Do you have a home fire escape plan?

Here is a list of steps to help you plan in the event of an emergency:

* Begin by drawing a floor plan of your home, be sure to highlight all exits such as windows and doors.
* Have two ways out of every room in the house. Test doors, windows, etc. to be sure that they are accessible and open easily in case of emergency.
* Choose a stationary meeting place outside of the home such a a tree, mailbox, or a neighbor's house. Inform everyone in the house, including guests, of the meeting place.
* Make sure your house or building numbers are visible from the road. This will let the fire department or emergency vehicles know they are at the right house.
* Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.  Walk through your plan with the family before practicing it. Have a drill at nighttime to be sure everyone will wake to the sound of the smoke alarm and exit easily in the dark. If anyone fails to wake, be sure to have someone assigned to wake them in case of an emergency.
* For anyone with physical limitations or disabilities, be sure to have a plan for any assistance they may need.
* It is also important to sleep with your bedroom door closed and close doors behind you as you leave, we will focus more on this next week!
* It is important to practice your plan and be ready if and when fire strikes. Clear your house of clutter, and never block exits to ensure a safe escape.

Patsy Will

Fire Prevention & Life Safety

Winfield Comm Vol Fire Dept

\*Information provided by the Maryland Life Safety Exchange.