



Truro Fire Service

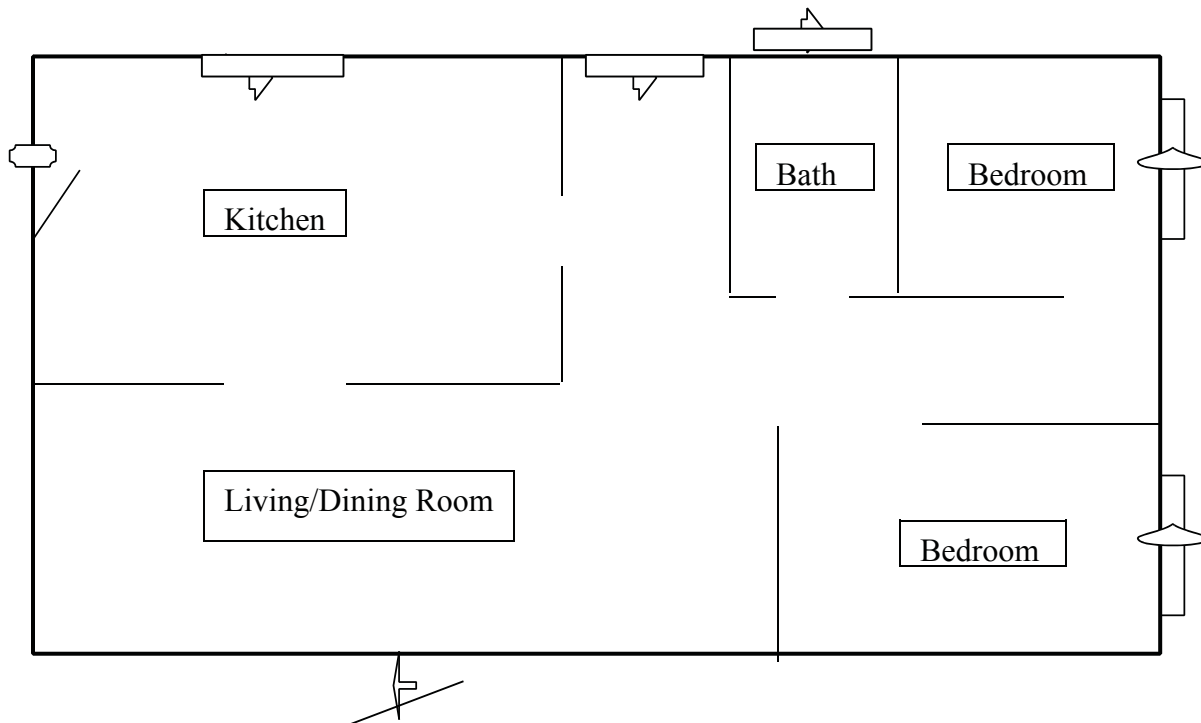
Fire Won't Wait...Plan Your Escape

The Truro Fire Service wants you to be prepared if a fire strikes your home. Please take a few minutes with your family to make a fire escape plan by following the nine simple steps listed below. Every household should have a fire escape plan and at least one working smoke alarm. Begin your plan by checking your smoke alarm to make sure that it is working. Your smoke alarm will wake you up if a fire occurs while you are sleeping.

1. Draw a floor plan of your home

Use a blank piece of paper to draw a floor plan of your home, following the example below as a guide. You should draw a floor plan for each floor of your home.

EXAMPLE



2. Include all possible emergency exits

Draw in all walls, doors, windows, and stairs. This will show you and your family all possible escape routes at a glance.

3. Include any important features that could help with your escape

Doors and windows are escape exits from your home. Are there any other features that could help you get out safely? Can you climb out a window onto the roof of a porch or garage? Is there a tree or television antenna tower that can be safely reached from a window? These features can be extremely useful in an emergency, however you must make sure that all escape routes are practical and useable.



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4. **Mark two escape routes from each room**

There is a main exit from every room. This will be the exit to use if there is no apparent danger. If you are unable to use the main exit because of smoke or fire, you must have an alternate exit. The second exit is usually the window. Special consideration should be given to planning escape routes from the bedrooms as most fires occur at night when everyone is sleeping. This second exit must be practical and easy to use. Make sure that the occupant of that bedroom is able to use the second exit.

5. **Remember that some people may need help to escape**

Decide in advance who will assist the very young, elderly or physically challenged members of your household. A few seconds of planning will save valuable seconds in a real emergency.

6. **Choose a place outside where everyone will meet**

Choose a meeting place that everyone will remember. It is a good idea to choose a spot at the front of your home or close to your neighbour's house. Everyone must know to go directly to this meeting place so they can be accounted for. No one should go back into a burning building for any reason.

7. **Call the Fire Department from a neighbour's home**

Once at the meeting place, someone can be sent to the neighbour's home to call the Fire Department. Include the neighbour's name and the Fire Department phone number on your plan. Mark the street address of your home on your fire escape plan.

8. **Make sure everyone is familiar with the home escape plan**

Go over the entire plan with everyone. Discuss primary and secondary escape routes from each bedroom. Ensure that all children know the plan. Walk through the escape routes for each room with the entire family. Use this walk-through exercise to check your escape routes, making sure all exits are practical and easy to use. It is important that all windows will open and that no heavy furniture blocks any escape route. If escape ladders are to be used, make sure that they are accessible and that the appropriate individual is capable of using them.

9. **Practice your escape plan**

After reviewing the floor plan with the members of your household, have an actual practice to ensure that everyone knows what to do. Practice your escape plan every six months. In a real fire emergency, you must react quickly as smoke, or flames may block your escape routes. Your practice drills will ensure that everyone knows what to do when fire strikes.

*Fire...it's fast, it's dark, it's hot, and it's deadly!
If you've planned your escape, you'll know what to
do!*
