

FIRE – PREPARE TO SURVIVE

Prepare to Survive

Each year, thousands of people are either injured or killed in fire disasters. Even more shocking is that most of these fires could have been prevented. The Fire Brigade Services (FBS) believes that fire-related deaths can be reduced by teaching people the basic facts about fire, so that they know how to best prepare themselves and their families. Below are some simple facts that explain the dangers of fire.

Fire is FAST!

There is little time!

In 30 seconds, a small flame can engulf a house. Most fires occur in the home when people are asleep. If you wake up to a fire, you won't have time to grab valuables because fire spreads too fast and the thick, black smoke will make it difficult to breathe. You only have time to escape.

Fire is HOT!

Heat is more threatening than flames.

A fire's heat alone can kill. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees Celsius at floor level and rise to 600 degrees Celsius at eye level. Inhaling this super-hot air will scorch your lungs. This heat can also melt clothes to your skin. When heat levels inside a room reach extreme temperatures quickly, everything inside the room will ignite at once: this is called flashover.

Fire is DARK!

Fire isn't bright, it's pitch black.

Fire starts bright but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness. If you wake up to a fire you may be blinded, disoriented and unable to find your way around familiar environments.

Fire is DEADLY!

Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do.

Fire uses up the oxygen you use to breathe and produces excessive smoke and toxic gases which, if inhaled, can make you drowsy and lull you into a deep sleep before the flames even reach your door, making you completely vulnerable.

Fire Survival Tips

In the event of a fire, remember time is the biggest enemy and every second counts!

Escape first, then call for help. Develop a home fire escape plan and designate a meeting place outside.

Make sure everyone in the family knows two ways to escape from every room.

Practise feeling your way out with your eyes closed. Never stand up in a fire; always crawl low, under the smoke and try to keep your mouth covered.

Practise your home escape plan frequently with your family.

Never return to a burning building for any reason, it may cost you your life.

Finally, having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a home fire.

The risk of fire-related death or injury to all South Africans is REAL. PREPARE & SURVIVE!

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

From your landline:

10177

From your cellphone:

112