

## “Fire Prevention”

During the year of 2011, fire departments replied to a bountiful number of home fires! There were more than 384,000 home fires! These horrendous fires injured 13,350 people. There were also 2,640 lives were lost. Why did these terrifying home fires start? Did they only have one way to get out of their house? Well, now's the time to change that. Families need to instill the importance of two ways out if there is a fire! Even though people believe that a house fire could never happen to them, they must have two ways out because the first way out could be blocked and having another plan could prevent getting stuck on a two storied building.

To begin with, you must have two ways out because the first way could be blocked. Do you think that a fire is going to happen when you are sleeping? No, but on August 15, 2012, a two storied building in Portland, Oregon started on fire at 4:00 a.m., while the residents of the house were sleeping. The couple that lived in the house did not notice that there was a fire in their attic until forty minutes later when the fire alarms went off. The couple were shackled in their rooms with smoke and fear.

Since fires are deceptive, does one want to have to risk his or her life in a fire because one did not have a second way out? Do people want to have to jump out of a two storied building to escape the burning tongue of a fire? Do not delay and plan today for two ways out because the first exit may be blocked during the fire.

Another example of an exit being blocked by smoke and fire was on November 21, 1980. It was the third worst fire in the United States. It happened at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. On that day, eighty-five people died, and 650

people were injured because there was only one conventional exit that 5,000 people had to use at the same time. While on vacation, one should surpass the safety precautions and think of a plan to get out of a hotel or a casino in the event of a fire emergency. Thus, one should always think of another way out just in case he or she is in a bad situation because the fire exit might be blocked.

Furthermore, one must think about having two ways out because he or she may not know where to exit in the case of an emergency on a two story building. Do people think about a fire while they are playing cards at the hotel casino or swimming in the swimming pool at a hotel? Probably not, but on December 7, 1946, 119 people died at the Winecoff Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. The Winecoff fire was the worst fire in United States history.

Do people want to risk their lives because they did not have another way to get out other than just one exit? I bet not; that's why people need to plan ahead before they go on vacation. Next time someone goes on vacation, he or she should have a haven and check where the closet stairway and exit is from one's room because one never knows how many people are going to take stairs or go to the nearest exit sign.

On December 31, 1986, at the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, a fire was started by three employees who were working with cardboard cartons of furniture. Do people want to be one of those ninety-seven that died in the Dupont Plaza Hotel? That's why they should have another plan in the event that they are on a higher floor of a building, so they don't get caught in the same situation as the people in the Dupont Plaza Hotel. Therefore, having two ways out while in a two storied building is essential so that one can avert disaster.

In conclusion, you must have two ways out because the first way out could be blocked and having another plan could prevent getting stuck on a two storied building.

Would a family like to go through a dreadful fire emergency?