



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**October 8 - 14 is Fire Prevention Week: "Every Second Counts – Plan 2 Ways Out!"**

**BEL AIR, Md.**, (Oct. 2, 2017) - In a fire, every second counts. Seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and the tragic loss of life. October 8 – 14 is National Fire Prevention Week and the Harford County Department of Emergency Services urges all citizens to make a fire safety plan to protect their property and their loved ones. This year's national theme is "Every Second Counts – Plan 2 Ways Out."

"Almost once a day, Harford County's 911 Call Center receives a report of a home fire," Edward Hopkins, Harford County director of Emergency Services, said. "Fire Prevention Week is an annual reminder for all citizens to be prepared in case the next fire happens to them."

Follow these tips from the National Fire Protection Association:

Together with all members of your household, draw a map of your home on graph paper, 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 cannot help them;

Make sure your address number is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find;

In case of fire, 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 into a burning building.

Learn more at: <http://ow.ly/Bue430bbTuH>

“As a former volunteer firefighter, I’ve seen firsthand the devastation from a home fire,” County Executive Barry Glassman said. “Taking the time now to make a plan, and practice that plan, can make all the difference when seconds matter most.”

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