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## Fire Safety MAKE A PLAN & GET OUT SAFE



### Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms save lives. They can detect a fire early, and alert consumers, giving them valuable time to escape. Despite that well-known fact, about two-thirds of fire deaths take place in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms, e.g. smoke alarms with no batteries or dead batteries. Every year, there are more than 300,000 residential fires. Many are preventable by following a few simple steps.

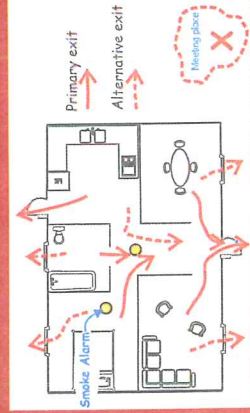
- Install smoke alarms in your home. It is recommended smoke alarms on every level of the home, outside sleeping areas, and inside bedrooms. Replace batteries annually.
- Never leave cooking equipment unattended.
- Have a professional inspect your heating, cooling, and water appliances annually.
- Inspect electrical cords for signs of wear, cracks, or age, and keep lighting away from combustibles.
- Use caution with candles, lighters, matches, and smoking materials near upholstered furniture, mattresses, and bedding. Keep matches and lighters out of reach of young children.
- Have a fire escape plan and practice it so family members know what to do and where to meet if there's a fire in your home.

When shopping for smoke alarms, consumers should consider the different types of smoke alarms. Both types are effective smoke sensors. Ionization type detectors respond quickly to flaming fires. Photoelectric type detectors respond sooner to smoldering fires. Because both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms are better at detecting distinctly different yet potentially fatal fires, and because homeowners cannot predict what type of fire might start in a home, it is recommended that consumers install both ionization and photoelectric type smoke alarms in their homes. There are smoke alarms that combine both detection technologies into one unit called dual sensor smoke alarms.

In addition, consider interconnected smoke alarms. Interconnected smoke alarms allow all smoke alarms in the home to sound if one has detected smoke, and they may provide improved protection and offer more time to escape a fire.

### Fire Escape Plan Every Family Should Have a Fire Escape Plan

Installing working smoke alarms is an essential, but they don't save lives unless everyone knows how to get out of the home safely. Make sure everyone knows how to escape when the smoke alarm sounds, whether awake or sleeping at the time. In your fire escape plan, have two ways out of each room, a pre-arranged meeting place outside and, most importantly, **ONCE OUT - STAY OUT!**



Sample Fire Escape Plan



**Donielle Cardinale, CBR**  
Licensed Associate Broker

Daniel Gale  
Sotheby's International Realty  
10095 Main Road, Mattituck Plaza  
P.O. Box 1477, Mattituck, NY 11952  
o 631.298.0300 f 631.298.0301  
c 631.872.9558

[dcardinale@danielgale.com](mailto:dcardinale@danielgale.com)  
[danielgale.com](mailto:danielgale.com) [cardinalerealty.net](http://cardinalerealty.net)  
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