

Teaching Children Fire Safety

Firefighters Are Your Friends

The Department makes every effort to ensure that young children will not be frightened by the appearance of fire fighters wearing their full gear. If little ones ever need the help of a firefighter, they are encouraged to go to them, not hide. Too often in fires, children will try to hide in a closet or under a bed. It's important that they know that they should act immediately to **"get out and stay out!"**



Home Fire Drills

Every home should have a fire escape plan. Draw up a floor plan of your home, showing all the ways out of each room. Designate a "meeting place" outside where everyone can go once they escape. That way, arriving firefighters will know right away that everyone got out safely. A plan is of little use with no practice. Hold regular fire drills at home. Push the test buttons on your smoke alarms so children will know what they sound like. Make sure they respond to a smoke alarm by getting out immediately.

Matches & Lighters

Teach children that matches and lighters are tools for grown-ups only. If they see another child playing with fire, they should tell an adult. Always keep matches and lighters hidden away in a safe place. Leaving them out in the open is an invitation for a curious child to try to use them.

Stop, Drop & Roll

This is what children should be taught to do if their clothes catch fire. In many cases, a child playing with lighters or matches sets fire to and suffers burns from their own clothing. Make sure they know that they must immediately drop to the ground, cover their face with their hands and roll over and over until they put the fire out.

Teaching Tips

Try not to scare your children, but don't sugar coat the message either. Be truthful with children about the dangers of fire and smoke. Show them that you are confident about what you will do in the event of a fire and that you can help to protect them. The most important way to ensure their safety is to install working smoke alarms on every level of your home!

Fun Links For Children

[Elmer the Safety Elephant](#)

[Elmo's Fire Safety Game](#)

[Safety City](#)

[Sparky the Fire Dog](#)

[Staying Alive](#)

[Uh-Ohs](#)
[Other Links](#)