

**Don't Stop Now!** Having the fire department check for physical safety hazards is just the beginning. You're off to a great start! **Only you** can prevent fire and other common emergencies by practicing safety in your home every day. Here is a check list to share with other members of your household and help you keep up a lifestyle of safety:

- Have you made a home fire escape plan?
- Do you practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year?
- Do you change your smoke alarm batteries at least twice a year?
- Do you test your smoke alarms as instructed by the manufacturer, or at least once a month?
- Does everyone in your household know how to crawl low under smoke?
- Does everyone in your household know how to use all available phones/smart-devices to call 911?
- Is every adult in your household familiar with how to use your fire extinguisher?
- Do you remain in the kitchen while food is cooking on the stove?
- Do you keep pot handles turned inward?
- Do you maintain a "kid and pet free zone" of 3 feet around the stove while cooking?
- Do you clean out the lint filter every time you use your clothes dryer?
- If you have an outdoor grill/barbecue, do you use it well away from the house?
- When you use candles, do you extinguish them before leaving the room?
- When you open your upstairs windows, do you open them four inches or less when kids are around?
- Do you use lightbulbs at or below the recommended wattage for your lamps?
- Do you get your chimney, furnace or heating unit cleaned and inspected yearly?
- Does every member of your household with a chronic medical condition have their own File of Life?
- Do you regularly update the information in your File of Life?
- Do you have your important phone numbers written down in one place that you can find easily in the event of an emergency?

## **How to Make a Home Fire Escape Plan:**

**Have all the members of your household come together and participate.**

- #1** Draw a basic floor-plan/map of your home. Mark **two ways out** of every room. Make sure all of your ways out are clear and windows open easily.
- #2** Choose an **outside meeting place** (a mailbox, tree, neighbor's house, etc.) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet once they've escaped. Be sure to mark your meeting place on your escape plan.
- #3** **Practice** your home fire escape plan with every member of your household at least twice a year, perhaps when you change your clocks- and your smoke alarm batteries!

For more safety information visit: [www.jamescitycountyva.gov/fire](http://www.jamescitycountyva.gov/fire)

