Costa Mesa Fire Department

E.D.I.T.H.

(Exit Drills in the Home)

Once a fire has started in your home, there is no time to plan how to get out. Sit down with your family today and make a step-by-step plan for escaping a fire that might occur in your home.

- **Draw a Floor Plan Of Your Home**
  Show two ways out of every room—especially sleeping areas. Discuss the escape routes with every member of your household.

- **Agree On a Meeting Place**
  Select a place where every member of the household will gather outside your home after escaping a fire to wait for the fire department. This allows you to count heads and inform the fire department if anyone is missing or trapped inside the burning building.

- **Practice Your Escape Plan**
  Your escape plan should be practiced at least twice a year. Have a fire drill in your home, appoint someone to be the monitor and have everyone in your family participate. Get out and stay out! Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house.

- **Be Prepared**
  Make sure everyone in your household can unlock all doors and windows quickly, even in the dark. Windows or doors with security bars need to be equipped with quick-release devices and everyone in your household should know how to use them.

- **Make Your Escape Realistic**
  Things are not the same when there is an actual fire as they are when you are practicing. Pretend during your drill that some exits are blocked by fire and practice alternative routes.

- **Test Doors Before Opening Them**
  While kneeling or crouching at the door, reach up as high as you can and with the back of your hand, touch the door, the knob and the crack between the door and its frame. If you feel any warmth, use another escape route. If the door feels cool, open it with caution. Open it slowly, but be prepared to slam it shut if there is smoke and flames on the other side.

- **If You Are Trapped**
  Close all doors between you and the fire. Stuff the cracks around the doors to keep the smoke out. Wait at a window and signal for help with a flash light or by waving a light colored cloth. If there is a phone in the room, call the fire department and report exactly where you are. Don't Panic!

Always Remember

Smoke and heat both rise and smoke contains deadly gases. During a fire, cleaner air will be found near the floor. If you encounter smoke when using your primary exit, use an alternative escape route. If you must exit through smoke, crawl on your hands and knees, keeping your head 12-24 inches above the floor. Once you are out, STAY OUT and do not return for any reason. And remember to call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house.

Planee Cómo Escapar

Una vez que hay un incendio en su casa, no hay tiempo para planear cómo escapar. Siéntese hoy con su familia y elaboren un plan para escapar en caso de un incendio.

Dibuje un Plano de su Casa

Indique en él dos salidas de emergencia para cada habitación-especialmente en los dormitorios. Discuta las rutas de escape con cada meimbro de su hogar. Una vez que han logrado escapar, no deben de volver a entrar al hogar por ninguna razón. Llamen al 9-1-1 desde la casa de un vecino.

For Additional Information, Please Contact:
City of Costa Mesa Fire Department
(714) 327-7400
www.ci.costa-mesa.ca.us/departments/cmfd.htm