

### PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

Sit down with your family today, including young children, and make a step by step plan for escaping a fire.

- Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two ways out of every room. (including windows) Discuss the best escape routes with every member of your household.
- Agree on an outside meeting place. Pick a spot in front of your home where everyone will meet after they've escaped. There you will count heads to determine if anyone is missing.
- Assure 9-1-1 is called.

### Be Prepared

- Keep a flashlight near every bed
- All family members practice opening doors, windows, and deadbolts in the dark.
- Have rope ladders handy for the high windows

### IF YOU LIVE IN AN APARTMENT BUILDING

- Talk with building managers to learn about your buildings fire protection features. Learn the Fire evacuation plan. Ask for regularly scheduled fire drills.
- Use Stairways to escape. Never Use the elevator. It might take you to a floor where the fire is, or get stuck between floors.
- In some high rise buildings, tenants are instructed to stay where they are and await voice/intercom instruction.

### ESCAPE TIPS

In case of a fire, leave immediately. Don't try to rescue pets or possessions. Go directly to your meeting place and call the Fire Department (9-1-1) from a safe location.

#### Test doors before opening them

Kneel at the door and reach up as high as you can and touch the door and the knob and the crack of the door with the back of your hand. If you feel heat, use another escape route. If the area feels cool, open it cautiously. Slam it shut if you encounter smoke or flame.

#### Crawl low under smoke

Smoke and high heat are deadly to breath in. The smoke contains deadly toxins. The high heat can sear the insides of your lungs. Smoke and heat rise. You will find better breathing and visibility down near the floor. Crawl to take advantage of that.

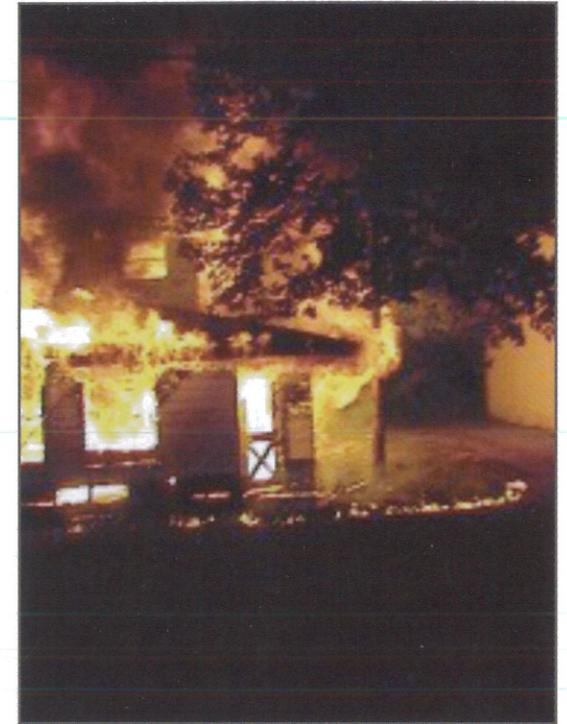
#### If you become trapped

Close as many doors between you and the fire as possible. Seal the cracks around the doors with cloth or duct tape. Use the telephone if that room has one. Wait at the window with a flashlight or a light colored cloth, and signal for help. Be creative with what you have. Get out if you can, and stay out. Don't go back for any reason. The heat and smoke of a fire are overpowering. Firefighters have the training, experience, and protective equipment needed to enter a burning building.

THE TORRINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT  
111 WATER ST. TORRINGTON, CT 06790  
860-489-2534

# TORRINGTON FIRE

## PRESENTS, E.D.I.T.H



LEARN TO GET OUT

E.-----Exit  
D.-----Drills  
I.-----In  
T.-----The  
H.-----Home



## E.D.I.T.H

An acronym, for Exit Drills in the home. EDITH has been around the nation for many years. In 2011, The Torrington Fire Department has improved it immensely. Torrington's program is one of the few of it's kind in the United States, to include home visits from firefighters, to help you with emergency escape planning. A short slide show precedes the preparations, and a fog machine is used to help make your practice fire escape more realistic. Your chances of escaping a real fire will be vastly improved after participating in this program. There is no fee or charge for the home owner. Torrington Home owners, simply call your Fire Department, at 860-489-2534 to arrange an appointment.

For many years now, The Torrington Fire Department has taken our portable fire safety trailer to schools, and firefighters have versed the children on E.D.I.T.H. It has been a successful program, but we felt that it needed to go one step further. EDITH is meant to be a family team effort, in surviving a home fire. Our fire prevention trailer has successfully educated many children on how to escape fires in the home, but your children *need you* to be a part of this plan, and to learn this with them. As with any team effort, to be truly successful, everyone involved should participate.

There are far too many fire deaths in American homes every year. A large percentage of these deaths would have been prevented with a simple escape plan.



# Just A Little Bit Of Preparation

**A simple phone call is all it takes to get it started. It's as easy as dialing the phone.**

1. Call the Torrington Fire Department 860-489-2534
2. Ask for the Fire Marshal's office
3. Arrange an appointment
4. The EDITH officers will arrive at your residence and you will watch a slide show. We will prepare and practice a fire escape from your home for you, which will include and cover escape ladders, escape routes planned, tips on how to find your way out of low visibility environments, having a meeting place, and more. We can even smoke up your house with stage fog, to make your escape more realistic.

### **Some of NFPA's general guidance on EDITH**

In a NFPA survey, half of the people who responded, claimed to have a fire escape plan, but only 16% said that they had actually practiced it. This finding is worrisome because it means that most people are ill prepared for a fire in their home. Don't be a fire victim. Plan ahead.

### **Survival is Simple**

You can survive a fire in your home if you know what to do and respond in time.

- Install Smoke Detectors. Keep them working
- Make an Escape Plan and Practice it.
- Consider Installing a Sprinkler system.



YEARS	HOME FIRES	DEATHS	INJURED
2003	388,500	3,145	13,650
2004	395,500	3,190	13,700
2005	381,000	3,030	13,300
2006	396,000	2,580	12,500