



# THE MONITOR

NEWS FROM WEST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

*Proudly serving the communities of Lakewood, University Place & Steilacoom*



## WINTER + HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

***Celebrate safely this holiday season.***

Between cold weather and the holiday season, winter can be a dangerous time of year in terms of home fires. According to the US Fire Administration, the top three days of the year for fires started by candles are Christmas Day, New Years Eve, and New Years Day.

Consider using flameless, battery-operated candles, which can look, smell and feel like a real candle. These battery-operated candles can also be very helpful during a power outage. *(Continued on page 2)*

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# Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Holiday Fires

## Did you know?



**More than 1/3** of home decoration fires are started by candles.

## As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.



Keep candles at least **12 inches** away from anything that burns.



Think about using **battery-operated** flameless candles.



## WINTER + HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS, CONT.

Other things to consider this time of year are:

- Only use decorations that are flame-retardant or not flammable.
- Check holiday lights each year for frayed wires or excessive wear.
- Don't link more than three strands of holiday lights.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Consider using battery-operated flameless candles.
- Keep your live Christmas tree away from heat sources and room exits.
- Water your live Christmas tree daily to keep it from becoming dry.

There is one very important item that needs to be checked off every holiday to-do list: having a fire escape plan and practicing it. Be prepared before a fire starts.

**Make a plan.** Talk about what you should do if a fire occurs. Include what each person will need to do to get out safely. Help everyone understand that fire is fast and smoke is a poison that kills.

**Think about the needs of each person in the home.**

If someone uses a cane or wheelchair, decide who will help him or her get out. If someone uses a hearing aid or eyeglasses, be sure that these items are kept next to the bed.

**Make sure that you have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home.** Put alarms inside *and* outside all sleeping areas. Test your smoke alarms regularly to make sure they work. Make sure that everyone can hear the smoke alarm sound. Without a smoke alarm, you may not wake up, and the poisonous smoke can kill you in your sleep. Visit our website for more information on [our Smoke Alarm Program](#).

**Find two ways out of every room.** Knowing two exits is important in case one is blocked or dangerous to use. Know how to open doors and windows that lead outside.

**Know where to meet outside your home.** If the smoke alarm sounds, go outside. Call 911 from the outside meeting place, which is a safe distance from the home.

**Practice your plan.** Everyone should be included. Walk through the steps that you will take if the smoke alarm sounds. Make sure that everyone knows what to do to get out safely.

# CREATING A FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

*Taking just 15 minutes to create a fire escape plan may save your life.*

A fire escape plan is something every household needs and is very easy to create. Make this a fun activity the entire family can enjoy.

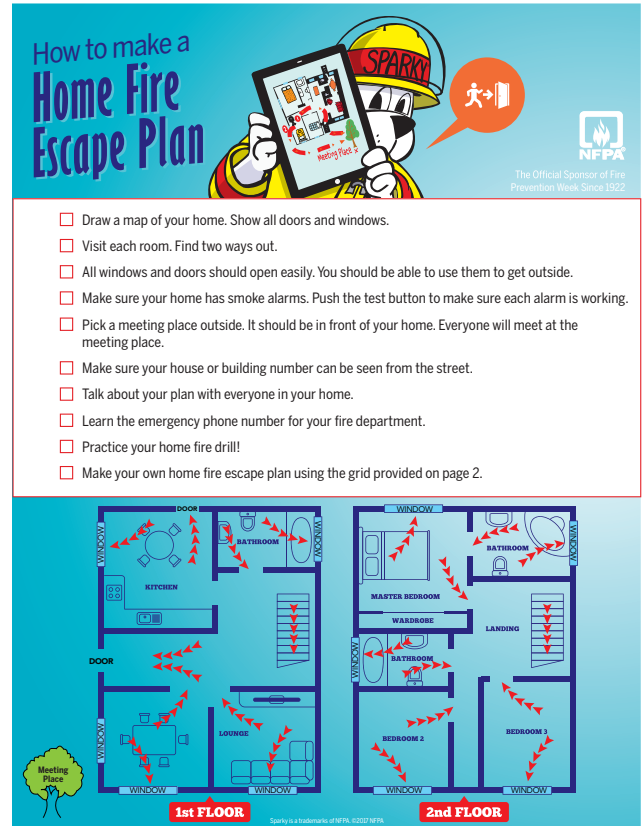
## Supplies you will need:

- Paper
- Pencil, pen, crayons or markers
- Ruler (optional)

## You will need to know:

- The location of all exits
- The location of all smoke alarms
- The meeting place everyone will meet once safely outside

*Be sure to [visit our website for a how-to video](#) and many more school-age appropriate lessons!*



**How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan**

**11 Steps:**

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- Practice your home fire drill!
- Make your own home fire escape plan using the grid provided on page 2.

**Floor Plan Diagrams:**

- 1st FLOOR:** Shows rooms including Kitchen, Living Room, and a Meeting Place outside. Red arrows indicate escape routes from each room.
- 2nd FLOOR:** Shows rooms including Master Bedroom, WARDROBE, Bathroom, Landing, Bedroom 2, and Bedroom 3. Red arrows indicate escape routes from each room.

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## NO MATTER WHAT, GENERATORS STAY OUTSIDE

Carbon monoxide poisoning can happen quickly and without warning. Be sure to always keep generators outside in the event of a power outage.

# Wearing is caring.

Mask up, Pierce County.



## COVID-19 TESTING INFORMATION

It's no secret people in Pierce County are suffering the physical, financial, and emotional toll of the COVID-19 pandemic. But together, we will get through this.

Testing plays an important role in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Get tested. Make an appointment with your healthcare provider or attend a free mobile testing event.

Visit the [Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's website](#) for the most up-to-date information about the COVID-19 virus, testing sites, when to get tested and overall safety information.

Mask up, Pierce County!



## CONNECT WITH US



### FACEBOOK

Follow us on Facebook to see what's happening in our community. Facebook is where we share safety tips, showcase community partnerships, advertise for events and classes, and much more.

[facebook.com/westpierce](https://facebook.com/westpierce)



### TWITTER

Follow us on Twitter for real time updates during large incidents. Twitter is our direct link to the local media, so it can be delivered to your feed instantly.

[@westpierce](https://twitter.com/westpierce)



### INSTAGRAM

Follow us on Instagram to see all things West Pierce. From incidents to safety tips to behind the scenes, our Instagram feed and stories have a little bit of everything.

[@westpiercefire](https://www.instagram.com/westpiercefire)

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