



Chief Joey Bisson of the Bible Hill Fire Brigade accepts the new 75th Anniversary Crest from Village of Bible Hill Chairman, Kevin Kennedy (Steve Currie Photo)

# Every Family Needs a Fire Escape Plan

*By Christine Urquhart*

We often feel like we need to escape, but what if we really had to escape a fire? If a fire breaks out in your home, you have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

Everyone needs to know how to get outside if there is a fire, they need to escape!

Here are some home escape planning safety tips:

Draw a floor plan of your home. Visit each room and, if possible, find two ways out. Mark the ways out on the escape plan.

All windows and doors should open easily and should not be blocked by furniture or clutter. Make sure the escape routes are clear. You should be able to use them to get outside. Don't let snow pile up beside your "other" door, keep all doorways and walkways clear.

Choose an outside meeting place. It should be in front of and away from your home and should be something permanent, such as a tree or a neighbor's house. Everyone should agree to meet at the meeting place after they escape.

Make sure everyone in your home knows the fire department's emergency number - 411.

Assign someone to help any household members who may have difficulty getting out alone.

Everyone in the home should practice the escape drill together at least twice a year. Close doors behind you as you leave.

Tell house guests about your fire escape plan.

Prepare for a real fire. When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside immediately.

Once you're outside, stay outside. Leave the firefighting to the professionals.

Remember, get out first and then call for help. Never go back inside until the fire department gives the OK. Things can be replaced -

YOU cannot.

If smoke or fire blocks one of your ways out, use another way out. If you must go through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to escape.



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Commitment Is  
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## Fire Prevention Tips

*By Chris Urquhart*

October is Fire Safety Month! Let's talk about fire safety in manufactured homes. If buying or renting a manufactured home is in your future, make sure you keep fire safety in mind.

By following a few tips and knowing the facts and the safety requirements for manufactured homes, you can help keep your family safe:

Choose a home build after 1976 that has the HUD label certifying that it meets certain minimum safety standards.

Be sure your home has enough smoke alarms. You need a smoke alarm inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and in or near the family/live room area(s). For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms so when one sounds, they all sound.

Test smoke alarms at least once a month.

Have a home fire escape plan that includes two ways

out of every room and an outside meeting place. Make sure all ways out of the home are easy to use. Practice your fire drill at least twice a year.

Never remove or disable a smoke alarm.

Consider having a licensed electrician inspect the electrical system to be sure it is safe and meets the applicable National Electrical Code requirements.

Always stay in the kitchen when frying on the stovetop.

Have smokers smoke outside the home. Provide large, non-tip ashtrays and empty them frequently. Douse butts with water before throwing away.

FACT: Smoke alarms are missing in half of all manufactured home fires. Since they are required to be sold with smoke alarms, this may mean people are removing them.

HEAT SENSE. Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Buy space heaters with automatic shut-off switches. Turn

off portable space heaters before falling asleep or when leaving a room.

Never leave a lit candle unattended. Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to sleep. Keep gasoline, charcoal lighter and other flammable liquids locked in an outdoor shed. Never store items under the home.

Store firewood away from the house. It may take a few minutes each month to check out your smoke alarms and to make sure that flammable items are stored properly, but if it saves your life it was well worth the time and effort!

Remember, you have a local fire brigade but you really don't want them at your house!



### SPECIAL NOTE:

In October 2014 Christine Urquhart submitted these two Fire Prevention stories, "Every family needs a Fire Escape Plan" and "Fire Prevention Tips". "Even though Chris is deceased and is no longer with us, she had submitted the best locally written article we have seen in decades. It is in her honour we are pleased to re-publish for your protection".  
Maurice Rees, Publisher

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