



Freeport Community Connect

Together, Building a Safer Community Through Prevention, Preparedness & Response

CREATE OR UPDATE YOUR PROFILE TODAY

www.communityconnect.io/info/il-freeport

1 Create an account

Sign in for free and get started doing your part. It just takes your email, phone number and address.

2 Enter the info that matters most

Enter valuable information that can help us assist more effectively during an emergency.

3 Help your Fire Department when seconds count

That's it. Just keep us updated when things change over time so we can always be prepared.

WHAT KINDS OF INFORMATION CAN I PROVIDE?

Any information you provide through Community Connect is completely voluntary and based on what you are comfortable sharing. We have made it easy for you to know what may be important by organizing your secure portal into buckets of information you can enter.


Your Property


Your People


Your Needs


Your Pets

HOW SECURE IS MY DATA AND HOW IS IT USED?

Data that you provide Community Connect is secure and is used only for the purpose of better serving you during emergency situations. Your information is never used for any other purpose. All logins are password protected with bank level encryption and security. If you're comfortable logging in to your online bank you'll be comfortable logging in to Community Connect.



Community Connect is **Safe & Secure**

Home Fire Campaign



April 13, 2021

Most of us don't realize we have just two minutes to escape a home fire.

Help keep your family safe by taking two simple steps: Practice your two-minute escape drill and test your smoke alarms monthly. Visit [SoundTheAlarm.org/Illinois](https://www.soundthealarm.org/Illinois) and pledge to prepare your family against home fires today.

- In your escape plan, include at least two ways to exit every room in your home.
- Select a meeting spot at a safe distance away from your home, such as your neighbor's home or landmark like a specific tree in your front yard, where everyone knows to meet.
- In addition, place smoke alarms on each level of your home, including inside and outside bedrooms and sleeping areas. Change the batteries at least once a year, if your model requires it.
- Also check the manufacturer's date of your smoke alarms. If they're 10 years or older, they likely need to be replaced. Follow your alarm's manufacturer instructions.

GENERAL HOME FIRE SAFETY

Every second counts when there's a home fire. To help protect your household, test your smoke alarms each month and practice your escape plan until everyone can get out in less than two minutes.

- Home fires are so dangerous that they claim more lives in a typical year than all natural disasters combined.
- But working smoke alarms can cut the risk of dying in a home fire by half.
- The sooner an alarm alerts you to a fire, the sooner you can get out. This is critical because fire experts say you have two minutes to escape a burning home before it's too late.

To create your home fire escape plan, include at least two ways to exit every room in your home.

- Select a meeting spot at a safe distance away from your home, such as your neighbor's home or landmark like a specific tree in your front yard, where everyone knows to meet.
- Take time to discuss the plan with everyone in your household, and practice it at least twice a year.

While practicing your escape plan, teach children what a smoke alarm sounds like. Talk about fire safety and what to do in an emergency.

- Place smoke alarms on each level of your home, including inside and outside bedrooms and sleeping areas.
- In addition to testing your alarms once a month, change the batteries at least once a year, if your model requires it.
- Also check the manufacturer's date of your smoke alarms. If they're 10 years or older, they likely need to be replaced because the sensor becomes less sensitive over time. Follow your alarm's manufacturer instructions.

Visit [redcross.org/fire](https://www.redcross.org/fire) for more information, including a home fire escape plan to create and practice with your household.

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Home Fire Campaign's goal? The Red Cross launched the Home Fire Campaign in October 2014 to reduce home fire-related deaths and injuries. Our goal is to install 2.5 million smoke alarms and make 1 million households safer in at-risk neighborhoods, as well as to educate families about home fire safety through free youth preparedness programs and the campaign's *Sound the Alarm* activities.

How does the Red Cross calculate lives saved and households made safer through the campaign?

At least 849 lives across the country have been saved through the campaign since it launched in October 2014. The number of lives saved is based on verified accounts of people who safely escaped a home fire because the campaign had prepared them on how to do so. Often, people were alerted by free smoke alarms previously installed by the Red Cross and our partners, or knew how to get out safely because of home fire safety education and escape planning support provided by the Red Cross and our partners. It can also include other campaign activities, such as youth preparedness programs (for example, a child in the household helped the family safely escape after learning about home fire safety in a campaign program at school).

The Red Cross and our partners have also helped make more than 900,000 households safer through the campaign. This includes the number of homes where we've installed free smoke alarms and provided home fire safety education and escape planning support through the campaign's in-home visits.

How is the Red Cross measuring the campaign's success? We are proud that the campaign has saved at least 849 lives across the country since launching in October 2014. With more than 4,600 partners in more than 17,000 cities and towns, we've made a lifesaving difference nationwide by:

- Installing more than 2.1 million free smoke alarms.
- Reaching more than 1.6 million children through youth preparedness programs.
- Making more than 900,000 households safer from the threat of home fires.

We are grateful for the support of donors, national and local fire service agencies, community partners and tens of thousands of volunteers who have made this campaign possible. Together, we continue to build on our momentum to help more families in need.

When does the campaign end, and has the Red Cross reached its goal? To reach our goal of installing 2.5 million alarms and preparing 1 million homes, we have extended the campaign. We are proud that the campaign so far has saved at least 849 lives, as part of our effort to reduce home fire-related deaths and injuries nationwide.

Is the Red Cross making progress toward reducing home fire-related deaths and injuries by 25%?

We're working with data scientists and experts to assess our progress and accurately determine the percentage reduction attributed to the campaign. However, our goal for the Home Fire Campaign has always been to reduce home fire-related deaths and injuries, and to date, we've helped save at least 849 lives across the country. We plan to provide a full report when we have met our installation and other campaign goals.

What do donations for the Home Fire Campaign support? Donations to Red Cross Home Fire Relief, in support of the campaign, will be used to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from home fires. This includes preparedness efforts like providing free smoke alarms and home fire safety education, as well as helping affected families recover from home fires.