

July 2017

Theme: Youth And Fireworks Safety

Week 1: Kids And Fireworks Safety

Week 2: Escape Planning

Week 3: Stop, Drop And Roll

Week 4: Matches And Lighters

Events:

National Pet Fire Safety Day – July 15

Educator Tips: Reach out to the local media anytime you are having an event. Getting a reporter to cover your event only adds to the number of people you could potentially reach. Establish a relationship with reporters in your area could even lead to future speaking or educational opportunities.

National Fire Service History:

- July 12, 1919 - Philadelphia Bldg Collapse (6 FF Deaths)
- July 6, 1944 - CT Circus Tent Fire (168 Deaths)
- July 29, 1956 - TX Refinery Fire (19 FF's Killed)
- July 5, 1973 - Kingman, AZ Gas Fire (12 FF's Killed)
- July 23, 1984 - IL Refinery Fire (10 FF's Killed)
- July 1, 1988 - Hackensack, NJ Collapse (5 FF's Killed)
- July 6, 1994 - Storm King Mt Wildfire (14 FF's Died)

WV Fire Service History:

- July 23, 2015: Fire destroys historic buildings in Harper's Ferry commercial district, causing millions of dollars in damages. Some of the buildings dated back to before the Civil War.



Kids And Fireworks Safety

How To Use Legal Fireworks Safely

- Children should never use fireworks without adult supervision.
 - Make sure children keep sparklers away from hair, face, and clothing.
 - Sparklers that have bamboo sticks are cooler:
Even sparklers can reach 1,800° F (982°C). They should only be used outside and with close adult supervision. Sparklers that have bamboo stems stay cooler than ones with metal stems.
 - Always use fireworks outside and away from the house, on a hard flat level surface. This surface should be fireproof and free from leaves, grass, or other debris.
 - Have a hose and bucket of water nearby when fireworks are being used.
 - Light one firework at a time, and do not put the firework into any glass or metal container.
 - Make sure all people in the area are aware that fireworks are being used.
 - Keep spectators at a safe distance and point the fireworks away from people and homes.
- Fireworks can catch a roof on fire if they land on it.
- Never hold any consumer firework in your hand or have your body over the firework while you are lighting it.
 - Wear eye protection, such as safety glasses, while you are setting off the fireworks.
 - Light one firework at a time.
 - Never pick up a dud or relight a dud. Leave it lying on the ground, wait 15 minutes, and then douse it in a bucket of water.
 - Never pick up used fireworks. Used fireworks can be hot even if they are not smoldering.
 - Douse all used fireworks and duds in a bucket of water before putting them in the trash.
 - Have the fire department and emergency management system telephone number readily available before beginning to use fireworks.
 - Have a first aid kit available should anyone get injured by using fireworks.

Pets And Animals Do Not Like Fireworks As Much As You Do

- Pets and other animals have sensitive ears and could be frightened by the loud explosions from fireworks.
 - Keep pets away from fireworks and do not expose them to the loud noises of a fireworks display.
 - Pets can panic at the noises and bright flashes of lights causing them to run out of doors, jump from windows, break tethers, and leap fences.
 - Pets should be kept inside so they do not run away, get lost, or get injured.
- (courtesy American Pyrotechnics Safety & Education Foundation)

USE YOUR HEAD OR LOSE YOUR HAND!

Follow the Firework Code



Fireworks Safety Top Ten Tips

1. **Brace your fireworks with concrete blocks to prevent them from tipping over.**
(You're in Maine – everyone has concrete blocks.)
2. **Shoot fireworks off in a wide open area with lots of room**
3. **Always place the fireworks on a flat level hard surface, like pavement or compacted gravel.**
4. **Fireworks placed on a grass lawn unsecured will most likely tip over.**
5. **Have a responsible designated “Shooter” make sure everyone is at a safe distance before starting. A minimum of 200’ is recommend. Keep children as far away as possible.**
6. **Many fireworks have effects that are best viewed from a distance. Stay back.**
7. **Shoot fireworks off one at a time.**
8. **Keep the fireworks separated from each other when shooting.**
9. **Never have any part of your body over the firework unit.**
10. **Light fuse and get away – Quickly.**

**BIGBANGBOOM
FIREWORKS**



Escape Planning

Your ability to get out depends on advance warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.

- Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Everyone in the household must understand the escape plan. When you walk through your plan, check to make sure the escape routes are clear and doors and windows can be opened easily.
- Choose an outside meeting place (i.e. neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan.
- Go outside to see if your street number is clearly visible from the road. If not, paint it on the curb or install house numbers to ensure that responding emergency personnel can find your home.
- Have everyone memorize the emergency phone number of the fire department. That way any member of the household can call from a neighbor's home or a cellular phone once safely outside.
- If there are infants, older adults, or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and in the event of an emergency. Assign a backup person too, in case the designee is not home during the emergency.
- If windows or doors in your home have security bars, make sure that the bars have emergency release devices inside so that they can be opened immediately in an emergency. Emergency release devices won't compromise your security - but they will increase your chances of safely escaping a home fire.
- Tell guests or visitors to your home about your family's fire escape plan. When staying overnight at other people's homes, ask about their escape plan. If they don't have a plan in place, offer to help them make one. This is especially important when children are permitted to attend "sleepovers" at friends' homes.
- Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately. Residents of high-rise and apartment buildings may be safer "defending in place."
- Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the fire department dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.

Putting your plan to the test

- Practice your home fire escape plan twice a year, making the drill as realistic as possible.
- Make arrangements in your plan for anyone in your home who has a disability.
- Allow children to master fire escape planning and practice before holding a fire drill at night when they are sleeping. The objective is to practice, not to frighten, so telling children there will be a drill before they go to bed can be as effective as a surprise drill.
- It's important to determine during the drill whether children and others can readily waken to the sound of the smoke alarm. If they fail to awaken, make sure that someone is assigned to wake them up as part of the drill and in a real emergency situation.
- If your home has two floors, every family member (including children) must be able to escape from the second floor rooms. Escape ladders can be placed in or near windows to provide an additional escape route. Review the manufacturer's instructions carefully so you'll be able to use a safety ladder in an emergency. Practice setting up the ladder from a first floor window to make sure you can do it correctly and quickly. Children should only practice with a grown-up, and only from a first-story window. Store the ladder near the window, in an easily accessible location. You don't want to have to search for it during a fire.
- Always choose the escape route that is safest – the one with the least amount of smoke and heat – but be prepared to escape under toxic smoke if necessary. When you do your fire drill, everyone in the family should practice getting low and going under the smoke to your exit.
- Closing doors on your way out slows the spread of fire, giving you more time to safely escape.
- In some cases, smoke or fire may prevent you from exiting your home or apartment building. To prepare for an emergency like this, practice "sealing yourself in for safety" as part of your home fire escape plan. Close all doors between you and the fire. Use duct tape or towels to seal the door cracks and cover air vents to keep smoke from coming in. If possible, open your windows at the top and bottom so fresh air can get in. Call the fire department to report your exact location. Wave a flashlight or light-colored cloth at the window to let the fire department know where you are located.

*To increase fire safety for **apartment dwellers**, the National Fire Protection Association offers the following guidelines:*

Know the plan

- Make sure that you're familiar with your building's evacuation plan, which should illustrate what residents are supposed to do in the event of an emergency. The evacuation plan should be posted in places where all residents can see and review it, and the building management should hold a fire drill with occupants at least once a year. Most states also require that buildings periodically test their fire safety systems as well. Be sure to participate when your building drills take place. When looking for an apartment or high-rise home, look for one with an automatic sprinkler system. Sprinklers can extinguish a home fire in less time that it takes for the fire department to arrive.

Practice is key

- Whether your building has one floor or 50, it's essential that you and your family are prepared to respond to a fire alarm. Identify all of the exits in your building and if you are using an escape planning grid, mark them on your escape plan. Make sure to mark the various stairways too, in case one is blocked by fire.

Never use the elevator

- In case of fire, always use the stairs to get out, never the elevator. Make sure to practice using the stairs as part of your escape plan. If someone in your family has difficulty climbing down steps, make sure to incorporate a contingency for this into your plan.

Stay low

- Smoke from a fire is toxic and deadly no matter what kind of structure you live in. When you hold your fire drill, everyone in the family should practice getting low and going under the smoke to the exit. In the event of a fire, if both stairwells are filled with smoke, stay in your apartment and wait for the firefighters.

Seal yourself in for safety

- If you can't exit an apartment building due to smoke or fire in the hallway, call the fire department to report your exact location and gather in a room with a window to await their arrival. Close all doors between you and the fire. Use duct tape or towels to create a seal around the door and over air vents in order to keep smoke from coming in.

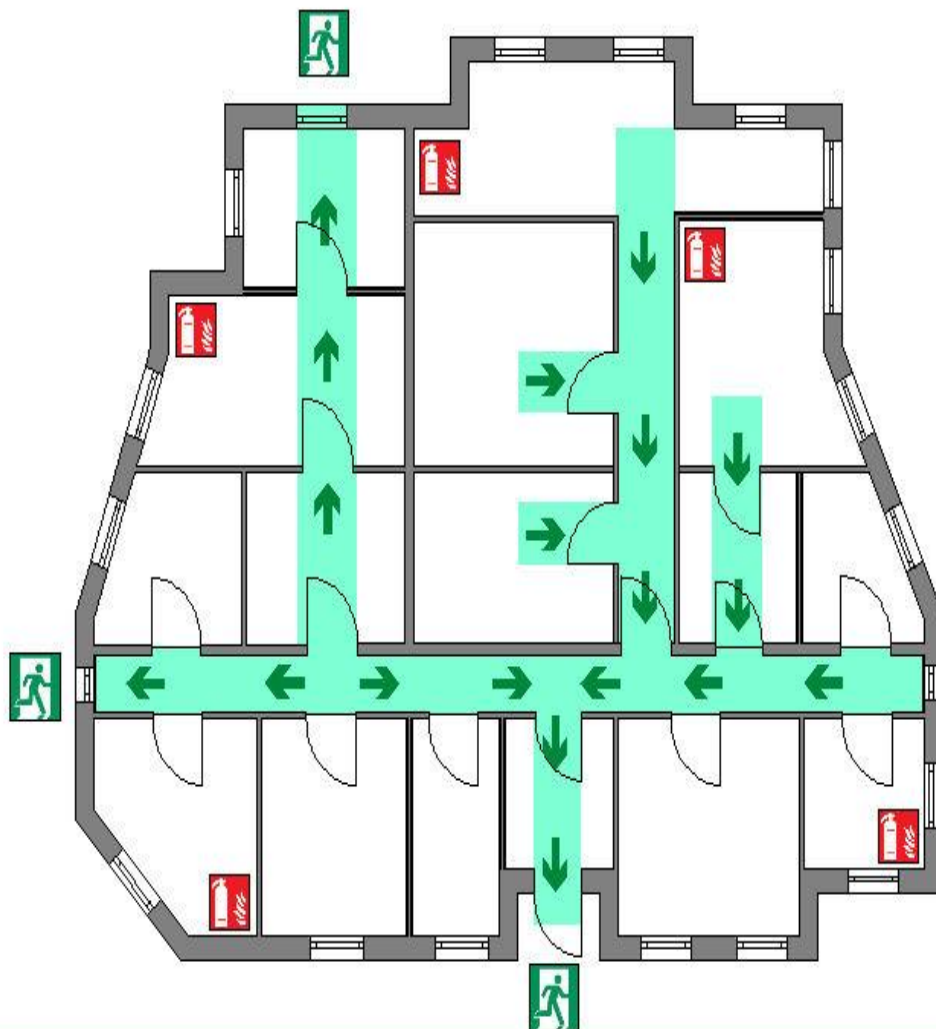
Stay by the window




- If possible, you should open your windows at the top and the bottom so fresh air can get in. Don't break the window - if smoke enters the room from outside the building, you won't be able to protect yourself.

Signal to firefighters

- Wave a flashlight or light colored cloth at the window to let the fire department know where you are located.

FIRE ESCAPE PLAN



	Escape Route
	Fire Exit
	Fire Extinguisher

Escape Planning

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.

SAFETY TIPS

- » **MAKE** a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- » **KNOW** at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- » **HAVE** an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- » **PRACTICE** your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- » **PRACTICE** using different ways out.
- » **TEACH** children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- » **CLOSE** doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

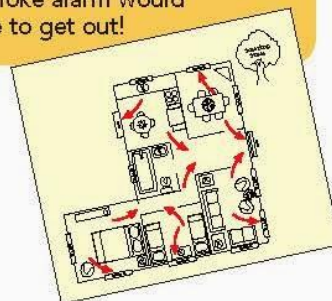
- » If the smoke alarm sounds, **GET OUT AND STAY OUT**. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- » If you have to escape through smoke, **GET LOW AND GO** under the smoke to your way out.
- » **CALL** the fire department from outside your home.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information www.nfpa.org/education
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

FACTS

- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!





Stop, Drop And Roll

Each year more than 15,000 people are seriously burned when their clothes catch on fire. In more than half of the incidents, flammable liquids or vapors were present on, or around the person's clothing. But it can happen in many ways. A person's loose sleeve may catch fire on a hot stove. Someone may be working with gasoline or some other flammable liquid and then light a cigarette. They might spray lighter fluid on a smoldering barbecue fire and the resulting flames could catch their clothes on fire. When a person's clothing catches on fire, action must be instinctive and immediate. There is NO time to think.

The one thing you should never do is run.

To minimize a burn injury when your clothes catch fire, **STOP, DROP and ROLL**. Burns are among the most painful of injuries and the third leading cause of unintentional deaths in the United States. The hands, groin, face and lungs are at the greatest risk because they are delicate structures and easily injured. The healing process is slow and painful, resulting in enormous personal suffering.

Certain types of clothing are less flammable and resist flames more than other types of clothing. Heavier clothing, fabrics with a loose fit or fluffy pile will ignite more readily than tight-fitting, dense fabric clothing. Synthetic fibers, such as nylon, once ignited, melt and burn causing severe burns. Natural fibers, such as cotton and wool, tend to burn more slowly than synthetic fibers. However, fibers that combine both synthetic and natural fibers may be of greater hazard than either fabric alone. Curtains and draperies can be sprayed with flame retardants to reduce their rate of burning. However, these chemicals should not be applied to clothing.

The principles of STOP, DROP and ROLL are simple:

- Stop, do not run, if your clothes catch on fire.
- Drop to the floor in a prone position.
- Cover your face with your hands to protect it from the flames.
- Roll over and over to smother the fire. Don't stop until the flames have been extinguished.

If you are near someone whose clothing catches on fire, be sure to stop them from running and make them STOP, DROP and ROLL.

(courtesy Town Of Landis, NC FD)



**STOP,
DROP
AND
ROLL**



Matches And Lighters

Each year children are injured and some may even die because they play with matches or lighters. It is also likely that some of these children will have gained access to matches or such like because someone else was negligent.

Follow these common sense guidance to improve your childrens fire safety with matches and lighters

Curiosity:

- Children are fascinated with flame and fire in general. It is often this natural curiosity that leads to tragedy. Never use a flame from matches, lighters or candles to pacify a child, or attract a child's attention. It may soothe a crying baby, but you are likely to be creating a problem for the future.
- Never use a candle as a nightlight for a baby or a small child. A small battery operated or plug-in, low output lamp is more soothing and more practical.

Teaching:

- Teach your children from an early age that matches and lighters are not toys.
- Make them aware of what to do if they discover any matches, lighters either in the home or outside... do not touch, tell an adult about them, Ask the adult to put them away somewhere safe.

What you can do:

- Keep matches and lighters well above the level of reach of any small child. A curious child may well climb on a chair, remember this when finding a safe place.
- Smokers should not leave their smoking materials in full view. Children will pursue their curiosity and attempt to 'steal' matches and lighters.
- Select a secure place well out of the reach of children for keeping matches and lighters. Pre-school children can reach drawer height. Others will climb onto furniture and fixtures to reach cupboards.
- Avoid kitchen appliances that require naked flames to operate. Gas cookers should be lit with igniters.
- If you have matches or lighters in your home make regular checks of your children's bedrooms and play areas. These are likely places that children experiment with fire.

(courtesy Norfolk Fire And Rescue Service)



**Don't ever let your children
play with fire**



full-learning.blogspot.com

**FIRE CATCHES,
SO DON'T PLAY WITH MATCHES.**



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.COM