

ALLIANCE FOR FIRE SAFETY

fice safety

October 9-15, 2016

Essay Contest Teachers Win up to \$1500 for your class! See page 2 for details.

Poster Contest Enter for a chance to win Kohl's gift cards. See page 13 for details.

MILWAUKEEWISCONSIN

This special section was prepared by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel marketing department. There was no editing or reporting from the newsroom involved.



Smoke Alarms

Your Life-Saving Insurance in Home Fires

LINDSEY M. MCKEE | CONTRIBUTOR

When it comes to having smoke alarms in Wisconsin homes, there's good news and bad news, based on data from the Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association. The good news is 96 percent of homes have smoke alarms. The bad news is that in 30 percent of those homes, the smoke alarms are not working.

Reasons for the non-operating smoke alarms vary but a few stand out. Batteries are often removed in order to power other items, like television remote controls. The alarm may have been silenced due to the beeping sound when batteries or the alarm itself requires maintenance or replacement. Some alarms are simply too old and no longer work properly. These have tragic yet preventable consequences.

"Almost every fire we go to is preventable," said Mike Wos of the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin. "Checking your smoke alarms monthly and changing batteries twice every year is the simplest thing you can do to keep your family safe. Changing the batteries when you change your clock in Spring and Fall makes for an easy reminder."

Thomas Clark of the Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association and Pleasant Prairie Fire Department concurs.

"There is no reason in this day and age why people are perishing in house fires," Clark said. "You have to realize that a smoke alarm is a life-saving device. That's going to give you early notification that there's a problem in your house."

Maintaining that life-saving device takes a few simple considerations. Smoke alarm batteries should be tested every six months and the device itself should be replaced every decade.

"The manufacturers actually tell you that after 10 years your smoke alarm may not work as well as they would when they are new and the sensors get a little bit off," said Ron Hampton of the Wisconsin State Fire Fighters Association and Cassville Fire Department.

If you're in a home where you are unsure of the age of the alarm, check for a date on the back or side of the unit, Clark said. Hampton also recommended visual clues, yellowing or other discoloration could indicate an older unit.

For residential properties, landlords are required to follow Wisconsin state codes for regular fire inspections and maintenance. However, building residents are **Teachers:** Win up to \$1500 for your class!

The Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation's Alliance for Fire Safety (AFS) encourages teachers of 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades to help prevent fires and burn injuries through education.

Thanks to a grant from the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charities Inc., AFS will award two \$1,500 grand prizes to teachers to be used in their classrooms. Additional \$500 grants also will be awarded.

To enter, teachers of 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades are invited to write a one-page essay that either:

- describes how you would use the award money to help increase fire safety in your school or community.
- describes how you used this section in your classroom.
- describes how your students used the home checklist provided in the Fire Safety section.
- explains how you have been incorporating the Fire Safety section into your curriculum throughout the academic year.
- or choose a topic unique to your classroom or school. You may also want to enclose a photograph of a bulletin board you put up with an accompanying essay.

Mail your entry to: PFFW School Incentive Program C/O Jan Heinitz, 12800 N. Lake Shore Drive, Mequon, WI 53097. Essays must be postmarked by 12 a.m., Dec. 2, 2016.

Your students can be partners with firefighters. Using this section in conjunction with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel will help students learn more about fire safety. We've also included Fire Safety Certificates to award to students who complete the home checklist on pages 9-12. Please encourage students to complete this with their parents.

Students: You could win prizes by completing the quiz on the back page. See details on the back cover.

Also, see page 13 to enter the poster contest.

For more information about PFFWC Alliance for Fire Safety, visit http://pffwcf.org/index.cfm?section=1

This timeline shows how quickly within 5 minutes — a small fire can become a lifethreatening blaze.

10 seconds

MEETS THE NEW WISCONSIN STANDARDS FOR HEALTH EDUCATION: 7:2:B1, 7:2:B2, 7:3:B1, 7:3:B2

It's 12:53 a.m.

You and your family are sound asleep. Ten seconds ago, a small fire started in your living room. In the next five minutes, your life may change forever. Or you may just need to clean up in the morning and air out the house.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

It will all depend on whether or not you have fire sprinklers in your home.

Every 84 seconds, a house burns in the United States. More than 3,000 Americans die in fires every year, 85% of them in home fires. The victims are usually children and seniors.

Although the majority of home fires start during the day, most fatal fires start at night. Like this one.

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Lightning strikes over 100 times every single second worldwide. The power of lightning is extraordinary! Each bolt can contain up to one billion volts of electricity. That's a lot of power! It takes only five volts of electricity to charge an iPad/iPhone.

Lightning is extremely hot! One flash can heat the air around it to five times hotter than the sun's surface. The heat causes the air to expand and vibrate. We know this shockwave as thunder and can be heard as far as 10 miles away from the actual thunderstorm. Lightning does strike an estimated 300 people each year. Although not common, sometimes when an individual is struck by lightning, they sustain a burn injury that reguires them to seek treatment at a burn center. During a lightning strike, metal materials such as jewelry, zippers or coins in a pocket act as the conductor causing an electrical burn. Because burns can also be internal, patients need to be assessed for severity and body surface involvement.

Lightning Facts and Myths

Myth: Hiding under a tree during a thunderstorm is safe.

Truth: Seek shelter either in an enclosed building or car but don't touch the metal. A dugout at a baseball field is not a safe shelter. Better to get wet than fried.

Myth: Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

Truth: Lightning will often strike the same place multiple times, especially if it's a tall, pointy object like the Empire State Building which gets hit over 20 times a year!

Myth: Stay off the phone during a thunderstorm.

Truth: You can use cell phones or cordless phones. Although rare, landline phones do put individuals at risk.

Website:

www.columbia-stmarys.org/CSM_Burn_Center



MEETS THE NEW WISCONSIN STANDARDS FOR HEALTH EDUCATION: 7:2:B1, 7:2:B2, 7:3:B1, 7:3:B2



One minute after the fire starts, the smoke alarm sounds.

You awaken.

You don't smell smoke, but you get up to check.

It takes almost 30 seconds to reach the stairs and start down.

90 seconds

As you descend, you start to smell smoke.

You see smoke billowing out of the living room. The curtains in the room are in flames.

The temperature at the ceiling is approaching 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

2 minutes

Heat activates the single sprinkler closest to the fire. Within seconds, the flames are controlled and may be extinguished.

Smoke in the living room starts to clear.

If your home has fire sprinklers.

2 min. 9 sec.

If not, you start back up the stairs, yelling to warn your family. By the time you reach the top of the stairs, you are blinded by smoke.

Fire is not bright. It is hidden by thick, black smoke. Building materials and furnishings give off poisonous gases as they burn. Most people who die in fires don't die from burns. Smoke and toxic fumes are almost always the killer.

Sprinklers can prevent or eliminate almost all smoke from fires.

Kitchen Safety for Kids

Preparing meals as a family is a great way to create memories and good food. But cooking-related fires remain the #1 cause of household fires. So before kids get started in the kitchen, it's important to become familiar with some basic safety tips.

Begin by assembling your "staff." All top chefs require an assistant. For young chefs under the age of 13, that means an adult should be in the kitchen.

Wearing an apron can help protect your clothing, but avoid clothing that's too big and loose. Baggy sleeves and clothing can catch fire or get caught in equipment, like the beaters of a mixer.

Safe cooking means keeping the kitchen and the chef clean. Wash your hands with soap and water before you begin your recipe, and certainly before you touch any food. Keep work surfaces clean and dry and wash your hands both before and after handling raw meat, poultry, egg, and fish products.

Give kitchen duties your full attention at all times. It takes just a second for you to be injured by a sharp knife, blender or hot food and surfaces.

Once you reach the cooking stage, make these fire-safe strategies part of every recipe:

- Use potholders or oven mitts (no dish towels) when handling hot pots, pans, or baking trays.
- Turn pot and pan handles toward the back of the stove to avoid bumps and spills.
- Use only microwave-safe cookware in the microwave --- never tinfoil or anything metal.
- Food heats unevenly in microwave ovens. Open food slowly, away from the face to prevent burns from hot steam or the food itself. Stir and test before eating or giving to children.
- Heat oil slowly. The quickest way for grease to catch fire is for it to be heated too quickly.
- Add foods to hot grease carefully. When putting things into hot grease place them in the pan with tongs or a long fork to prevent grease spatters.

- Be prepared for the possibility of a grease fire. Keep oven mitts or thick and heavy pot holders available. Always have the lid that fits the pan right at hand.
- If a grease fire starts, immediately put the lid on the pan. The flames will smother for lack of oxygen. Only after the lid is firmly on the pan should you reach out and shut the burner off. Don't touch the lid until the pan has cooled for 20 to 30 minutes. If you don't have a lid ready, a metal cookie sheet may be used.
- Never pick up a pan that is on fire. If you tip it, the fire can easily spread.



With a little bit of practice, you'll be serving up memories and meals that are safe AND savory. You can learn more at safekidswi.org.



MEETS THE NEW WISCONSIN STANDARDS FOR HEALTH EDUCATION: 7:2:B1, 7:2:B2, 7:3:B1, 7:3:B2

2 min. 25 sec.

In the blackness, you collide with your spouse. One of you goes to your son's room, the other to your daughter's.

Your son's room is filled with smoke. He's still asleep. Wrapping your son in a blanket, you carry him from the room.

3 min. 29 sec.

Downstairs, the fire spreads through the living room. The temperature at the living room ceiling approaches 1,400 degrees Fahrenheit.

Carrying your son, you reach the top of the stairs. Gasping for breath in the thick, smoky air, you start down.



3 min. 54 sec.

Fighting the heat and smoke, you reach the bottom of the stairs and escape.

Minutes later, the living room is enveloped in flames as the air in the room catches fire and flashover occurs.

Do You Know Your Smoke Alarms?

Did you know that every second counts if a fire happens in your home? You may have as little as one or two minutes to escape once you hear the sound of the smoke alarm. A smoke alarm can detect a fire and sound an alarm to let you know you need to get out quickly. But smoke alarms don't last forever. Once they stop working, they can't help you. That's why the National Fire Protection Association has chosen the theme, Don't Wait–Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years, for Fire Prevention Week.

Testing smoke alarms can be a fun activity for the entire family. Smoke alarms need to be tested at least once a month by pushing the test button. Make a chart of each smoke alarm in the home, once a grown-up tests it, check off whether it is working or not. If the smoke alarm does not make a sound, REPLACE the battery or batteries. If it still doesn't work, replace the alarm.

Take a walk through your home with a grown-up and check if your smoke alarms are 10 years old or older. To find out how old the smoke alarm is, look at the back of the alarm for the date it was made. If they are older than 10 years, they need to be replaced with new alarms. You can also help grownups take a look around your home to make sure there are enough smoke alarms. Everyone needs an alarm where they sleep. That means inside the bedrooms. You also need one outside the sleeping area in the hallway. It's also important to have a smoke alarm on every level of the home. That includes the basement.

Once you know you have enough smoke alarms and that they're working, create a home fire escape plan with your family. That way, everyone will know what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.

Here are five steps you can take with your family to prepare for a home fire drill.

- Work together to draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows.
- Know at least two ways out of every room.
- Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home where everyone can meet.
- Have a grown-up push the test button on the alarm to start the drill.
- Go outside to your meeting place with your family.

MEETS THE NEW WISCONSIN STANDARDS FOR HEALTH EDUCATION: 7:2:B1, 7:2:B2, 7:3:B1, 7:3:B2

After the fire drill you can talk to your family about what you learned. You can also plan ahead for your next fire drill. You can practice your fire drill twice a year at night and during the day. And check out *sparky.org* where you'll find free apps, music videos, e-books and games featuring Sparky the Fire Dog and friends, where you can learn more about fire safety.





3 min. 57 sec.

4 min. 16 sec.

A wall of searing heat races up the stairs. Had you been in the living room at flashover, you would not have survived.

Nothing, and no one, survives flashover.

Fire is amazingly fast.

In less than five minutes, the fire is out of control.

6 min. 12 sec.

You run across the yard and find your family waiting for you. You all head to a neighbor's house. By the time they answer the door and call 911, seven minutes have passed since the fire started.

In most communities, a four-minute response time is considered excellent.

If you have fire sprinklers, you may spend the time describing the fire and how it was controlled. If not, you'll watch your house burn as you wait.

Word Search

Find these words

| fire safety | flashove |
|-------------|----------|
| smoke alarm | sprinkle |
| classmate | blindnes |
| escape | crawl |
| sparky | survive |
| thunder | plan |
| | |

S

Word search solution is on the back cover.

| D | М | С | L | А | S | S | Μ | А | Т | Е | С | S | G |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y | С | R | S | R | Y | S | U | Ρ | Е | Ν | В | Ρ | М |
| F | Κ | А | Y | Κ | R | А | Ρ | S | S | Ρ | L | R | С |
| Ι | R | W | R | U | А | В | С | R | Ρ | R | Ι | Ι | V |
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| Y | S | С | L | R | S | D | Ρ | R | J | Η | R | Е | Ν |

Protect Your Family at Home

Did you know that each year, on average, there are over 360,000 home fires in the United States? Home is a place where we feel safe and protected, but there are a few things you can do to help prevent fires and keep your family safe.

In the kitchen:

-While cooking, keep items away from the stovetop and oven that may catch fire, such as pot holders, towels and clothing.

-Cooking fires are the leading cause of fires in homes; stay near food while cooking and monitor the level of heat. It only takes a second for a fire to start!

-Microwaves seem like a safer choice for cooking, but scald burns happen almost as often as burns from a fire or flame. Food and liquids can get to very high temperatures, even though they may not be boiling or appear hot. Be cautious and always use pot holders when pulling items out of the microwave.

In the living room and bedroom:

-Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet away from anything that may catch fire, such as curtains,

bedding and all furniture. Be sure to check with an adult before turning on a space heater. -Electrical plugs should not be overloaded. Avoid using extension cords or plug adapters as this may overload the outlet.

-Keep electrical cords out from under rugs and check for fraying. Do not use a cord that is frayed.

-Avoid placing items on or near lamps that could catch fire.

-Extinguish any burning candles when leaving the room.

While these simple things can help prevent a fire, it's still most important to make sure your family has working smoke alarms on every floor of your house and in each bedroom. Checking them regularly is one of the most important things you and your family can do to be safe in your own home!

For more information visit www.safekidswi.org



MEETS THE WISCONSIN STANDARDS FOR HEALTH EDUCATION 1:2:A2, 1:3:B3 7:2:B1, 7:2:B2, , 7:3:B1, 7:3:B2

In the distance you hear sirens approaching. Eleven minutes after the fire started, the first fire equipment arrives.

11 minutes

If you have sprinklers, firefighters will make sure the fire is out and give you the all clear. If you don't, the firefighters will start pouring thousands of gallons of water on the fire.

Fire sprinklers use less than 341 gallons of water to put out an average fire.* Firefighters use more than 2,935 gallons for an average fire.

*According to the Scottsdale Report

With sprinklers, an average fire will cause \$2,166 in damage. Without sprinklers, an average fire will cause \$45,019 in damage. A fire like this one may cost more than 10 times that much.

Home fire sprinklers save lives and money.



Is your home safe? See pages 9-12 for a checklist and guidelines.

Presented by Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition www.homefiresprinkler.org

HOME FIRE TIMELINE



TIME IN MINUTES Based upon national averages



Home Fire Sprinkler C O A L I T I O N Protect What You Value Most HomeFireSprinkler.org

Prevent Blindness

Prevent Blindness warns that there is no safe way for nonprofessionals to use fireworks. It is only safe to enjoy the splendor and excitement of fireworks at a professional display.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, fireworks are involved in thousands of injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms each year.

Most fireworks injuries occur during the one month period surrounding the Fourth of July.

Fireworks devices were involved in an estimated 10,500 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2014 (the latest year for which data is available).

An estimated 7,000 injuries were treated in hospital emergency rooms during the one-month period (June 20–July 20) surrounding the Fourth of July.

19 percent, or 1,200, of those injuries were to the eyes. Sparklers that burn at approximately 1,800° accounted for 1,400 injuries, firecrackers (1,400) and bottle rockets (100).

Males accounted for 74% of fireworks injuries.

40% of fireworks injuries were to children under age 15.

For children under 5 years old, sparklers accounted for the most estimated injuries for that specific age group.

Data from the U.S. Eye Injury Registry shows that bystanders are more often injured by fireworks than operators themselves.

Contusions, lacerations and foreign bodies were the most common injuries to eyes.

There were 11 fireworks-related deaths in 2014.

For more on this topic, *http://pb.chromatic.is/prevent-eye-injuries-fireworks!*

Do Not Let Children Play With Fireworks

Fireworks and celebrations go together, especially during the Fourth of July, but there are precautions parents can take to prevent these injuries. The best defense against kids suffering severe eye injuries and burns is to not let kids play with any fireworks.

Do Not Purchase, Use, or Store Fireworks of Any Type

Protect yourself, your family and your friends by avoiding fireworks. Attend only authorized public fireworks displays conducted by licensed operators, but be aware that even professional displays can be dangerous.

These Six Steps Can Help Save Your Child's Sight

If an accident does occur, minimize the damage to the eye. In the event of an eye emergency:

- **Do not** rub the eye. Rubbing the eye may increase bleeding or make the injury worse.
- **Do not** attempt to rinse out the eye. This can be even more damaging than rubbing.
- **Do not** apply pressure to the eye itself. Holding or taping a foam cup or the bottom of a juice carton to the eye are just two tips. Protecting the eye from further contact with any item, including the child's hand, is the goal.
- **Do not** stop for medicine! Over-the-counter pain relievers will not do much to relieve pain. Aspirin (should never be given to children) and ibuprofen can thin the blood, increasing bleeding. Take the child to the emergency room at once this is more important than stopping for a pain reliever.
- **Do not** apply ointment. Ointment, which may not be sterile, makes the area around the eye slippery and harder for the doctor to examine.
- **Do not** let your child play with fireworks, even if his/her friends are setting them off. Sparklers burn at 1800 degrees Farenheit, and bottle rockets can stray off course or throw shrapnel when they explode.





Be a detective on the case of fire safety in your home

Your role is to investigate and report on possible fire hazards so your family can correct them and make your home safe.

Fire strikes more than a million times a year in the United States. That's a big number, but people never expect a fire to happen to them. What's really sad is that most fires could have been prevented by following common sense, safety steps.

Today your family is counting on you to do some careful checking throughout your home. You also will need to plan escape routes and practice fire drills at your house.

Prepare

Preparation is an important first step for anything you plan to do.

For fire safety, this means making sure that everyone knows important information like addresses and telephone numbers.

This information should be kept in a convenient location, perhaps on your refrigerator or on a bulletin board near a telephone, so it can be found immediately. This information is especially important for younger children.

Important Information

1) The number we should call in case of a fire is

Remember: Get out first, then report the fire from a safe location.

Make sure young children understand not to use 911 unless a real emergency exists - accidental or false 911 calls tie up critical personnel and resources; it is against the law to make a false 911 phone call.

| | A | A | | N |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | J | y | Y | J |

Take this safety pledge:

"I understand that matches and lighters are not toys and should only be used by adults.

I promise NOT to use matches or lighters, and to never play with fire."

Sign your name here:

2) Write down the following information on a sheet of paper. Keep this list where you can find it easily:

- Local fire department phone number
- Local police department phone number
- Home phone number
- Parent(s)' or guardian(s)' work number(s)
- Your street address
- The city you live in

3) Check the front of your house - are the address numbers easily visible from the street in case a firefighter needs to find your home?

If the numbers are not clear, how would you describe your home to make it easy for emergency personnel to find? (Color, landmarks, or any other unique features can all help fire personnel identify your house.)



Smoke alarms are a critical first line of defense from fires, and are required in homes under Wisconsin law. Smoke alarms should be placed in every bedroom, within six feet of every bedroom, and on every floor.

Follow these steps to ensure that your smoke alarms are in place and operating properly.

Smoke Alarms

4) COUNT SMOKE ALARMS

There are _______ smoke alarms in our home. (There should be AT LEAST ONE on EVERY LEVEL of your home including one in every occupied sleeping area, and include the basement, where a fire may start unnoticed.)

5) TEST SMOKE ALARMS MONTHLY

Push the test button on each alarm to ensure it is working properly. Familiarize yourself with how the alarm sounds, so if you hear a smoke alarm, you'll know what to do.

6) CLEAN THE SMOKE ALARMS

Open your alarms and gently vacuum or clean any dust or other contaminants that could block the vents and prevent the alarm from working.

7) SET UP A MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

If your family doesn't have a regular maintenance schedule for the smoke alarms, now is the time to create one. Start by replacing all smoke alarm batteries and replace them again within 12 months. Buy new smoke alarms every 10 years.

MEETS THE WISCONSIN STANDARDS FOR HEALTH EDUCATION 7:2:B1 7:2:B2 7:3:B1 7:3:B2

Article submitted by Safe Kids Wisconsin

PART 2 Prevent

Here's your chance - show your skills!

Many fires are caused by carelessness or by not noticing what could turn into a dangerous situation. These fires can be prevented with education, common sense and planning.

Check it out:

Go on a fire safety check around your home, looking for fire-risk situations. Once you complete your checklist, find any NO boxes that you checked. These risks need to be fixed immediately.

All Rooms

Look for these danger signs as you examine the rooms in your home:

Electrical Cords and Wires

Examine the cords on your electrical appliances like the television set, lamps, computer equipment, microwave oven and other appliances.

YES NO

- Are all wires and cords in good repair?
 Are wires and cords kept out from
 - Are wires and cords kept out from beneath furniture or carpets?
- Are you sure there are no wires attached to walls with staples or tacks that can damage the insulation?
- Are outlets and extension cords carrying the proper electrical load as indicated on their rating labels? Be sure that you do not have more than one item plugged into each individual outlet in your home – all it takes is one spark from an overloaded outlet to start a fire.

Heating Devices

YES NO

- Are space heaters or other heating devices UL listed and always kept at least 3 feet away from anything?
- Are heating devices placed on a flat, level floor to avoid tipping over?
- Do you turn off portable heaters in bedrooms before going to sleep?
- Is the furnace kept in good repair with filters replaced regularly?
- Are heating vents kept clear, especially of flammable items like paper, boxes or clothing?

Appliances

YES NO

 \bigcirc

 Are electrical appliances like televisions, stereos and computer equipment properly ventilated to avoid overheating?

Kitchen

Stove

YES NO

 \bigcirc

 \bigcirc

 \bigcirc

- O When you cook, do you stay in the kitchen?
- O Is your stove clear of flammable items?
- Are curtains, hanging cords, papers, trash or other flammables near the stove?
- Are hot pads, papers and flammable items off the range?
- Is the stove cleaned regularly to remove flammable grease buildup?
- Is there a fire extinguisher within easy reach of the stove?
- Are you careful not to wear loose-fitting clothes that may catch fire by coming in contact with a burner?
- \bigcirc \bigcirc Are all burners turned off when not in use?

Appliances

YES NO

- Are kitchen appliances unplugged when not in use?
- Are hot items like toasters and coffee makers clear of flammable items?

Microwave Ovens

YES NO

Are you careful to NEVER use paper, aluminum foil, cans or other metal items in a microwave oven?

Matches or Lighters

YES NO

 \bigcirc

- Are flammable items including matches, lighters or lighter fluid stored out of the reach of children?
- If members of your family smoke, do they use ashtrays?
 Are ashtrays emptied in a tin can any
 - Are ashtrays emptied in a tin can and NEVER in a wastebasket or trash can where they may start a fire?

TAKE NOTE!

In the event of a stove fire, you should NEVER attempt to use water to extinguish a grease fire. Water will only help the fire spread. Turn off the heat and cover the pan with a lid until cool.

Living Room

YES NO

- \bigcirc \bigcirc Does your fireplace have a fire screen?
- Is caution exercised to keep toddlers from touching hot fireplace doors?
- Are combustible materials kept clear of the fireplace?
- Is the chimney cleaned regularly to avoid flammable buildup?

Bedrooms

| YES | NO | |
|------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 0 | \bigcirc | Are windows and doors able to be easily opened by the family member who sleeps in the room? |
| 0 | \bigcirc | Are all sources of ignition including candles and smoking materials kept away from beds? |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | Are bedding materials fire-resistant? |
| \bigcirc | 0 | Do you turn off space heaters before going to bed? |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | Are space heaters kept at least 3 feet away from items that can burn? |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | If the bedroom is above the first floor, is there a |
| | | ladder or other means of exiting the room in case |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | Is there a full water bottle and a towel stored in |
| 0 | Ŭ | each bedroom to cover mouth and nose from |
| П | | smoke in case of a fire? |
| В | ath | room |
| YES | NO | |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | Are items like hair dryers and curling irons used |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | sately and allowed to cool before being put away? |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | nail polish or other flammable cosmetics stored |
| \sim | \sim | safely in metal containers before being disposed of? |
| \bigcirc | 0 | Are hall polish and other flammable materials stored away from all beat sources? |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | Are pressurized canisters (hair spray, cleaning |
| | | supplies, etc.) stored away from heat sources? |
| B | Base | ment/Attic/Garage |
| YFS | NN | |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | Is the furnace kept clear of flammable |
| _ | _ | materials? |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | Are dangerous or flammable liquids stored safely in proper containers and kept away from heat sources? |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | Are newspapers or other paper |
| \frown | \bigcirc | recyclables discarded regularly? |
| $\left \right\rangle$ | $\left \right\rangle$ | Are frammable recyclables disposed of regularity? |
| ŏ | ŏ | Are major appliances like washers and dryers |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | properly ventilated to avoid overheating? |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | Are circuit panels and tuse boxes secured and in repair Are all of your fuses properly installed and |
| \bigcirc | \bigcirc | maintained? (A penny or improper fuse) |
| | | should never be used to replace a faulty |

Give yourself a pat on the back! Your top-notch reporting shows you're a leader. Keep up the good work.

fuse or circuit breaker.)

PART 3 Plan

TAKE NOTE! Remind the adults in your house to never use smoking materials while in bed.

Make a Fire Escape Plan and practice it several times a year to ensure that if a fire does strike, everyone will know what to do to get out safely.

Follow these steps:

- **1)** Draw a floor plan of your home, including rooms, hallways, stairs, escape windows and exits. (If you have Internet access, you can find free Home Fire Escape Plan grids at *www.nfpa.org*)
- 2) Using a brightly colored marker, highlight two separate evacuation routes for each bedroom. One exit may need to be a window if fire blocks a door. Second-story rooms should have access to a ladder or other means of safe exit.
- 3) Establish a meeting place outside, in front of the house. Our family's outside meeting place
- is: ____
- 4) Plan where you can phone the fire department from after you have gotten out of the house.
- 5) Assign adults to be responsible for children, the elderly or members of the household with disabilities.

- **6**) Have flashlights available should the power go out.
- 7) In case of a fire, try to cover your nose and mouth with a wet cloth to avoid smoke. Smoke and gases rise, so practice staying low and crawling.
- 8) Remind young children in your family that if a fire occurs, DON'T HIDE! In many instances, a child will become frightened and hide in a closet or under a bed and become trapped.
- **9**) Practice testing the door for heat with the back of your hand. Close doors behind you when leaving a room to help slow down a fire.

You're an ace detective! Your skill and careful planning now bring you to the final piece — practicing your escape plans.

Check Exit Routes

YES NO

- O Are keys readily available for dead-bolted locks?
- O Do security bars on doors and windows have quick-release devices inside?
- Can dead-bolt or other locks be opened without a key from inside the house, and do children know how to open all locks?
- \bigcirc Can all family members unlatch door and window locks?
- Are passageways and exits well lit and clear of obstructions? Do you have night lights in rooms and hallways to help with your exit?
- Are there fire extinguishers in your home or apartment building? Adult family members should know the location of fire extinguishers and how to use them.

Live in an Apartment?

Be sure you know where the fire escape is.

Count the number of doors in your building to get to the exit, because in a fire, you may not be able to see an exit sign.

There are _____ doors to our nearest exit.

NEVER use the elevator if there is a fire in the building. The elevator may fail and go to the floor where the fire is.



You solved the case!

Your investigating has helped to protect your home from fire. Your family can count on you for safety. After all, prevention is the best way to fight fires!

PART 4 Practice

Schools have fire drills to make sure all the students and teachers know what to do when the alarm goes off. Having fire drills at home is a great idea too! Practicing is the best way to increase the chances that everyone will get out safely if a fire occurs.

Since many house fires occur at night, you may want to practice one of these drills at bedtime. To begin, have your family members lie in bed with their eyes closed, pretending to be asleep.

Before you start a drill, go over the steps listed to ensure that everyone knows what to do.

Fire Drill No. 1

1) DISCUSS with everyone in the family what the primary exit route is (such as getting out through the bedroom's door) and what the secondary exit route is (such as using the room's window if the door is blocked by fire).

2) ACTIVATE YOUR SMOKE ALARM using the test button so everyone knows what it sounds like.

3) CHECK YOUR DOOR — Remember to feel the door with the back of your hand. In a real fire, don't open the door if it feels warm!

4) EXIT the house following your primary exit route. Move swiftly, but don't run.

5) CLOSE ALL DOORS behind you as you leave. Closing doors helps slow the spread of fire and smoke.

6) GATHER at your predetermined meeting place and make sure everyone is accounted for. In the event of an actual fire, if someone is not accounted for — DO NOT RETURN TO THE HOME. When firefighters arrive on the scene, you will need to let them know who's missing, and their probable location in the home.

7) TALK about how the fire drill went. Did everyone know the exit route and meeting place? Are there any problems that need to be addressed so that exiting would be safer?

Fire Drill No. 2

What to do if trapped by fire

This drill helps people cope with the most serious of emergency fire situations — being caught in a room with a fire right outside the door and no safe way to get out.

1) STAY SAFE FROM SMOKE — Stay low! Use a wet cloth or towel to cover your mouth and nose to protect yourself from smoke and harmful gases.

2) CHECK YOUR DOOR — For this drill, pretend the door is warm and cannot be opened. If you cannot safely exit a room, your top priority now is to make sure firefighters can locate you and help you get out safely. Emergency personnel arrive at a fire scene very quickly — usually within 5 or 10 minutes of receiving a call for help.

3) LET FIREFIGHTERS KNOW WHERE YOU ARE

— If you are unable to get out of the room, go to the window, wave a towel or bed sheet and shout so emergency personnel can find you. If it is nighttime, waving a flashlight or lamp also can help firefighters spot you more quickly.

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MEETS THE WISCONSIN STANDARDS FOR HEALTH EDUCATION 7:2:B1 7:2:B2 7:3:B1 7:3:B2 Article submitted by Safe Kids Wisconsin



Make Sure Your Home is Safe!

We created an escape plan and practiced an escape drill on (insert date)



Home Exit Plan

In a fire, everyone in your house needs to know how to get safely out of any room, and where to meet outside.

- Draw and label each of the rooms in your house. Use a separate page for each of the floors in your house.
- Draw arrows from each room to at least two different escape routes (doors or windows). Be sure to mark your meeting place



Fire Escape Steps

Exiting safely from a burning building is a key lesson for everyone. Create and practice a plan that can help you escape safely.

- 1) If you are in bed, roll to the floor. $\ensuremath{\text{DO NOT}}$ sit up or stand up. Stay low! Crawl to a door.
- 2) Check the door with the $\ensuremath{\textbf{BACK}}$ of your hand.
- 3) If the door is **COOL**, open it **SLOWLY**. If it looks clear, crawl to an exit. Signal to others by pounding on the wall and yelling.
- 4) If the door is **HOT, DO NOT** open it. Put a blanket, towel or sheet under it to keep smoke out.
- 5) Crawl to a window. Open it or break it (protect your face from the flying glass).
- 6) Shout and signal for help with a cloth.
- 7) If the window is near the ground (5 feet or less) climb out of the window.
- 8) Go to the planned meeting place. **NEVER** go back into the house!
- 9) Call 911 or tell an adult to report the fire.

SPONSORED PA BY:







Poster Contest

You could win Kohl's gift cards from the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation

Here's a chance for students to be recognized for promoting fire safety with their artwork. Winning posters will receive Kohl's gift cards from the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation Alliance for Fire Safety.

Suggestions for posters include emphasizing a safety tip, promoting National Fire Prevention Week or promoting a fire safety slogan. All entries will be considered for use in upcoming promotions, including next year's Milwaukee Journal Sentinel/Newspaper in Education Fire Safety section, seen by students, teachers and parents throughout Wisconsin.

Rules

Poster entries must meet the following criteria to be considered for the contest:

• Poster must be done by a 4th, 5th, 6th or 7th & 8th grade student.

• Color or black and white art is acceptable in any media — pencil, ink, crayon, watercolor, etc.

 All entries must include the student artist's name, grade, school, teacher, address and telephone number (a school address and number are acceptable). This information must either be written on the back of the artwork or firmly attached to the artwork for identification purposes.

• 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17" final size.

 If you will be entering computergenerated art, the finished piece must be submitted as a printed copy; electronic files will not

Only one entry per student.

Deadline for poster entries: Postmarked by December 2, 2016.

Awards will be posted by January 31, 2017.

Judging

• All entries will be judged by a panel of Wisconsin fire safety experts based on the following criteria:

50% Effectiveness of the message

25% Creativity

25% Artistic ability

• Please note that judges' decisions are final.

Prizes

GRAND PRIZE Winner will receive a Grand Prize certificate and a \$100 Kohl's gift card.

FIRST PLACE Winner will receive a First Place certificate and a \$75 Kohl's gift card.

SECOND PLACE Winner will receive a Second Place certificate and a \$50 Kohl's gift card.

HONORABLE MENTION Winner will receive a certificate and a \$25 Kohl's gift card.

Entry Coupon

Only students in 4th - 8th grades are eligible to enter.

| Student's name |
|--|
| School |
| Teacher's name |
| Grade |
| School phone |
| School address |
| City, state, zip |
| Please mail entries to: |
| Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation |
| 321 E. Main Street, Suite 200, Madison, WI 53703 |



Energy Safety *from We Energies*

Electricity and natural gas are important parts of your daily life. You use them to heat your home, cook your food and power things like TVs and computers. That's why it's important to use energy safely. Follow these rules to stay safe around electricity and natural gas:



Stay away from power lines.

Stay far away from all power lines – especially when they're lying on the ground. Never climb trees or fly kites near power lines. And don't release metallic balloons outdoors – they may touch power lines, causing fires and outages.



Natural gas smells like rotten eggs. If you smell natural gas, do not use a light switch or even a phone, which could generate a spark and cause a fire or explosion. Get everyone out of the house and tell a trusted adult to call We Energies for help.



Mr. Ouch means danger. Never play near electrical equipment such as substations, power poles or transformers (green boxes). When you see Mr. Ouch, don't touch.





Outlets are for plugs.

Don't put your fingers or any object other than a plug into an electrical outlet. And keep electrical appliances away from water. Electricity + Water = DANGER.

Call before you dig.

Before doing any digging or planting in your yard, call Diggers Hotline at 811 to have public underground utilities marked for free. And don't pull out marker flags until the work is complete; others working in your yard may need to know where underground utilities are located to avoid a dangerous accident.

Go to **we-energies.com** for more energy safety information.



/E-160050-10-GJ-NII

5 Smoke Alarm Safety Reminders from State Farm[®]



Test all smoke alarms at least **once a month**.

Source: www.nfpa.org

The information in this article was obtained from various sources. While we believe it to be reliable and accurate, we do not warrant the accuracy or reliability of the information. These suggestions are not a complete list of every loss control measure. The information is not intended to replace manuals or instructions provided by the manufacturer or the advice of a qualified professional. Nor is it intended to effect coverage under any policy. State Farm makes no guarantees of results from use of this information. We assume no liability in connection with the information nor the suggestions made.

State Farm[®]

Naughty or Nice: A Look into the Labs Where UL Tests the Safety of Holiday Products

At Underwriters' Laboratories (UL), engineers test seasonal decorative items to help ensure a safe holiday season.

With the holiday season coming, many people will outfit their homes in festive décor, such as lighting strings, Christmas trees and more. However, these decorative items can pose safety risks, including fire and electrical shock hazards.

For this reason, UL has played an important role in developing and adapting holiday décor safety requirements for more than 90 years. In the late-1990s, UL updated its safety requirements for seasonal holiday and decorative products, resulting in a decrease in injuries and fatalities from related accidents. While lighting strings have been around for nearly a century, not all lighting strings are created equal. That's why UL tests products for indoor only versus indoor and outdoor use. A common test for indoor lights is a "pull test" — simulating common accidents like a person tripping over a wire and yanking the light strand from the socket. Outdoor lights undergo tests that evaluate how the product reacts to precipitation, extreme temperatures and water exposure.

UL has been testing live Christmas trees for decades, evaluating the rates of heat between wellmaintained, watered trees and poorly kept, dry trees. Intuitively, dry trees burn at a much faster rate, but watered trees are also at risk when they are too close to heat sources like fireplaces and candles. *www.ul.com*

MEETS THE NEW WISCONSIN STANDARDS FOR HEALTH EDUCATION: 7:2:B1, 7:2:B2, 7:3:B1, 7:3:B2

Welcoming Classmates That Have Been Burned Back to School

If a friend or classmate of yours has suffered a burn injury, the thought of going back to school might bring about mixed feelings for him or her. Your classmate will probably be excited to see friends again, but may also feel nervous and wonder whether he or she will be treated differently because of the burn injury. Burn injuries are all unique and require different treatments and recoveries. Your classmate might have visible scars or he or she may be wearing splints, bandages or a special face mask when returning to school — all things that help with the healing of scars. Your classmate might also have to do special stretching or exercises throughout the day as part of the recovery. All these things tend to draw more attention to your classmate, which most likely will make him or her more uncomfortable.

So what can you do to help welcome your classmate back to school? Here are some tips and tools that will put your classmate more at ease during the transition back to school:

- Look your classmate in the eye when talking to him or her. It's okay to look (but not okay to stare) – no one likes being stared at or talked about behind their backs!
- Ask your classmate for permission before asking a question about the burn injury. He or she might not feel like talking about it and that's okay – remember it's your classmate's story to tell
- Include your classmate in your favorite activities
- Encourage your classmate if you see him or her struggling or having a hard time
- Offer help when he or she might need some extra assistance doing something
- Stick up for your classmate if you see him or her getting teased or bullied

More About Bullying

Bullying comes in many forms – teasing, kicking, hitting, threatening, name calling, making jokes, cyberbullying, or even excluding people from a group. Bullying is never acceptable and should not be tolerated by anyone! If you ever see any of your classmates being bullied, you can be the bigger person and a good friend by telling the bully to stop, or reporting the bullying to a teacher.

Be a Good Friend

You can take charge and do your part in welcoming the burn injured classmate back to school. Recovery from a burn injury is hard work and your classmate has demonstrated a lot of strength, courage and bravery. As a friend, you will notice that when you look past the scars and interact with your friend as you would with any other classmate, you will realize that having scars does not change who your friend is and why you like spending time with him or her! For more information about school reentry after a burn injury, see Phoenix Society's The Journey Back program: *https://www.phoenix-society.org/ our-programs/kids/school-reentry*.



Today's Fires Require New Thinking To Survive!

A fire is a fire right? What could be different? The materials we have filled our homes with and the way we have made our homes more energy efficient has created a whole new fire problem that requires a whole new way of thinking if we want to be sure to escape.

Thirty years ago, the experts estimated that we had 17 minutes on average to escape our home safely from the time a fire started. Today, according to the National Fire Protection Association, we have less than 4 minutes. What happened?

We know that fire requires oxygen to burn and humans require oxygen to breath. Homes are sealed up tight as to preserve energy and lower heating and air conditioning bills. This creates an environment where there is less oxygen to breath. When a fire starts and we battle for who gets the oxygen, the fire will always win. As the fire burns and begins to take the oxygen away from the sleeping occupants in the home, it begins to put them into a deeper sleep, making it less likely they will hear an alarm.

The materials in homes have also changed dramatically. Try to find something in your home that is natural? Almost everything is made from synthetics that burn faster and hotter than ever. Look at all the plastics we have in our homes. Plastic is a petroleum based product that also burns hot and fast. If we do have anything natural such as wood, it is covered with paint or varnish so now it is putting off tremendous amounts of toxickilling gasses as the fire burns.

With less time than 30 years ago, we cannot use the same thinking, methods and technology that we had and expect to escape a burning home uninjured. The ionization smoke alarms, which are the most common, were developed in the late 60's and for all practical purposes have not changed...but fires have!

To combat the time problem we have today, we need to have an earlier warning. We need to know about any type of fire, whether flaming or smoldering and we must know about it while it is still contained in the room where it started. The days of installing a few detectors "defensively" and waiting for the fire to come to us are over. That may not allow the needed time for escape.

Consider going on the offense and take advantage of some of the technology that is available today in the form of the photoelectric technology that can sense a smoldering fire quicker without giving you false alarms. Be careful about buying just any photoelectric detector as they are not all created equal. There are many new functions available to make these detectors long-lasting and carry longer warranties, such as removable, cleanable smoke chambers, self-diagnostics, 10-year batteries, military-specification hardware, automatic drift compensation, etc. When these types of smoke detectors are used in conjunction with totally selfcontained modern heat detection, you have complete protection that will give you an early warning to any type of fire that starts in any room of your home...and requires little maintenance.

And isn't that what we all want, peace of mind knowing we have time to escape a fire...and not have to mess with it! www.TruWatch.com



Smoke Alarms

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

responsible for reporting any issues with their smoke alarm to the landlord immediately.

"People don't always take having a smoke alarm seriously," said David Bloom of the Wisconsin State Chiefs Association and Town of Madison Fire Department. "You don't think a house fire is going to happen to you until it does happen to you. You've got to have smoke alarms, you need to test your smoke alarm, change the batteries every six months unless you have a long-term lithium battery then change the alarm every 10 years."

In addition to a working smoke alarm, practice is key. Push the alarm button so all in the home know what it sounds like, and train them on what that sound means and what actions should be taken. Ensure all in the household, including visitors, are aware of the at least two ways to exit the home and the meeting place once outside of the home.

Your local fire department is a great resource for receive guidance on your smoke alarm as well as other key parts of fire safety. Bloom said you may even invite your local fire inspector into your home to take a look at your outlets, provide tips on safe cooking, and get the expert's eyes on that life-saving smoke alarm. Wisconsin Smoke Alarm and Fire Education (WisSAFE) is helping homeowners statewide obtain working smoke alarms with it is a fire service and public service collaboration in partnership with the American Red Cross. Clark, Hampton and Bloom are three of the seven members of the WisSAFE board of directors."Knowing chances of surviving a fire increase by 50% when you have working smoke alarms makes this a life-saving venture," said Patty Flowers, Regional Red Cross CEO. "Together, we will canvass the State of Wisconsin to ensure no one is without them. With an overall goal of reducing fatal fires by 25% within five years, the goal is lofty! With the strength and involvement of local partnerships, we can make this happen. Lives depend on it."

The American Red Cross became a partner in smoke alarm installation and fire education in January 2016. Red Cross volunteers supply smoke alarms to local fire departments then fire services teams visit local homes to install the detectors.

"This WisSAFE program is vitally important in Wisconsin communities because lives will be saved," Wos said. "Never before, in Wisconsin, has a program like this been accomplished at this scale and now with our partnership with the American Red Cross we can sustain this program well into the future."

WisSAFE also offers fire education and advice. Hampton said that during smoke alarm installations they also ask residents about things such as owning a fire extinguisher and having a fire evacuation plan that is regularly practiced.

"Education is so important," Bloom said. "This partnership is great because we're always looking for methods to finance for public education on having a safe home."

A major part of that education, according to Bloom, Clark and Hampton, is getting people to focus on what is important and what deserves your protection.

"When you look in your house, look at the things that are most valuable to you," Hampton said. "Look at your family and look at the pictures on the wall. Smoke alarms are the cheapest insurance we have to make sure that everybody gets out of a house fire alive."

For more information on WisSAFE please visit *www.WisSAFE.com*, call (608) 579-0311, or email *SmokeAlarms@WisSAFE.com*. You may also contact your local fire department.

Smoke Alarm Checklist

Take a moment to ensure your smoke alarm is in working order.

- Check the back or side of your smoke alarm for an expiration date to ensure it is less than 10 years old
- Change your unit's batteries every six months or invest in a unit with a 10-year lithium battery
- Test your smoke alarm monthly to ensure it is operating properly
- Keep batteries in the smoke alarm at all times
- Place a smoke alarm in every room if possible, but especially:
 - Sleeping rooms
 - Each floor of the home
 - Hallways
 - Rooms with a lot of electrical equipment
- Contact your local fire inspector for additional fire safety guidance and assistance

What did you learn?

For 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade students only.

Check out what you know about fire safety. Answer these questions and return it to your teacher. When your teacher sends the completed quizzes to the address below, you are entered in the drawing for Best Buy gift cards! Incorrect answers do not disqualify entry from the prize drawing. **Deadline: November 15, 2016**

True or False

- 1. Some fireworks are safe to use. TRUE or FALSE?
- Turn pot and pan handles toward the back of the stove to avoid bumps and spills. TRUE or FALSE?
- As a fire burns, it begins to take away oxygen from the sleeping occupants in the home.

TRUE or FALSE?

4. Hiding under a tree during a thunderstorm is safe.

TRUE or FALSE?

5. In the case of an eye injury - ibuprofen can be taken for pain relief.

TRUE or FALSE?

Fill in the Blanks

- Space heaters should be kept at least _____feet away from anything that may catch fire.
- 7. Smoke alarms should be replaced every _____ years.
- B. During a fire drill, you should learn of at least _____ ways out of every room in your house.
- According to the National Fire Protection Association, we have less than _____ minutes to escape our home safely from the time a fire starts.
- Smoke alarms should be placed at least
 _____ feet from the stove to reduce false alarms.

MEETS THE NEW WISCONSIN STANDARDS FOR HEALTH EDUCATION: 1:2:A1, 1:3:A1, 7:2:B1, 7:2:B2, 7:3:B1, 7:3:B2



WIN PRIZES!

By completing the above quiz, you could win Best Buy gift cards:

Two students will win \$100 Best Buy gift cards.

Two students will win \$50 Best Buy gift cards.

Winners will be notified by November 30, 2016

Thank you!

Thanks to the generous contributions of the sponsors, students throughout Wisconsin are able to participate in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's award-winning "Fire Safety" program, developed in cooperation with the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation Alliance for Fire Safety. Students learn lifesaving lessons about fire and burn prevention, gas and electrical safety, and risk prevention techniques.



Newspaper in Education salutes the contributions of our sponsors!

School phone number

eacher and Grade

Name of school

Student name

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Milwaukee, WI 53203

State St.

333 W.

NIE Fire Safety Section

Send to:

This educational supplement is designed to provide the public with general information on fire safety. The Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation Alliance for Fire Safety, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and sponsors of this section assume no liability for any actions taken by persons based on the information contained herein.

Fire Safety section team: NIE Supervisor: Andrew Johnson

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