

IF A FIRE BREAKS OUT AND 200 PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO ESCAPE, HERE'S WHAT THE FRONT DOOR...

WILL FEEL LIKE.

When a fire breaks out in a crowded place, everyone runs to the entrance. People panic and start pushing. Some fall down. Some even die. When you walk into a building — whether you live in it, attend class, work or play there — plan an exit strategy. And keep in mind, the best way out may not be the way in.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TEXAS STATE FIRE MARSHAL AND THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY

HAVE
AN
EXIT
STRATEGY™



Safety Tips

At home:

- Know *at least* two ways out of every room.
- Clear your escape routes—get rid of clutter that may block your way.
- Avoid placing furniture, stereo equipment or decorations in front of doors.
- Never paint or nail windows shut—every room needs two working exits.
- Practice your fire escape plan with your family
- Have a designated spot for your family to meet during an evacuation.

At work:

- Know and practice *at least* two ways out of your building
- Make sure all exits are unobstructed and clearly marked—report dangerous conditions to your manager
- When you hear a fire alarm at work, get out!
- Avoid overloading circuits and outlets with office equipment
- Avoid storing combustibles underneath stairwells
- Avoid excessive clutter in your workspace

Everywhere else:

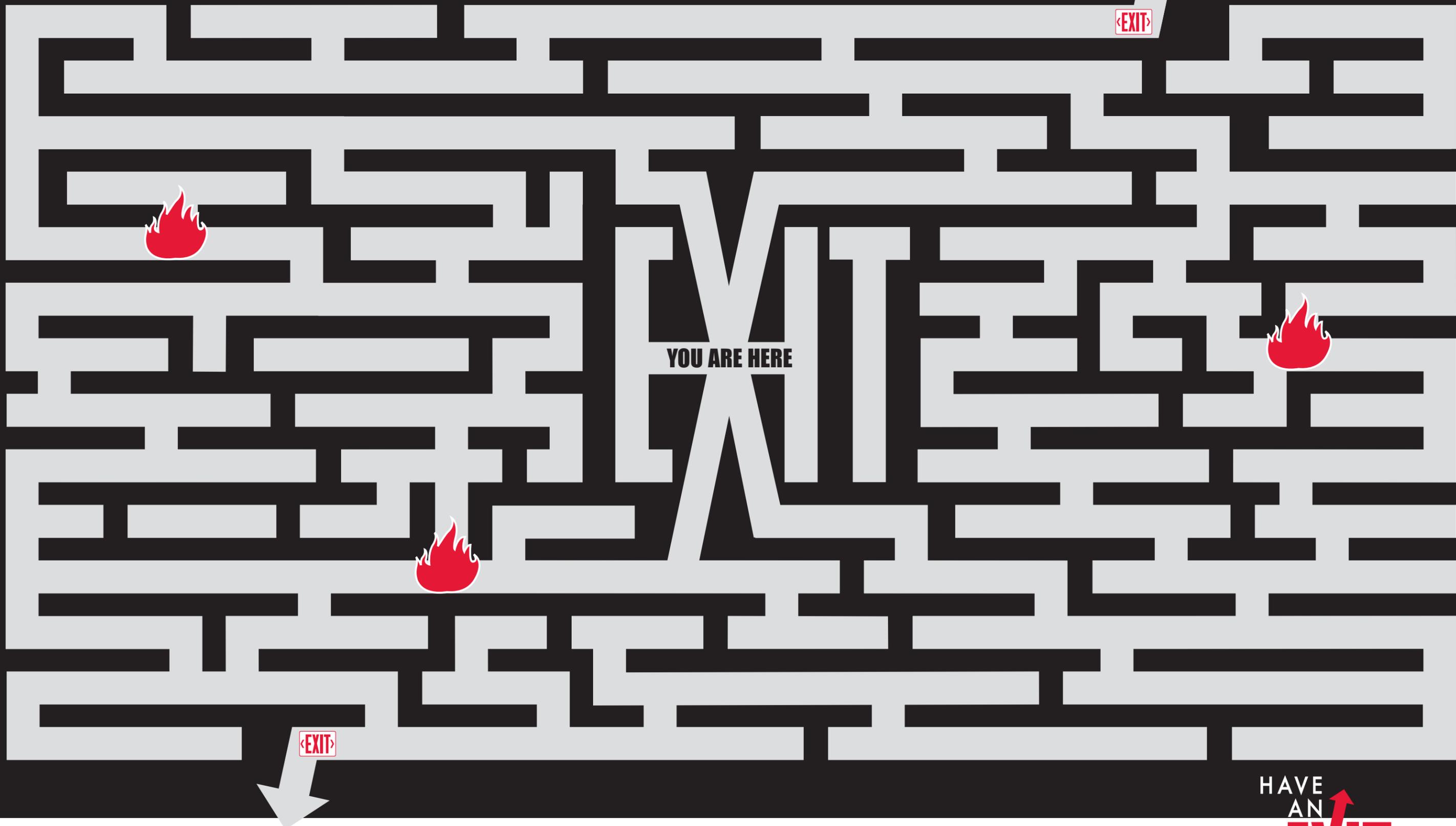
- When entering a public space, take note of *at least* two exits.
- Take note of how you can reach these exits



FACTS and FIGURES

- Only one in four Americans has devised and practiced a plan to escape from their home during a fire. Of those Americans who do have an escape plan, only 35 percent have practiced it.*
- According to a 2005 study commissioned by the State Fire Marshal's Office, 82 percent of college students have "no strategy" for exiting a public venue and "rarely" consider how they would escape from a fire.
- A 2005 State Fire Marshal inspection of randomly selected bars and nightclubs in Texas revealed that **96 percent** have blocked, locked, or poorly marked exits.
- Older adults aged 65 and up are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fire compared to the population at large.*
- Alcohol or drug use, physical or mental disability, and literacy are all factors in fire safety risk.
- Building type and conditions, i.e. mobile homes, homes with burglar bars, high-rise office buildings, can hinder safe fire evacuation.
- In 2002, high-rise office buildings, hotels, apartments, and hospitals combined had 7,300 reported structure fires and associated losses of 15 civilian deaths, 300 civilian injuries, and \$26 million in direct property damage in the United States.*

*Source: www.nfpa.org



SOLVE THIS PUZZLE AS IF YOUR LIFE DEPENDED ON IT.

A building on fire — whether you live in it, attend class, work or play there — is your worst nightmare. People are screaming, pushing, you can't breathe, you can't see, and every turn can be a dead end. Literally. When you enter a building, look around. Take note of Exit signs, stairways, and windows, and remember: the way you came in may not be the best way out.

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