

When filling the bathtub, turn on the cold water first. A child's bath water should not exceed 40°C (104°F). Place child in the tub facing away from the faucets and as close to the other end of the tub as possible.

Prevention



Home fires are the leading cause of unintentional death for children and youth. Every year it is estimated 40 children, aged 14 and under, die from fires and other burns. Another 770 are hospitalized for serious injuries.

As a parent, it is important you take precautions and include fire safety behaviours in your daily activities.

Escape Tips



Create a Fire Escape Plan

Everyone in the household needs to create an escape plan. If you live in a multi-floor building, become familiar with the best routes to the stairwell and emergency exits. Make sure your plan identifies two ways out of each room, if possible, and a meeting place outside.



Practice Your Fire Escape Plan

Hold a fire drill at least twice a year, both at night and during the day. If anyone needs help to escape, review who will assist the very young, older adults or people with disabilities. Check your escape routes to ensure all exits are clear and easy to use.



Get Out and Stay Out

Once outside, stay outside. Never re-enter a burning building. Call the fire department from a neighbour's house or a cell phone.



Extra Precautions

Smoke is poisonous. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out. Before opening a door, feel the door and then the doorknob. If either is hot, leave the door closed and use your second way out.

If you cannot get out, close the doors and cover the vents and cracks around the door with cloth or tape. Call the fire department (9-1-1).

Escape



If a fire occurred in your home tonight, would your family get out safely?

Fire can spread rapidly through your home, leaving you as little as one minute to escape. Your ability to get out safely depends on quick thinking and advanced planning. Everyone must know what to do and where to go when the smoke alarm sounds.

Tips to Prevent Fires



In the Kitchen

Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or boiling food and supervise older children's use of stove, oven and microwave. Keep towels, curtains and other combustible items away from heat sources.



Not a Toy

Matches and lighters are tools for adult use only. Ensure matches and lighters are out of sight and out of reach of children.



Candle Use

Keep lit candles safely away from children and pets. Always blow out candles before leaving the room. Consider using flameless, battery-operated candles in your home.



Clothes Dryer Use

Turn the dryer off when leaving the home or when you go to bed. Keep your clothes dryer free of lint. Clean lint traps regularly to avoid them becoming a fire hazard.



Electrical Hazards

Teach children not to touch electrical outlets or play with electrical cords. Place child resistant covers on all electrical outlets. Replace electrical items that show signs of wear such as frayed wires. Keep heaters away from things that can burn.



Help is Available

If you suspect your child is involved in inappropriate fire use, fire play or fire setting behaviour, contact your local fire department for information and assistance.

Detection



In a fire, seconds count. Smoke alarms provide early warning and time to get out.

Most children who die in residential fires were in homes without working smoke alarms.

Detection Tips



Alarm Protection

Ensure working smoke alarms are on every level and smoke and CO alarms are outside every sleeping area. **It is the law and the responsibility of every homeowner and every landlord to install and maintain working smoke alarms!**



Alarm Testing

Include your children when you test your alarms monthly. Smoke and CO alarms sound different. Children need to recognize the sound and know what to do if it activates. Children who recognize the sound are less likely to sleep through a sounding alarm.



Alarm Replacement

Replace smoke alarms that are more than ten years old. Follow manufacturer's instructions when installing or replacing your smoke or CO alarm. If you have an alarm that makes a chirping sound, the battery may need to be replaced or the alarm may be at the end of its life. (Refer to the alarm's manual).



Added Protection

Consider installing smoke alarms inside bedrooms and CO alarms on every level of your home. Install interconnected alarms so if one sounds, they all sound. Purchase smoke alarms with a built-in, ten-year battery. Visual alarms and other alerting devices are available to people who are deaf or hard of hearing.