



## Benton County Fire Protection District No. 4

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[www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **Every Second Counts: Plan Two Ways Out!**

*Fire Prevention Week, October 8-14, 2017*

WEST RICHLAND, WASH. – Consider this scenario: It's 2 o'clock in the morning. You and your family are fast asleep when you awaken to the smoke alarm sounding and the smell of smoke. What do you do? If you and your family don't have a plan in place, it could jeopardize your safety, or even prove deadly.

In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. That's why home escape planning is so critical in a fire situation. It ensures that everyone in the household knows how to use that small window of time wisely.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "Every Second Counts: Plan Two Ways Out!" works to better educate the public about the critical importance of developing a home escape plan and practicing it. Benton County Fire District 4 is working in coordination with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the official sponsor of the Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years, to reinforce those potentially life-saving messages. Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14, 2017.

In support of Fire Prevention Week, Benton County Fire District 4 encourages all households to develop a plan together and practice it. A home escape plan includes working smoke alarms on every level of the home, in every bedroom, and near all sleeping areas. It also includes two ways out of every room, usually a door and a window, with a clear path to an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) that's a safe distance from the home.

NFPA and Benton County Fire District 4 offer these additional tips and recommendations for developing and practicing a home escape plan:

- Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Make sure the address of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- Close doors behind you as you leave — this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

For more information about fire and injury prevention, visit [www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org). To learn more about this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Every Second Counts: Plan Two Ways Out" and home escape planning, visit [firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org).

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*Benton County Fire District 4 provides fire and emergency medical service (EMS) to 17,000 people over 52 square miles, including the City of West Richland. Approximately 50 volunteer and career firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics respond to an average of 1,400 calls per year. Learn more about Fire District 4 at [www.bcf4.org](http://www.bcf4.org), "Like" us on Facebook at /BCFD4 or follow us on Twitter @BCFD4Info.*