Plan Ahead. If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.

SAFETY TIPS

• **Draw** a home escape plan and discuss it with everyone in your household.

• **Practice** the plan night and day with everyone in your home twice a year.

• **Know** at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.

• **Have** a meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.

• **Push** the smoke alarm button to start the practice drill.

• **Get** out fast.

• **Practice** using different ways out.

• **Teach** children to escape on their own in case you can’t help them.

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

• **Go** to your outside meeting place. Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people or pets.

• **Use** your second way out in the case of an actual fire if smoke is blocking your door or the first way out.

• **Get low and go** under the smoke to get out safely if you have to escape through smoke.

• **Feel** the knob and door before opening a door. If they are hot, use your second way out.

• **Consider** getting escape ladders listed by a recognized testing laboratory for escaping from second and third floor windows if all other exits are blocked.

• **Make** sure the ladder fits the window.

• **To avoid** injury, only use the ladder in a real emergency.