

Safety Educator

Winter Edition



2018



K9 Molly



CALLING ALL 3rd GRADE STUDENTS to Participate in the 6th Annual Fire & Life Safety Calendar Contest!

The NH State Fire Marshal's Office, as well as the NH Fire Prevention Society, are calling out to ALL the **3rd Grade Students** within the state of New Hampshire.... **WE NEED YOU!!**

We all know that Fire Prevention and Life Safety Awareness should be a part of daily life throughout the year. Every year we invite 3rd grade students (in public, private and homeschool settings) to take on this fun, educational challenge of researching a fire and life safety theme and designing a poster showing their important fire prevention and life safety message. **Students will need to:**

- **Research** chosen topic from list to ensure message and picture are accurate.
- Use **white paper** not exceeding 11x17.
- Hold paper in **landscape** orientation.
- Fill out the contact information (form online) and attach to the **back of poster**.
- Submit no later than **February 23, 2018**.

Now remember kids, we do encourage you to ask your classroom, or art teacher, to get the whole class involved, but you can certainly enter individually! Winners will be notified and invited to attend an Evening of Recognition with Sparky the Fire Dog!



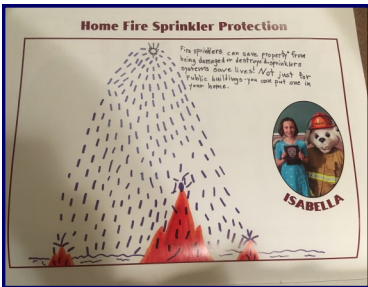
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JANUARY: Home Fire Sprinkler Protection

Isabella Ford, Lancaster Elementary School, Lancaster



Isabella would like to remind New Hampshire home owners that fire sprinklers can save property from being damaged or destroyed. Sprinkler systems save lives! Not just for public buildings—you can put one in your home. Thank you Isabella for this important reminder ~ sprinklers can save lives and limit property damage!

HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES



Over 80% of fire deaths occur in the home. Home fire sprinklers can save lives. Sprinklers respond quickly and effectively to fire, often extinguishing the fire before the fire department can arrive. Only the sprinkler closest to the fire activates, spraying water on the fire.



SPRINKLER FACTS:

- Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. In many situations a family who has survived a fire will also have their "home" to live in and enough of the items and space in their home to continue living their lives as they did before.
- The cost of a home fire sprinkler system in a new home averages \$1.35 per sprinklered square foot, totaling an amount similar to what is spent for carpet upgrades, paving stone driveway or a whirlpool bath.
- A home fire sprinkler system can reduce the homeowner's insurance premium.
- Fire departments use roughly 10 times more water than a fire sprinkler would use to contain a fire.
- Fire sprinklers are environmentally friendly. They can reduce the amount of water run-off and pollution, fire damage by up to 71%, and water usage to fight a home fire by as much as 91%.
- Cigar smoke or burnt toast will not activate a fire sprinkler. Only the high temperature of a fire will activate the sprinkler.
- A home fire sprinkler system is easy to maintain. Just inspect your home to make sure the sprinklers are not blocked by something that would prevent the water from coming out such as paint and be sure the main control valve is never turned off.
- Home fire sprinklers are effective in cold and warm climates. Guidelines have been created for the proper installation of systems to avoid pipes freezing. A home fire sprinkler system should be winterized the same way a domestic water supply is winterized.



It Can Happen In A Flash With A Splash

LIQUID AND STEAM BURN LIKE FIRE

Each year, over 450,000 burn injuries occur in the United States that are serious enough to require medical treatment. Between 2007 and 2013, the proportion of burn center admissions due to scald burns increased from 29.8% to 33.7%. Join us in the fight to prevent severe burn and scald injuries!

- Set your water heater at 120 degrees F/48 degrees C or less at the faucet.
- Use a thermometer to test the water coming out of your bath water tap.
- Run your hand through bath water to test for hot spots.
- Use back burners and turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so children cannot pull them down.
- Use oven mitts when cooking or handling hot food and drinks.
- Stir and test food cooked in the microwave before serving. Open heated containers away from you from back to front.
- Keep children away from the stove when cooking by using a safety gate for younger children and marking with tape a 3-foot "no-kid zone" for older children.
- Keep hot drinks away from the edge of tables and counters and avoid using tablecloths and placemats.
- Use a "travel mug" with a tight-fitting lid for all hot drinks.
- Never hold or carry a child while you have a hot drink in your hand.



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HOME SAFETY FOR OLDER ADULTS

Knowing what to do in the event of a fire is particularly important for older adults. At age 65, people are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires compared to the population at large. Take a moment to visit with older neighbors and family members to ensure that their homes and lives are kept as safe as possible!

•Keep it Low

Consider sleeping in a room on the ground floor in order to make emergency escapes easier. Have a telephone installed where you sleep in case of emergency.

•Sound the Alarm

Make sure that smoke alarms are installed in every sleeping room and outside any sleeping areas. If anyone in your household is deaf or hard of hearing, consider installing a smoke alarm that uses a flashing light or vibration to alert you to a fire emergency.

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•Do the Drill

Practice regular fire drills to make sure you know what to do in the event of a home fire. If you or someone you live with cannot escape alone, designate a member of the household to assist, and decide on backups in case the designee isn't home.



•Open Up

Make sure that you are able to open all doors and windows in your home. Locks and pins should open easily from inside. Check to be sure that windows haven't been sealed shut with paint or nailed shut; if they have, arrange for someone to break the seals all around your home or remove the nails.

•Stay Connected

Keep a telephone nearby, along with emergency phone numbers so that you can communicate with emergency personnel if you're trapped in your room by fire or smoke.



Wood & Pellet Stove Safety

As the temperature drops outside, wood and pellet stoves may be fired up inside the home. What you may not realize is that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fires during the winter months.

- ▶ Have a QUALIFIED professional install stoves, chimney connectors, and chimneys.
- ▶ Stoves should have the LABEL of an independent testing laboratory.
- ▶ In wood stoves, burn only DRY, seasoned wood. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned wood pellets.
- ▶ Have your chimney and stove INSPECTED and cleaned by a certified chimney sweep every fall just before heating season.
- ▶ CLEAN the inside of your stove periodically using a wire brush.

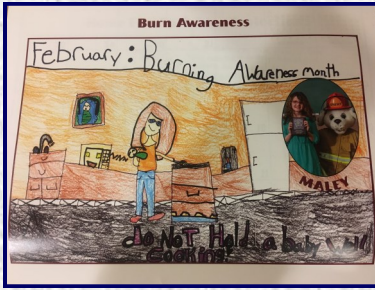


▶ Allow ashes to COOL before disposing of them. Place ashes in a covered metal container. Keep the container at least 10 feet away from the home and other buildings.

▶ Keep a CLOSE EYE on children whenever a wood or pellet stove is being used. Remind them to stay at least 3 feet away from the stove.

- ▶ Stoves need SPACE. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- ▶ INSTALL and maintain carbon monoxide alarms (CO) outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect the CO alarms. When one sounds, they all sound.





FEBRUARY: Burn Awareness

Maley Clark, Maple Wood Elementary, Somersworth

Maley Clark reminds us on the importance of NOT holding a baby while cooking. This could lead to possible burn injuries and accidents. Thank you Maley for your important reminder!



Winter Storm Safety:

As we know here in New Hampshire, winter storms can happen almost anytime, anywhere and they can certainly cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.



- Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency. Clear driveways and front walks of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.

- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, fire-fighters will be able to find you.

- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.



- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.

- Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need help.

- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.

- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.



- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.

- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.

- Clear 3 feet around all sides of your nearest fire hydrant. In the event of an emergency don't let snow be the cause of delay.

[LEARN MORE](#)

J. William Degnan
NH State Fire Marshal



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Message from Fire Marshal Degnan:

Not only has 2018 arrived but so has the bitter cold and snowy weather. We do our best to provide you with the education and resources to make sure that your family and home is kept as safe as possible, but it is up to you to follow it through. **"Fire is Everyone's Fight"**. Please dedicate some time to read through this newsletter and go through your home, room by room, to ensure that your home is not only safe but properly equipped with smoke AND carbon monoxide alarms. By visiting the provided links throughout the newsletter you will be able to learn more about each topic. Please reach out to any older adults within your family and community that could use some assistance in making sure their homes are as safe as possible as well. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the NH State Fire Marshal's Office. We wish you and your family a healthy and safe 2018.



J. William Degnan

J. William Degnan
NH State Fire Marshal



Student & Parent Approved Websites

K9 MOLLY encourages students to disconnect and enjoy safe outdoor play. However, this dog understands that sometimes the weather just doesn't cooperate. So when it comes to computer time...



try one of these family fun fire and life safety websites! Just click a picture below to open the link and play. Have fun and be safe!



Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:

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Find Us on the Web:

www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/

