

Kildare Fire Service

Fire Safety Information



EVACUATION DRILLS

Legislation requires that Evacuation Drills must be carried out in the workplace, however, in the home it is up to you to take the initiative. Evacuation drills can help in saving lives but to be really effective, they must be practised frequently and everybody must be familiar with the drill.

Involving the children could be a positive step in overcoming complacency and making evacuation drills a regular event in family life. By turning the drill into a game for all the family, children will learn what to do in the event of a fire and will want to repeat the exercise again.

To interest them in the '*Game*' that could save their lives:

- Appoint a "Fire Officer" to alert other family members and rotate monthly,
- Choose a day when the whole family will be at home,
- Play 'Evacuation Drill' every month,
- Assess each Evacuation Drill and keep a chart to record improvements.

While it is important to make things sound like fun, it is far more important you should impress on children the seriousness of what they are doing and why.

An Evacuation Drill

At regular unannounced intervals activate the smoke alarm, everyone should then carry out their pre-assigned tasks.

- Get young children and the elderly out first.
- Close doors to minimise damage.
- Check that everyone has arrived at the pre-arranged meeting point.
- Simulate a call to the Fire Brigade.

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THREE GOLDEN RULES:

1. Prevent fires before they happen.
2. Install a smoke alarm.
3. Ensure every member of the family knows what to do in the event of a fire.

A simple easy to follow Evacuation Drill should be central to every family's fire safety activities. In the event of a fire, each member of the house must know how to get out and what to do when out. Planning now may save lives later!

GETTING OUT & STAYING OUT:

The main route out of most houses is down the stairs and out the front or back door;

- Keep these areas clear at all times.
- Test doors for heat before opening by feeling as high as possible. If cool, open the door slowly and carefully, if smoke rushes in, close the door immediately. If the door is warm it is best not to open it, leave by another route.
- Everyone should meet at a pre-arranged spot outside and away from the house.
- Never go back inside a burning building to look for someone or retrieve belongings.
- Phone the Fire Brigade. **Use the 999 number.**

If the main route is blocked, an alternative route must be used.

An upstairs window should only be considered as a last resort. If you become trapped in an upstairs room

- Don't Panic.
- Stuff any cracks around the door with clothes.
- Signal or Shout from the window for help.

If you are caught in a smoke filled room, get down on your hands & knees.

There may be a layer of cleaner air at floor level.

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ALERTING THE FIRE BRIGADE:

Whoever has been given the responsibility of calling the Fire Brigade should;

- Know the exact location of the nearest telephone
For example, a neighbour's house.
- The precise address of the house on fire and any directions necessary.
- Provide as much information to the operator whether there is anybody trapped inside the house.
- Don't waste time looking for your local Fire Brigade's number in the phone book -

Use the 999 number.



**Kildare County Council,
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Newbridge,
Co. Kildare.**

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