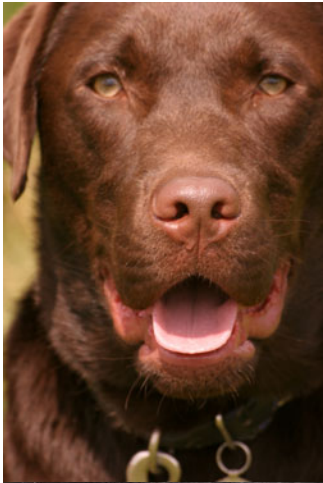


# Protect your Pets During a Fire!

*Many fire departments discourage the use of pet locator decals as they are not a reliable means of ensuring the safety of pets in the event of a fire.*



Firefighters are specially trained and equipped to make a thorough and systematic search for people and/or pets trapped inside a burning building. Whenever firefighters are summoned to a building fire, their first action upon arrival is to verify that all occupants are safe -- and to initiate rescue efforts if they are not. By utilizing the window decal system, critical time could be lost as firefighters look for decals that may no longer be accurate.

Most fire departments discourage the use of pet window decals for the following reasons:

- There is no standardized, endorsed type of sticker.
- The average family moves every five years. If the decals are not moved, they become meaningless and put firefighters at risk.
- Often times families take their pets out with them, which could endanger firefighter's lives when they go in to look for a pet that isn't even home.
- Decals may give a false sense of security (i.e. leading people to believe there is no need to have a family escape plan, escape ladders, etc.).



**Plan Ahead.** If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire. Include your pets in your plan!

## Safety Tips

- **Install** smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside of each sleeping area, and on every level of the home including the basement. Test your alarms once a month and change the batteries at least once per year.
- **Draw** a home escape plan and discuss it with everyone in your household.
- **Practice** the plan night and day with everyone in your home (**including pets**) twice a year.
- **Know** at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- **Have** a meeting place (something permanent, like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- **Go** to your outside meeting place. Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- **Use** your second way out if smoke is blocking your door or the first way out.
- **Get low and go** under the smoke to get out safely if you have to escape through smoke.
- **Feel** the knob and door before opening a door. If they are hot, use your second way out.
- **Consider** getting escape ladders listed by a recognized testing laboratory for escaping from second and third floor windows if all other exits are blocked.
- **Make** sure the ladder fits the window.
- **To avoid** injury, only use the ladder in a real emergency.



*(Safety Tips courtesy of nfpfa.org)*

For more information on creating a Family Fire Escape Plan, or protecting your pet during an emergency, visit [www.firedistrict7.com](http://www.firedistrict7.com) or contact Public



Snohomish County Fire District 7