



The University of Vermont

**IT'S NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK:
"Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape."
October 9-15, 2022**

Next week is the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week in the United States. Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week since 1922. This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "**Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape.**," works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

"Today's homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less time) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA.

It's important for everyone to plan and practice a home fire escape. Everyone needs to be prepared in advance, so that they know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. Given that every home is different, every home fire escape plan will also be different. Have a plan for everyone in the home. Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure that someone will help them!

Safety tips to help you "Plan Your Escape":

- Make sure your plan meets the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home where everyone should meet.
- Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the household, including guests. Practice at least once during the day and at night.

If you are a student, faculty member, or staff who live on campus in university housing, these safety messages are just as applicable and important. Partnering with the Burlington Fire Department, UVM Residential Life and the Department of Environmental Health & Safety conduct fire drills in each residence hall in the fall semester. Evacuation route maps are posted by Residential Life near the door in each student room, and many other buildings on campus also have posted evacuation maps as part of an ongoing initiative to update evacuation plan resources in every UVM building on and off campus. Any member of the UVM community can take our "Evacuation Procedures" and "Fire Safety" short course

modules, under the “Fire Safety & Respirator Use” section of the [UVM Risk Management & Safety online training courses page](#).

Please remember that [UVM’s Fire Safety Policy](#) states, “All employees, students, and visitors are required to evacuate a building when the fire alarm sounds. No person may tamper with fire protection devices, create fire hazards within or near buildings, or cause impediments to emergency egress from buildings.” These are important procedures designed to keep everyone safe.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week, go to www.nfpa.org/fpw. For more information about fire and life safety initiatives at the University of Vermont, visit www.uvm.edu/riskmanagement/fire-and-life-safety or contact University Fire Marshal Barry Simays at firesafe@uvm.edu or (802) 656-8249.