
Aspiranet
~ May 2020 ~
Monthly Regulation Topic

Fire Drills & Safety Procedures

Fire Drills

Aspiranet policy requires that all foster homes conduct fire drills twice a year in November and May. Use the following guidelines for conducting fire drills in your home:

- A fire drill includes explaining to all children in your home what to do in case of a fire or if the smoke detector is activated.
- It is imperative that the fire drill include discussing **and** practicing use of different escape routes from different rooms within your home.
- Practice is essential in order that everyone in your home knows how to react and leave the home as quickly as possible.
- It is also essential that everyone is aware of the **one** identified meeting area outside of the home (most often the front of the home).
- Whenever possible, have a practice drill during the day and another at night.
- Have children practice how to quickly leave their bedrooms.
- Have children also practice opening and unlocking doors and windows.
- For multi-story homes or apartments above the ground floor, there must be an alternate escape route, other than the stairs. A rope ladder or collapsible ladder meets the second exit requirement.
- Although some homes may provide a rooftop that would be safe to use during an emergency, do not practice using the alternate escape route onto rooftops during fire drills. Discussing these emergency escape plans is adequate.

In preparing your family in the event of a fire, use the **R.A.C.E.** acronym to remind all family members how to quickly respond to a fire emergency:

Rescue

In the event of a fire, immediately stop what you're doing and have everyone exit to a safe area. Make sure you have a designated meeting place outside your home and that everyone in the family practices the fire escape plan at least twice per year.

Provide assistance to any child who is not able to readily exit on their own (infants & young children, children with disabilities, etc.).

Get out as safely and quickly as possible. The less exposure to smoke, heat, flames, and poisonous gases, the safer everyone will be.

Alarm

Once everyone is safely evacuated, call 911 to report the location and current extent of the fire.

If in a public building, prior to evacuating, activate the nearest fire alarm pull stations.

Contain

Close all doors and windows that you can safely reach to contain the fire.

During evacuation close the doors behind you.

Extinguish

Only attempt to extinguish a fire if the fire is small, not spreading, and the room is not filled with smoke.

Using Fire Extinguishers

When using a fire extinguisher, start with your back to the exit. Make sure you can safely exit without the fire blocking your escape.

Retrieve the nearest fire extinguisher and stand 6 -8 feet away from the fire.

Follow the “**P.A.S.S.**” procedure:

Pull the pin breaking the plastic seal – to activate lever

Aim at the base of the fire – at the source of the fuel

Squeeze the handles together – to release the fire extinguishing agent

Sweep from side to side – to cover the fire and fuel area

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Be sure to have functioning smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on every floor of your home and in hallway of sleeping areas.
- Once a month check whether each alarm in the home is working properly by pushing the test button.
- Replace batteries in alarms at least once a year. Immediately install a new battery if an alarm chirps, warning the battery is low.
- Never disable smoke or carbon monoxide alarms.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Know the difference between the sound of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms. Teach children what each type of alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear one.

Teach Children Fire Safety

Fires move fast, and they impair vision and breathing with thick, black smoke. For this reason teach children to get low and crawl if necessary, to avoid the toxic smoke that rises in a fire.

Remind children of the following essential tips for safely escaping a fire:

1. Get out quickly & stay out!
2. Immediately go to the family meeting place
3. Call 911 from a neighbor's house
4. Wait at meeting place for fire department to arrive

Teach “Stop, Drop, & Roll”

All family members need to know the following steps if clothes catch fire:

Stop & Drop immediately to the ground

Roll back & forth or over & over to put out the flames and place your hands over your face for protection

Seek immediate medical attention for burns.

Report to Aspiranet

Remember to immediately report to Aspiranet any fire or other event that renders your home unsafe or requires evacuation.

Please sign and return this page to your Aspiranet Social Worker for training credit.

My signature below indicates that I have completed the May 2020 "Fire Drill" training **and** have conducted a fire drill with my family.

Date of Fire Drill: _____

Signature Foster Parent #1

Date

Print Name Foster Parent #1

Signature Foster Parent #2

Date

Print Name Foster Parent #2

Aspiranet Authorized Signature

Date

Training credit: _____ *minutes*