

How to Plan and Practice a Home Fire Drill

Dear Family,

Your child has learned a lot about home fire safety with *Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol*. We hope you have, too! Now it is time for the most important step: to practice what your family will do if a fire starts in your home. A home fire drill takes only a few minutes but it could save your lives!

Here are the steps to doing a home fire drill with your loved ones:

1. Watch the Sound Off Home Fire Drills video at ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-videos. (See Video #4.)
2. Talk about your escape plan as a family. Use the checklist to the right to do your fire drill.
3. After your home fire drill, please fill in the form at the bottom of this sheet to let us know:
 - If you completed your home fire drill; and
 - How long it took you to get to your outside meeting place. (Try to do this in less than 3 minutes.)
4. Have your child bring the completed form back to school. We will give them an official *Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol* certificate.

Thank you for your efforts to keep your family safe!

Home Fire Drill Checklist

- Talk about the home fire escape map you made with your child. Remind everyone of the two ways out of every room. (Update the map if you need to make changes.)
- Remind everyone about your outside meeting place.
- Practice your first home fire drill with the lights on. Have everyone use doorways to get outside. (You should talk with a firefighter before you try a home fire drill in the dark or try to get out through windows.)
- Have a cell phone with a timer ready. The goal is to be at your outside meeting place in 3 minutes or less.
- Have all family members get into their beds with bedroom doors closed.
- Push the test button on the smoke alarm in your bedroom. That is the signal for everyone to get out fast! Start the timer and take your cell phone with you. But don't stop to take anything else.
- Practice feeling doorknobs and the cracks around doors with the back of your hand. Also practice looking for signs of smoke coming through the cracks around the door and under the door at the bottom. In a real fire, if you feel heat or see smoke, do not open the door.
- Practice "Get Low and Go" as you move through the home toward your outside meeting place. This will help you stay safe from smoke in a real fire.
- Close doors behind you.
- Stop the timer when everyone is at your outside meeting place. Write your time in the space below.
- Pretend to call 9-1-1 on your cell phone. Pretend to tell them that you have a fire and give your address. Have your children practice saying your home address too.
- Remind everyone: In a real fire, never go back inside. Stay at your meeting place and wait for the firefighters.
- Go back inside and celebrate your safety success!
- Fill in the form at the bottom of this sheet. Then cut off the form along the dotted line. Have your child bring it back to school.
- Schedule two home fire drills every year. Mark them on your calendar.



For *Sound Off* safety videos, app, and narrated storybook, all in English and Spanish, go to ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-families.

Our Home Fire Drill

Please answer the questions below, then clip off and return this slip to your child's teacher.

1. Did you complete your home fire drill? Yes No
2. How many minutes did it take you to get to your outside meeting place? _____

(Child's name)

(Parent or Caregiver's name)

