Planning for house fires
It is vital you and your household know what to do if a fire occurs in your home. As part of your plan, all family members should know:
- the two quickest ways out of every room
- how they will exit from upstairs if your home has a second storey
- an agreed-upon meeting place outside, such as the letterbox
- how they will call Triple Zero (000).

Home fire escape plans
If you are in a building and a fire occurs, follow these actions to escape safely:
- Get down low and stay out of the smoke
- If it is safe, close doors behind you to slow down the spread of fire and smoke
- Alert other people on your way out
- Get out and stay out
- Meet at a safe place such as the letterbox outside your home.
- Call Triple Zero (000) from a mobile phone or a neighbour’s phone. Ask for FIRE.

Top survival tips
- if your clothes catch fire, stop drop and roll
- to help someone else whose clothes have caught alight, throw a fire blanket or woollen blanket over them to smother the flames
- crawl low in smoke. The safest area for breathing is near the floor
- use the back of your hand to check doors for heat before opening
- close doors behind you if you can
- don’t go back inside for any reason.

Families with children
Children are less likely than adults to wake up to the sound of a smoke alarm. Think about how you might be able to reach children’s bedrooms if regular access is blocked by fire.
Families should practice their escape plans twice a year—more frequently with younger parents.

Some useful tips for parents include:
- turn practicing your home fire escape plan into a game by timing how quickly they can escape
- make sure your children know their home address and how to call Triple Zero (000)
- use online games and activities to teach children about fire safety. These can be found online at cfa.vic.gov.au/kids-schools/activities.
Draw your home floor plan in the grid and mark all the exits.

Identify two ways out of every room.

Decide on an outside meeting place, such as the letterbox.

Practise your home fire escape plan regularly with the whole family.

Keep this plan handy to remind everyone of the safe exits in case of fire.