



90% of Multi-Story Residences have no safe way out in a Fire Emergency

Over 90% of homes do not have a safe means out from an elevated level in a fire. Most people have not even considered a fire escape plan. When a fire occurs, everyone needs to know what they need to do to get out safely.

If you have an home that has elevated windows, you should consider the following:

- ◆ **Fire Escape Ladders** – You need to have a fire escape ladder to ensure you can get out in an emergency. There are a number of features you should look for in a fire ladder. These include:
 - **Window Sill Depth** - When selecting one, make certain that the ladder will accommodate the width of the window sill. Many hook ladders will only go out to 7 or maybe 11 inches, but many homes, especially older or very high energy efficiency homes have sills that are bigger than 11 inches. In this case, you should have a permanent, in-wall ladder installed that can deal with window sills up to 20 deep.
 - **Window Width** – Make certain that the window where you plan on using the ladder will be wide enough not only for the ladder to be used but also for a person to get out.
 - **Height Of Ladders** – Make certain that you get a ladder that will get you close to the ground.
 - **Placement** – Ensure that where you are planning on using an escape ladder has is safe under the window. You don't want to have to climb down onto a thorny bush or onto a barbeque grill.
 - **Ladder Standoffs** – An important feature of ladders is to have standoffs. These are usually posts or other devices that keep the ladder's foot rungs away from the side of the home. This allows the ball of your foot to be placed on the rung, not your toes, making it easier to climb down
 - **Load Limit** – You should select a ladder that is rated for at least 1,000 pounds as there may be more than one person climbing down the ladder during a fire.
 - **Dry Run** – You should do a dry run with your ladder to ensure that it will fit in place properly before you need it. Some ladders require adjustments of the hook to ensure proper fitting.

Other things to consider in a fire:

- ◆ **Smoke Kills Faster Than Flames** – If you don't have a fire escape ladder, you can try to find a relatively flat roof to get on. Smoke will kill faster than flames will.
- ◆ **Stay Low** – Smoke will tend to rise during a fire. You are safest near the floor, so stay low and crawl to get out safely.
- ◆ **Flashlight** – A good item to have is a rechargeable flashlight. In a fire, you will have very limited visibility.
- ◆ **Don't Forget Basements** – You will need a way out of a basement in a fire. You may need to have some sort of built in escape ladder in a window well.
- ◆ **Check All Windows For Escape** – Make certain all windows can be easily opened.
- ◆ **Practice Fire Routes & Drills** – A good thing to prepare for a family is a fire escape route. You need to have at least two ways out of a burning house and then a safe meeting place away from the house.



Review it with everyone and then do a drill. Also, have younger children practice going out of a 1st floor window with the fire escape ladder.

The unfortunate thing of this is that people just don't think it will happen to them, and/or they are just not aware of the possibility, often with very tragic consequences. A little bit of preparation and the purchase of a fire escape ladder can go a long way to keeping your family safe.

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