



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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The fire alarm sounds: Do you know what to do?

Cumberland County, Pa. – It's the middle of the night. You and your family are fast asleep when you awaken to the sound of a smoke detector and the smell of smoke. What do you do? Without a plan, this situation could quickly turn deadly.

In a typical home fire, you may only have one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke detector sounds, which is why it's critical to have an escape plan.

“Developing, practicing and making sure every member of your family knows what to do in an emergency, especially a fire, can make the difference between life and death,” said Michele Parsons, Emergency Operations Manager with Cumberland County's Department of Public Safety (DPS). “When developing your plan, it's important to have two ways out of every room and make sure everyone in your family knows where you're meeting once safely outside the home.”

National Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14, 2017 and this year's theme is ***“Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!”***

In support of Fire Prevention Week, the DPS encourages all County households to develop and practice an emergency escape plan. The plan should include making sure there are working smoke alarms on every level of the home, in every bedroom and/or near all sleeping areas. It also should include two ways out of every room, usually a door and a window, with a clear path to an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) that's a safe distance from the home.

When developing your plan, consider drawing a map of your home, marking all the doors and windows, as well as exits from each room. The DPS also recommends practicing your plan at least twice a year and make sure any children in the home know all emergency exits, in case they need to escape on their own.

National Fire Prevention Week is sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association. For more information on the ***“Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!”*** campaign and home escape planning, visit www.nfpa.org/fpw. More information on the DPS can be found at www.ccpa.net/Department-of-Public-Safety.

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