

## **MARCH: Week 4 – Home Escape Planning/“Close The Door!”**

**Overview:** While the two most important things to remember in the event of a fire are to get out of the building and call 911, fire officials point out that simply closing doors behind you on your way out can help stop flames and smoke from spreading to other rooms. It also deprives a fire of oxygen, helping to slow it down and allowing occupants more time to escape.

Fire departments and educators can use SFMO “Close the Door!” Toolkit to promote this important safety message: <https://www.knoxhomebox.com/closethedoor>

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Home fire escape plan checklist & map
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17escapeplangrid.pdf?la=en>
- “Plan 2 Ways Out!” infographic
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/images/public-education/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17infographic.png>
- Escape planning tip sheet flyer
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/escapeplanningtips.pdf>
- “Plan Your Home Fire Escape” 10-minute mini-lesson
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw1710minutelessonplanescape.pdf>

**Media Tools:** Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote home escape planning:

- Customizable press release
  - [http://tn.gov/assets/entities/commerce/attachments/Fire\\_Customizable\\_Press\\_Release.doc](http://tn.gov/assets/entities/commerce/attachments/Fire_Customizable_Press_Release.doc)  
[X](#)
- Twitter:
  - Home escape plans save lives! Learn how to develop one with all members of your household. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
  - Know two ways out of every room in your home! Hint: It’s usually a door and a window. @TNCommerceInsur #FireSafeTN
  - 71% of Americans surveyed say they have an escape plan, but less than half have practiced it. Practice! @TNCommerceInsur
  - Did you know a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting equipment? Learn more here: <https://www.tn.gov/commerce> #closethedoor
  - Simply closing the door behind you when escaping a fire can be the best decision you make. <https://www.tn.gov/commerce> #closethedoor
  - Fire doors prevent spread of smoke/flames in apartments & other buildings. Never disable a fire door. <https://www.tn.gov/commerce> #closethedoor
- Facebook
  - Would you and your family members know what to do in a real fire situation? Develop a home escape plan together and practice it. <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>

- It's 2 o'clock in the morning. You and your family are fast asleep when you awaken to the smoke alarm sounding and the smell of smoke. If you're not sure what you'd do next, it's time to learn! <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>
- In a fire, working smoke alarms alert you in time to escape safely. Make sure you know how to use those minutes wisely. Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it twice a year with all members of your household! <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>
- Did you know that a door is one of the best pieces of firefighting and life-saving equipment in a home? It can reduce fire growth and spread, limit damage to your home, and possibly saves lives. <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>
- Getting out of a burning building and calling 911 are crucial to survival during a fire, but closing doors during an escape can potentially limit the structural damage a fire can cause and possibly save lives. <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>

**Educator Tip:** Build your own "Close The Door!" display! A door display can be a very effective tool for publicizing the "Close The Door!" message in number of ways. It can be used during open houses and fire house visits, in-school visits, public safety expos, fairs, or at fundraising events. You can also use this door display as a photo op for local legislators and other leaders. Be sure to use the official "Close The Door!" prop banners and logos found at <https://www.knoxhomebox.com/closethedoor> .

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### *Home Fire Escape*

#### *Planning*

**4.1.2** Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.

**4.1.7** Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.

**4.1.10** A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

**4.1.12** If you sleep with the bedroom door closed, install smoke alarms inside and outside the bedroom. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.

#### *Practicing the Home Fire Escape Drill*

**4.2.4** Close doors behind you as you leave.