



***For Immediate Release***  
**August 09, 2017**

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## **Back to School Reminder to Review Your Family's Escape Plan**

**Nashville, TN, August 09, 2017** With students' heading back to school, it's the perfect time to have a fire & life safety check-up! The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association hopes you'll take this opportunity to have a fire safety conversation with your family, and make sure you review and practice your fire escape plan. It is important that you have fire safety conversations with your entire family often and ensure that everyone knows the escape plan.

Not sure what a fire safety conversation should entail; the National Fire Protection Association has captured the following information to encourage these family fire safety discussions and to assist you with creating your escape plan.

- Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home as a group and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm.
- Everyone in the household must understand the escape plan.
- When you walk through your plan, check to make sure the escape routes are clear and everyone can open doors and windows easily.
- Choose an outside meeting place (i.e. neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home, where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan.
- If there are infants, older adults, or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and in the event of an emergency. Assign a backup person too, in case the designee is not home during the emergency.
- Closing doors on your way out slows the spread of fire, giving you more time to safely escape.
- Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the fire department dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.
- Practice your home fire escape plan twice a year, making the drill as realistic as possible.

"I can't stress enough the importance of preplanning an escape plan," stated Chief Eddie Phillips of the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, "Practicing and knowing multiple escape routes and knowing what to do when there are no viable escape routes, can be the difference between life and death when an emergency occurs."

### **Volunteers Needed**

Many fire departments in Tennessee rely on brave men and women to volunteer their time to serve as volunteer firefighters to ensure that every call for help is answered. Besides the men and women who respond to emergencies, other types of volunteers are also needed. There are volunteer opportunities at your local volunteer fire department for citizens willing to work hard. To learn more about becoming a volunteer firefighter and joining your local volunteer fire department, please visit [www.VolunteerFireTN.org](http://www.VolunteerFireTN.org).

**About the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. (TFCA)**

*The TFCA provides leadership to career and volunteer Fire Chiefs, Chief Fire Officers and managers of emergency service organizations throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service and representation to enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities. The TN Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA) also encourages the professional advancement of the fire service to ensure and maintain greater protection of life and property from fire and natural or man-made disasters. The TFCA's mission is to provide leadership to career and volunteer chiefs, chief fire officers, and managers of Emergency Service Organizations throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities. More information about the TFCA is located at [www.tnfirechiefs.com](http://www.tnfirechiefs.com) .*

**About Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS)**

*The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association was awarded a SAFER recruitment and retention grant in 2016 and partnered with the International Association of Fire Chiefs to identify recruitment and retention goals, strategies and marketing methodologies that would benefit not only participating departments, but all fire departments in the state. 19 departmental groups, consisting of 64 departments, were selected to participate in Phase I of the program. The VWS program is also operating in Virginia through the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association and Connecticut through the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association. There is also currently a National VWS effort focusing on diversity and new trainings. More information about the Tennessee VWS can be found at [www.VolunteerFireTN.org](http://www.VolunteerFireTN.org).*