

# Sounding the alarm...

on escape plans



3

(quiz)

## Questions

Compare your answers with those on the back of this sheet and check your knowledge on fire prevention topics.

**1 What is an escape plan?**

- a) a plan indicating where wastewater from your home is evacuated to a drain
- b) a plan of your home indicating how to get out and identifying a meeting spot in the event of a fire
- c) equipment to help put out a fire

**2 What is an escape plan used for?**

- a) to improve your chance of survival in the event of a fire
- b) to prevent panic and unsafe actions
- c) to help find all of the occupants more easily after an evacuation
- d) all of the above

**3 What should you include in an escape plan?**

- a) at least two possible exits per room
- b) the paths to take to get outside
- c) a meeting place outside
- d) the location of smoke alarms
- e) all of the above

**4 Why is it important to determine a meeting place outside?**

- a) to ensure that everyone is accounted for
- b) to notify firefighters
- c) to prevent anyone from returning inside
- d) all of these reasons

**5 Who should draw up an escape plan?**

- a) the municipality where I live
- b) everyone who lives in the home
- c) the fire safety service
- d) the Régie du bâtiment du Québec (a government organism)

**6 If fire does break out, what should you do first?**

- a) get out immediately
- b) call the fire service
- c) try to put out the fire
- d) save personal objects and pets

**7 How should you find your way around inside the home when there is a lot of smoke?**

- a) by crawling on your hands and knees along the walls
- b) by crawling along the floor
- c) by standing up and walking calmly
- d) by running quickly

**8 What should you do if you can't get out of a room during a fire?**

- a) jump out the window
- b) signal to someone through a window and wait for them to get you
- c) try to get out and put out the fire
- d) all of the above

# Answers

**1 Answer: b)**

The escape plan is a plan of your home indicating all of the possible exits to get out quickly if a fire does break out and indicating where everyone should meet once they are outside.

**2 Answer: d)**

Having an escape plan and performing a practice evacuation twice a year improves your chances of getting out of your home safely if fire does break out. This helps prevent panic and unsafe actions, because everyone knows what to do and where to exit. By planning a meeting place outside, the plan helps you locate everyone after an evacuation.

**3 Answer: e)**

Start by drawing your home. For each room, identify at least two possible exits and the paths to take to get outside. Also specify the location of smoke alarms. Always plan an outside meeting place. Plan carefully for the safe evacuation of young children, the elderly and the disabled.

**4 Answer: d)**

Having everyone meet outside at one place ensures that each person is accounted for after evacuation. Generally, everyone should meet in front of the home so that firefighters can easily identify those who have been evacuated. This also prevents a person from returning inside to save someone who has already gotten out. Never return inside a building that is in flames. If someone is still inside, notify firefighters as soon as they arrive.

**5 Answer: b)**

Whether you own or rent your home, drawing up an evacuation plan is your responsibility. You should plan it with everyone who lives there. If you live in a residential building, the building's owner is required to prepare an emergency plan and evacuation procedure and to notify you of it. The owner is also required to conduct regular evacuation exercises.

**6 Answer: a)**

When a smoke alarm sounds, evacuate immediately according to your evacuation procedure and alert all occupants. Do not stop to save a few objects or pets. Everyone must go to the planned meeting place. Once everyone is outside, appoint a person to call the fire safety service. Remember, hallways and balconies should always remain free of obstacles and debris. Obviously, a smoke alarm that works is vital to getting out in time.

**7 Answer: a)**

In a fire, products of combustion in the smoke rise to the ceiling, but other noxious gases settle to the floor. That's why the best way of getting around inside is to crawl on your hands and knees along the walls, with your head up. Close any doors behind you to contain the smoke and to keep flames from spreading. Remember, smoke is often more deadly than the fire itself.

**8 Answer: b)**

If you're in a room and the door is shut, place the back of your hand on the door to see if it is hot. If it is, don't open it. Plug the space at the bottom of the door with a sheet, towel or item of clothing to keep the smoke out. If you have a phone, call 9-1-1 immediately; otherwise, signal to someone out of the window by opening it slightly and waving a sheet, towel or item of clothing. Wait for firefighters to rescue you.

**Score** : Each answer is worth one point

**If you scored between 6 and 8 points**

Well done! You know which actions are safe in the event of a fire and the importance of having a home escape plan.

**If you scored between 3 and 5 points**

Careful! You need to be better informed about what to do in the event of a fire and about how to evacuate your home. Consult your fire safety service.

**If you scored fewer than 5 points**

Danger! You have to update your knowledge and learn more about fire safety. Get in touch with your fire safety service.