



Mitchell J. Landrieu  
Mayor

# DEPARTMENT OF FIRE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

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## COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Timothy A. McConnell  
Superintendent

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## Preventing and Escaping a Residential Fire

1. **Have Working Smoking Alarms-** “Smoke Alarms Saves Lives”, “Smoke Alarms Saves Lives”, “Smoke Alarms Saves Lives”! This is the most important part of Home Fire Safety and cannot be emphasized enough. Test residential smoke alarms monthly. If you need assistance contact the NOFD at 504-658-4714 or online at [www.nola.gov/nofd](http://www.nola.gov/nofd).
2. **Extinguish All Open Flames-** Make sure all fireplaces, candles, etc. are out before you go to bed. Never leave any open flame lit or space heaters operating in rooms that are unoccupied or where there are only children present. Also, make sure that space/floor heaters are at least 5ft away from all textiles (rugs, bedding, curtains, etc.) and make sure the cords to these heat sources aren’t trip hazards, especially around children, the elderly or pets.
3. **Have a “Home Escape Plan”-** A “Home Escape Plan” with a **specified meeting place** after exit is vital to you and your family safely escaping a residential fire, especially at night. Walk through your home with your entire family and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Just having a plan isn’t enough, everyone in the home must “practice, practice, practice” to remove all doubt about what to do and to ensure everyone escapes safely, including your specified meeting place .....and remember once you **“Get Out, Stay Out”!**
4. **Get Out, Stay Out-** Do not go back for personal belongings, pets or attempt to extinguish the fire. **Call 911** by cell or from a neighbor’s home. The danger of re-entry is increased due to the additional time the fire has had to escalate. There is a much greater chance of being trapped or succumbing to fire and/or smoke inhalation when attempting to re-entry into a burning building. It is difficult to stand by and watch a fire in your home. But we want to impress upon the public the significant danger that exists even when a relatively small fire is present. Always dial 911 and leave the job to the fire department. Our members are equipped highly trained to navigate these types of unfortunate situations when they arise.