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If you woke up to a fire in your home, how much time would it take to get to safety? According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), one-third of Americans thought they would have at least six minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. That's not always the case.

That's why the Burleson Fire Marshal's office and Burleson Fire Department are teaming up with NFPA during Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 7-13, 2012, to urge residents to "Have Two Ways Out!" This year's theme focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice.

In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to 369,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,350 civilian injuries, 2,640 civilian deaths, and \$6.9 billion in direct damage. For Fiscal Year 2012 (Oct. 1, 2011-Sept. 30, 2012), the Burleson Fire Department responded to 21 structure fires that resulted in a dollar loss of \$562,123. There were no injuries or casualties connected with those fires.

"Fire is unpredictable and moves faster than most people realize. Having a tried and true escape plan with two ways is essential to ensuring your family's safety if a fire breaks out in your home," Fire Marshal Stacy Singleton said.

Use the following tips to plan your family's escape:

- Make a map of your home. Mark a door and window that can be used to get out of every room.
- Choose a meeting place outside where everyone meets once they've escaped. Draw a picture of the meeting place on your escape plan.
- Write the emergency telephone number for the fire department on your escape plan.
- Have an adult sound the smoke alarm and practice your escape plan with everyone living in your home.
- Keep your escape plan on the refrigerator and remind the adults to have your family practice the plan twice a year or whenever anyone in your home celebrates a birthday.

To learn more about "Have Two Ways Out!" visit NFPA's web site at [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).