



## **The Importance of FIRE SAFETY**

In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for a house to fill with thick black smoke and become engulfed in flames. By preparing for a fire emergency, you can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a fire casualty.

- ▶ **Install smoke alarms on every level of your home**, including the basement. For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside sleeping areas.
- ▶ **Test your smoke alarms once a month** and change the batteries at least once a year.
- ▶ **Replace smoke alarms every 8-10 years** or as the manufacturer guidelines recommend.
- ▶ **Plan your escape from fire.** The best plans have two (2) ways to get out of each room.
- ▶ **Practice fire escape plans several times a year.** Practice feeling your way out of the house in the dark or with your eyes closed.
- ▶ **Purchase only collapsible escape ladders** evaluated by a competent, nationally recognized laboratory.
- ▶ **Check that windows are not stuck**, screens can be taken out quickly, and that security bars can be properly opened.
- ▶ **Make sure everyone in your family understands** and practices how to properly operate and open locked or barred doors and windows.
- ▶ **Consider installing residential fire sprinklers** in your home.

**(630) 904-9296**

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