



Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Prevention Week Provides Reminder to be ‘fire-safe’ *Smoke detectors, two exits are ‘must-haves’ for households*

Frankfort, Ky. (Oct. 10, 2011) – Governor Steve Beshear has proclaimed Oct. 9-15, 2011 as “Fire Prevention Week in Kentucky.” Sponsored each year by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), this year’s theme is “Protect your Family from Fire.”

“Each year we send a strong message to families to listen and act,” said State Fire Marshal William Swope. “The first line of defense for escaping a fire is early warning. Citizens should install smoke detectors on every floor of their homes, including the basement, and in each sleeping area. Make sure the smoke detectors have working batteries and check the batteries regularly,” said Swope.

Swope said the second line of defense is to have two ways out of any residence or structure. “Citizens should have an escape plan for their home and they should practice it. Get together with all members of the household, and then map out and practice your escape plan.”

Here is how to get started:

1. Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
2. Visit each room. Find two ways out.
3. All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
4. Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
5. Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
6. Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.

7. Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
8. Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
9. Practice, practice and practice your home escape plan.

For additional information on fire prevention and safety, visit the NFPA's website at <http://www.nfpa.org/index.asp>.

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