



# Grand Coulee Fire Department

**Spring is here and it is time to dust off your family escape plan or create one. Your Grand Coulee Fire Department suggests the following to help ensure the safety of you and your loved ones.**

**1. Two Ways Out:** Every room should have two ways out. One way out would be the **door** and the second way out may be a **window**. If your first way out is blocked by fire or smoke you should use your second way out. Emergency escape from a second story window may involve using a home fire safety ladder. If your escape plan includes an escape ladder, practice using it from a first floor window.

**2. Working Smoke Alarms:** Make sure your home has at least **one smoke alarm on every level** and outside the sleeping areas. If you sleep with your bedroom door closed, install a smoke alarm inside your bedroom. Test your smoke alarms each month by pushing the test button, and replace the batteries once a year or when it makes a chirping sound which means the battery is running low.

**NOTE:** Newer smoke alarms have a universal signal repetition of 3 beeps, followed by a 1 1/2 second pause.

**3. Outside Meeting Place:** Pick a family meeting place outside the home, where everyone will meet once they have escaped. A good meeting place would be a tree, a streetlight, a telephone pole, or a neighbour's home. Be sure to stay a safe distance from emergency vehicles.

**4. Lots of Practice:** Practice your plan with your family at least twice a year. Get your family together for tonight and practice your "great escape." **Remember: Never go back inside a burning building. Once out, stay out!**

**The Grand Coulee Fire Department is staffed by dedicated volunteers who give their time and resources to help those in the community and beyond. We are always ready to welcome new members. Consider joining and take an active role in protecting your community. Contact the Village Office for more information.**