
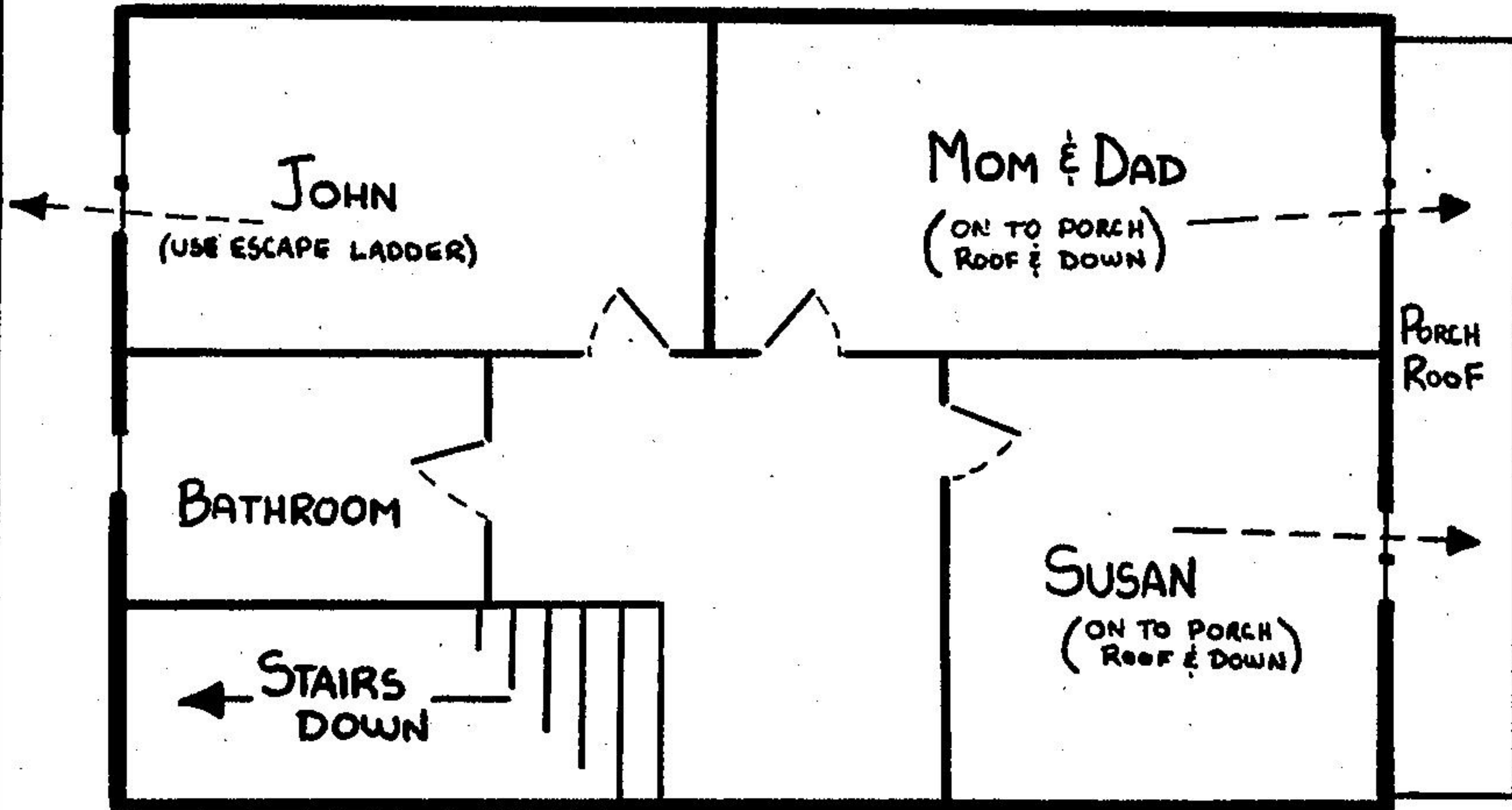


FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

 Most home fires happen between midnight and 6 a.m. Smoke and deadly gases rise quickly to block off obvious escapes. If fire broke out in your home, would anyone dash for escape to halls or stairs by mistake? Could everyone safely open or remove windows and screens for emergency exit? Could they safely get to the ground from windows upstairs? If in doubt, sit down with your family and map out a complete fire escape plan for every room.



- 1** Know how to escape 'blind' from every room. Black smoke can mask exits and gases can muddle your thinking. Have regular drills. **PLAN TO LIVE.**
- 2** Make a map of your house showing emergency escapes. Make sure your family, babysitters and overnight guests know it inside out. Decide in advance who will aid babies, invalids or the elderly in escaping. Put children and elderly in rooms with roof refuge points. Ladders may be difficult for them.
- 3** All windows, including storms and screens, must open easily from inside and be big enough to crawl through. Know how to break a window with a heavy object, while shielding the face from flying glass. Remove jagged pieces with chair leg or shoe.
- 4** Locate approved extinguishers near exits. Know their capabilities and proper use in advance. Never underestimate fire or allow it to come between you and escape. Fight only the smallest fires after everyone is evacuated and Fire Department is notified.
- 5** Sleep with *all* doors closed to delay spread of fire, lethal smoke and gases. Use fire retardant paint on stairwells and doors. Room dividers, louvered or folding fabric doors are no barriers to fire.
- 6** **IN THE EVENT OF FIRE,** everyone must be alerted. 'Products of combustion' detectors are sensitive to ionized air particles and should be considered in your escape plan. They are designed to give warning when there is little visible smoke or significant heat. If you sense fire or hear your alarm, shout warnings to others.
- 7** Decide on your escape route. Remember, heat and toxic combustion gases push up and super-heat stairways and halls like a deadly chimney. Never open any door without testing it first. If the top of the door or the knob feels hot, the hall outside may be impassable. Call to others to keep doors shut and use emergency exits.
- 8** Even if the door feels cool, brace your body against it. Open it an inch, but be ready to shut it if you feel pressure or a hot draft on your hand. If not, you can try the stairs. Cover nose and mouth with wet cloth. Don't waste time dressing or picking up valuables. Keep your head low where the air is better.
- 9** If smoke has entered the room, remember, heat and deadly gases rise. Tie a heavy cloth around nose and mouth. Roll out of bed and crawl to the window. Make sure the door is shut before opening the window. A draft could fan fire, cutting off escape.
- 10** In a bungalow, any window may offer emergency escape. Close windows behind you to slow the progress of fire. In a multi-storied house, upstairs windows may lead to a refuge point on a porch roof or garage extension. Otherwise, it's a good idea to equip rooms upstairs with escape ladders. They should hook over the window sill easily or be permanently installed, provide support for climbing out and have brackets for toe clearance from walls. If other means exist, you may have to drop from a window or roof. Slide out feet first and hang from the sill. Bend your knees, drop and roll when you land. **NEVER JUMP.**
- 11** Meet at a pre-arranged place for a head count. **NEVER** go back into a burning building. Be especially watchful of young children who might try to re-enter the home due to panic or in hopes of saving a personal possession or missing pet. Alert the Fire Department from a neighbour's phone. Burns or exposure to smoke require immediate medical attention.

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