

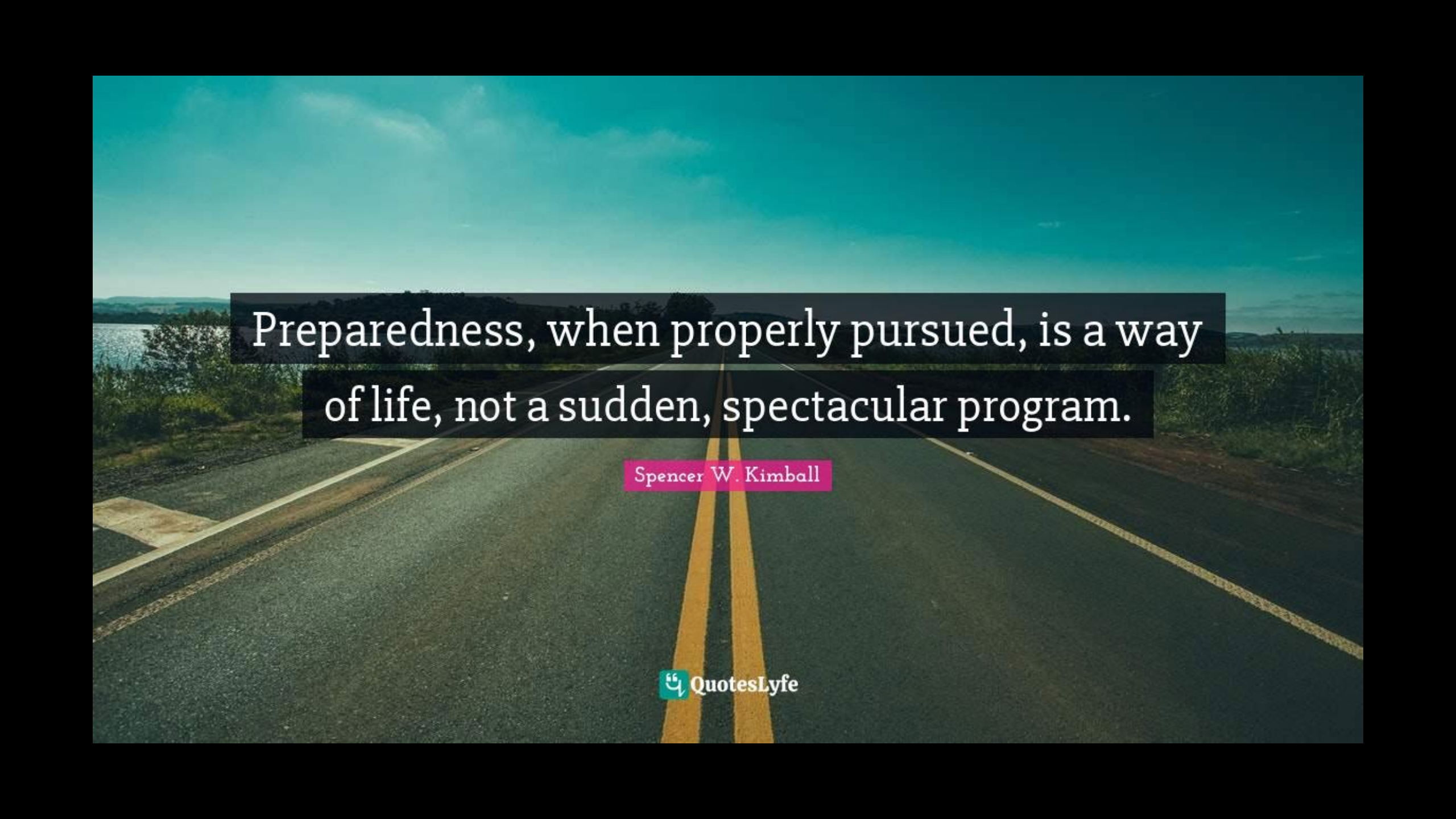
Prepping for an Emergency



By Marty Bailey

Sources:

- American Automobile Association (AAA)
- American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
- Aiken County Emergency Operations
- American Red Cross
- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- Ready Campaign
- South Carolina Emergency Management Division
- Walden University



Preparedness, when properly pursued, is a way
of life, not a sudden, spectacular program.

Spencer W. Kimball

Why?

Being as prepared as possible is the ultimate key to increased safety and greater peace of mind.

When?

Before disaster strikes.

Who?

Everyone.

What to do?

Have a plan, get what you need, and stay calm.





Be prepared, not scared.



Have a Plan:

- Think about the types of emergencies that could occur.
- Plan what to do in an emergency and have a backup plan.
- Involve your family in creating the best plan.
- Set up a way to receive emergency information.
- Make a list of supplies you will need.
- Have a contact list and an out-of-town contact as a “family contact”.
- List supplies you will need and create a kit with them.



Prepare Your Vehicle

Fuel it up

Check the tires

Check all fluids

Check/replace belts

Check headlights & signal lights

Inspect/Replace windshield wipers

Assemble an emergency kit and keep it in your vehicle.

Any warning lights on? Fix the problem.



**"REMEMBER:
WHEN DISASTER
STRIKES, THE TIME TO
PREPARE HAS PASSED."**

- STEVEN CYROS

Before You Go, Know . . .

What and for whom should you prepare?

Your vehicle for whomever is driving and riding in it.



Your home for you, loved ones, and pets.



Your workplace for you, coworkers, and clients.



Take Care to Prepare

For what are you preparing?

As many as possible natural and/or man-made emergencies.

For whom are you preparing?

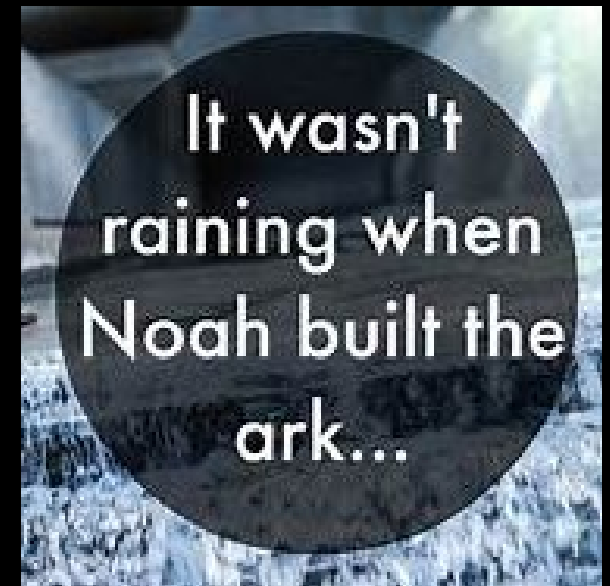
Yourself, significant other, grandkids, friends.

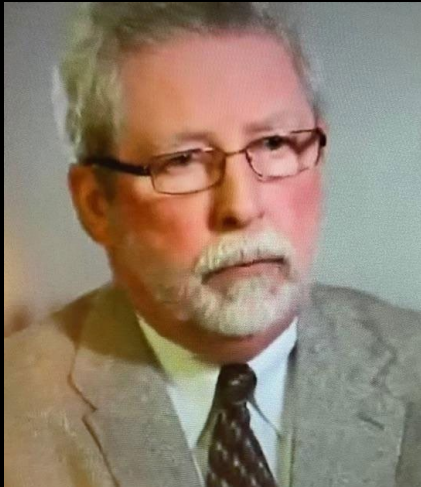
For how long are you preparing?

Few hours, days, weeks.

What could possibly happen?

Power outages, impassible roads, closed businesses, accidents, or fire.





Plan to be a disaster survivor with or without government help. Planning is not hard. It just takes focus and a little effort.

Doug Hoell

NC Emergency Management Administration

Take Care to Prepare

During power outages:

- No electricity for undetermined amount of time.
- No communication through radio/television/computer.
- No air-conditioning or heating.
- No cooking/refrigeration/hot water . . . possibly no water at all.
- No electricity to charge cell phones.
- Many stores/restaurants/hotels unable to operate.
- No traffic lights working.

Take Care to Prepare

Roads could be impassable:

- Trees/large limbs blocking the road.
- Live power lines in the road.
- Flooding.
- Roads/bridges washed away.
- Storm debris scattered on road.
- Wrecked or abandoned vehicles blocking the way.

Take Care to Prepare

Closed businesses mean:

- You can't get your necessary prescriptions.
- You may not be able to purchase meals or groceries.
- You may not have easy access to medical supplies.
- You might not be able to stay in a hotel.

Take Care to Prepare

Accidents affect you:

- It could be a collision occurring close to or involving you.
- Car wrecks can block the road for hours.
- The accident could be a fall/burn/bite requiring medical care.
- Ambulances can be unavailable (Status Zero).
- The hospital could be inundated causing them to triage patients.

Take Care to Prepare

Fire (and smoke) affect you:

- Involve you just based on the proximity to the fire.
- Injure or destroy you.
- Destroy your possessions.
- Harm your loved ones and/or neighbors.
- Destroy your vehicle(s).



Home or Work . . .

Power outages



Falls



Lacerations

Bites



Burns

Illness

Fire

Flooding





Better to have, and
not need, than to
need, and not have.

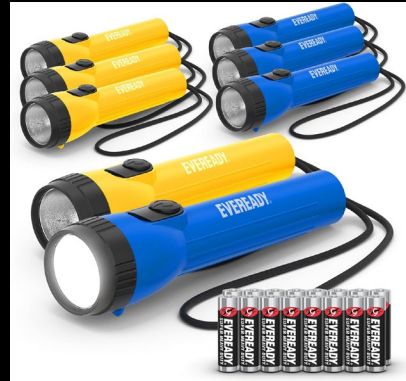
– *Franz Kafka*

AZ QUOTES

Know what's necessary and important for you to stay safe,
healthy, and as comfortable as possible.

Prepare Your Home/Office

❖ non-electric light sources



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- ❖ non-electric light sources
- ❖ non-perishable food and prescription meds
- ❖ water (for drinking, bathing, and toilet)



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- outdoor grill or propane powered camp stove



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- battery or solar powered fan and/or neck fan



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power source for cell phones

outdoor grill or propane powered camp stove.

battery or solar powered fan and/or neck fan.

propane powered heater



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power source for cell phones

propane powered camp stove

battery or solar powered fan

propane powered heater

generator



**“Where there is preparation,
there is no fear.”**

- Hwang Lee



What's Your Plan?

MAJOR U.S. POWER OUTAGES

WEATHER-RELATED, 2000-2023



Weather-related major U.S. power outages (2000-2023) by weather type.
Number of outages affecting more than 50k customers or service of 500 megawatts.
Source: US Department of Energy Form OE-417

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

During power outages at home:

1. Stay calm and know what you're facing.
2. Light up your surroundings.
3. Report your power outage to your power company.
4. Do not open the refrigerator/freezer unless necessary.
5. If assistive equipment is required, set up your alternate power source before a critical point is reached.
6. If the power is expected to remain off, or does, beyond your window of patience, prepare to follow your own emergency plan.



During power outages at work:

1. Stay calm and know what you're facing.
2. Light your surroundings but not with a cell phone.
3. Follow office protocol.
4. Calmly wait for power to be restored or permission to leave.



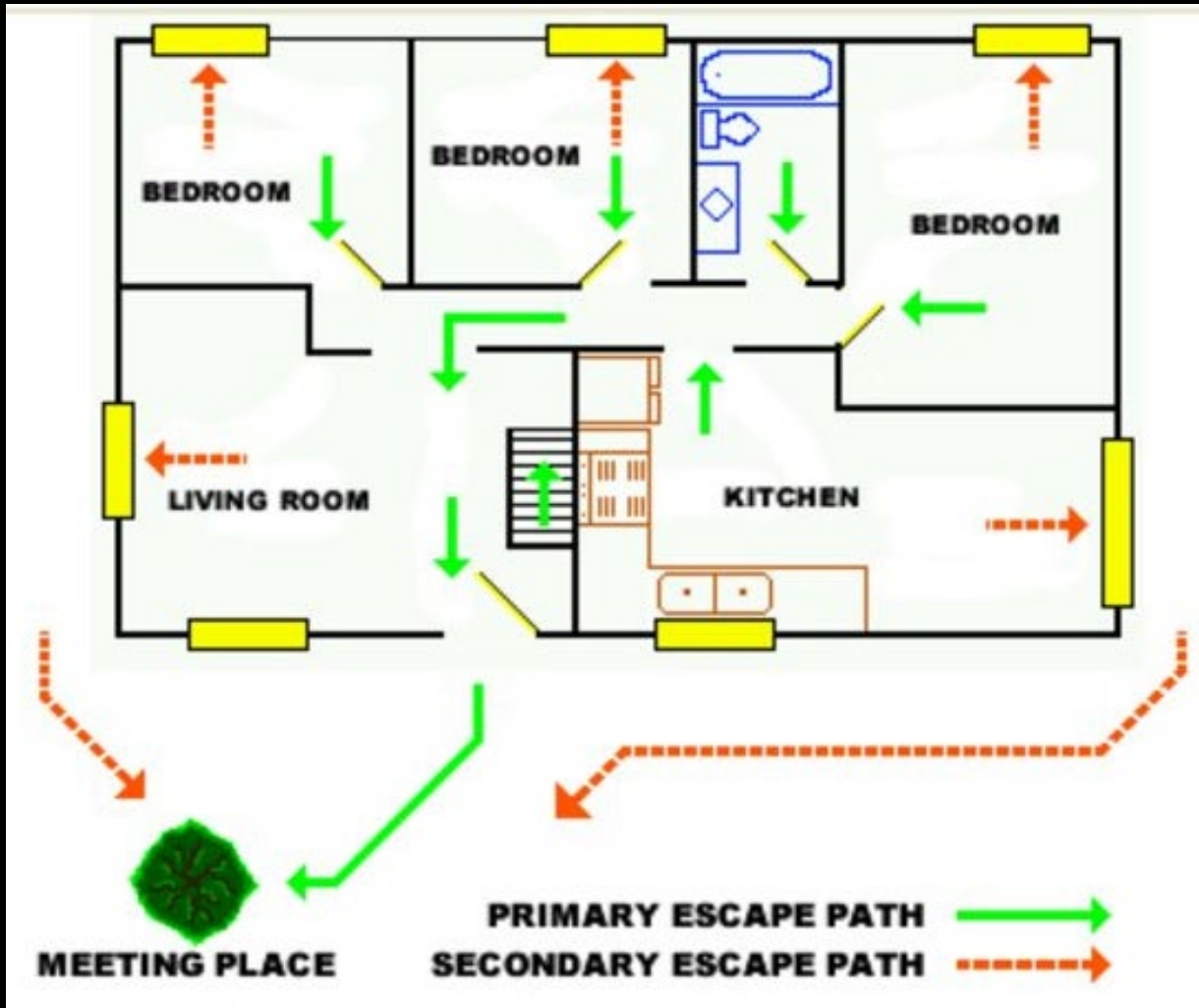
Fire



“Today, if a home fire is reported, occupants are more likely to die than they were 40 years ago due to flammable contents and design plans.”

Roughly one of every three fatal home fire victims are **65** or over.

What's Your Home Fire Plan?



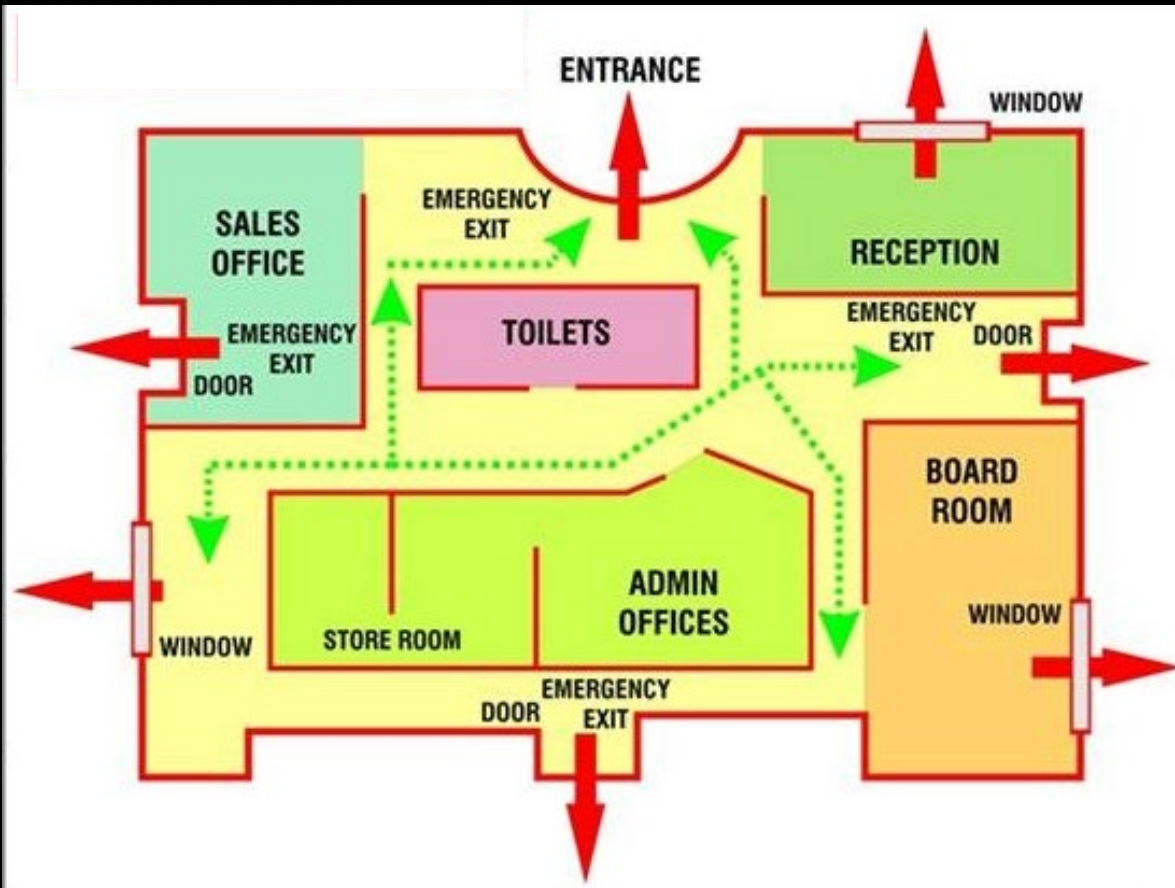
- Create an image of your home.
- Mark all windows and doors.
- Have two ways of egress from each room.
- Conduct fire drills for practice.
- Have a designated meeting place so everyone can be counted.
- **NEVER EVER** re-enter your house in an emergency situation.

What's Your Home Fire Plan?

In the case of a house fire:

1. Learn to properly operate your fire extinguisher.
2. If the fire is small and you're trained and able, put the fire out.
3. Evacuate your home as quickly as possible, crawling if necessary.
4. Before opening a door, feel the door and knob with the back of your hand. If it's hot, find another exit.
5. When you leave, close the door behind you leaving it unlocked.
6. Report to your designated spot and call 9-1-1.

What's Your Work Fire Plan?



- Report the fire to the designated individual and pull the fire alarm.
- Evacuate to the emergency exit as outlined by your company.
- **DO NOT** use elevators.
- Follow evacuation procedures as outlined by your company.
- Proceed to your assembly point.

What's Your Work Fire Plan?

During an office fire:

1. Know and follow company protocol.
2. When escaping a fire, never open a closed door without feeling it first. If the door is hot, try another exit.
3. If none exists, seal the cracks around the doors and vents with anything available. Use wet towels to seal the space under the door and prevent the entry of smoke. Cracks around the door can be sealed with masking tape if necessary.
4. If there's a patio or balcony, get on it if it's safe and possible.



During an office fire:

5. If trapped, look for a nearby phone and call the fire department, giving them your exact location.
6. If breathing becomes difficult, try to ventilate the room, but don't wait for an emergency to discover that a window can't be opened.
7. If on an upper floor and your window cannot be opened, don't break it - you can rain glass down on rescuers and people exiting the building.
8. If you can't contact the fire department by phone, wave for attention at the window. Don't panic.



Success depends upon
previous preparation, and
without such preparation,
there is sure to be failure.”
- Confucius



Resources

- [FireSafetyInTheUSFactSheet.pdf](#)
- <https://www.nfpa.org/en/education-and-research/research/nfpa-research/fire-statistical-reports/fire-safety-in-the-united-states>
- <https://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images;home+fire+escape+plan.jpg>
- <https://ocfire.com/index.php/fire-safety/what-do-if-trapped-burning-building>
- <https://www.aikencountysc.gov/702/Emergency-Planning>
- <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/make-a-plan.html>