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SAFETY EDUCATOR

Halloween Safety



Hard Facts

On average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year.

www.Safekids.org

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Everyone loves a good scare on Halloween, but NOT when it comes to child safety. Many children are aware of things that they can do to be safe, like how to cross the street, not to talk to or go with strangers, but sometimes they get so excited they forget to remember all the ways to keep themselves safe. Please review these Halloween Safety Tips.

COSTUMES:

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Provide children with flashlights or glow sticks to carry for lighting as part of their costume.
- Masks can sometimes obstruct a child's vision, try non-toxic face paint and makeup whenever possible.
- Make sure the costume is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

- Stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.
- Go only to well-lit homes. NEVER enter a home.

DECORATIONS:

- Keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Use a flashlight or battery-operated candle to light up a jack-o-lantern.
- If using a real candle to light your jack-o-lantern, be sure to place pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- Teach children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire.
- If your child is going to a Halloween Party remind him/her to look for two ways out of every room

and plan how they would get out in case of an emergency ([See Sept 2014 Safety Educator](#)).

TREATS:

- Do not eat any treats before an adult has examined them carefully for evidence of tampering. Discard if:
- ▶item has any unusual appearance or discoloration.
 - ▶has tiny pinholes or tears in wrappers.
 - ▶is a homemade good, unless you know the maker.
 - ▶item is not commercially wrapped.

When in doubt... throw it out!

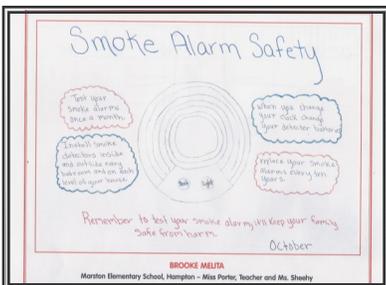
Be safe and have fun this Halloween!

----- LINKS -----
www.safekids.org
www.cpsc.gov
www.concordhospital.org

OCTOBER: Smoke Alarm Safety

- by Brooke Melita

Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home as well as outside each sleeping area. These alarms should be tested monthly and replaced every 10 years. When you change your clock in the Fall and Spring, be sure to use this as an opportunity to change the batteries in the alarms as well. As Brooke Melita from Marston Elementary School reminds us, remembering to test your smoke alarms will keep your family safe from harm. Thanks Brooke for reminding everyone on this important Fire and Life Safety fact!



**** Mark your Calendar: November 2nd ****

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES



Hey Kids! Sparky the Dog here!

This month during Fire Prevention Week, Oct 5-11th, fire departments, children and their families were encouraged to discuss Smoke Alarm Safety. How would you know if your home was on fire? What would happen if you were sleeping? You may not see fire, smell smoke or wake up in time to get out safely. You need working smoke alarms to give you time to get out. Test yours every month!

EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT SMOKE ALARM SAFETY !

▶▶▶ www.nfpa.org



What is a Smoke Alarm?

Smoke alarms are tools that can tell if there is smoke in the air. They work even if you can't smell smoke. A smoke alarm looks like a small dish or dinner plate on the ceiling of your home.

Activity: Take a moment and see if you can find all the ones in your home!

What kind of noise does a Smoke Alarm make?

A smoke alarm makes a very loud beeping noise to warn you that a fire has started.

Activity: Ask a grown up in your home to test the smoke alarm now so you can hear what it sounds like. When you hear the loud noise, use this opportunity to practice your home escape plan and get out fast.

▶▶▶ [Create Your Home Escape Plan](#)

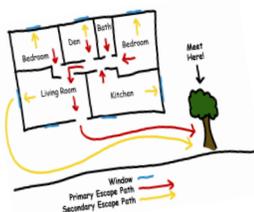
KEEPING YOUR HOME SAFE CAN BE A WHOLE FAMILY JOB!

Kids can help make their homes safer from fire by helping grown-ups remember to:

- remind the grown-ups in the home to test your smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button. Make sure everyone in your home knows and understands the sound.
- practice night time drills. Show everyone that you know to wake up, practice your escape plan and meet at your meeting spot even at night.
- if an alarm "chirps," warning that the battery is low, remind grown-ups to replace the battery **right away** for the safety of everyone.
- Change your batteries twice a year. When you change your clock change your batteries.
- Keep smoke alarms dust free. Remind grown-ups to run the vacuum cleaner attachment over and around them.
- Help Sparky the Fire Dog by spreading this important information when you visit a relative or friends home. Make sure they know they are working and are tested every month.



▶▶▶ [Printout this fun worksheet to keep your family involved with monthly tests.](#)



Last month, Safety Educator Reminders:

- Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, at least twice a year.
- Practice using two ways out of every room.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case a grown-up can't help them.
- Close doors behind you as you leave. ▶▶▶ [Missed last months edition? Visit this link](#)

HOMEOWNER INFORMATION on Smoke Alarms

[Click here to Watch this NFPA informational video](#)



Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

www.nfpa.org

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT IS THE BEST SMOKE ALARM FOR MY HOME?

There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.

[▶▶▶ Learn More Here](#)



WHERE DO I PLACE MY SMOKE ALARMS?

→ A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Proper placement is critical for the effective functioning of a smoke alarm. Please follow manufacturer's directions for proper placement.

→ Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.

→ People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.

[▶▶▶ Learn More on Placement Here](#)

WHEN DO I REPLACE MY SMOKE ALARMS?

→ Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old. To determine the age of your smoke alarm, look at the back where you will find the date of manufacture. Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from that date.

→ Immediately replace any smoke alarm that does not respond properly when tested.

→ Replace combination smoke-carbon monoxide alarms according to the manufacturer's recommendations.



Pillow Shaker may be helpful

SMOKE ALARMS SAFETY FOR THE HARD-OF-HEARING OR DEAF

Smoke alarms save lives. However, people who are deaf or hard of hearing may not be able to depend on the traditional smoke alarm to alert them to a fire.

■ Smoke alarms and alert devices, called accessories, are available for people who are **deaf**. Strobe lights throughout the home are activated by smoke alarms and alert people who are deaf to fire conditions. When people who are deaf are asleep, a high intensity strobe light is required along with a pillow or bed shaker to wake them

up and alert them to fire conditions so they can escape. Currently this equipment is activated by the sound of a standard smoke alarm.

■ Smoke alarm alert devices are also available for people who are **hard of hearing**. These accessories produce a loud, mixed low-pitched sound. This equipment is activated by the sound of the smoke alarm and is usually installed next to the bed. People who are deaf may find that a pillow or bed shaker is also helpful to wake them up.

■ Always choose equipment that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

■ Make sure everyone in your home understands and reacts to the signal (light, vibration, or sound) used in their situation.

■ All smoke alarms should be tested at least monthly. Replace smoke alarms and equipment for people who are deaf or hard of hearing according to manufacturer's recommendations.

[▶▶▶ Learn More](#)

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Safety Educator

This month the State Fire Marshal's Office, along with Governor Hassan, has recognized October 5-11th as Fire Prevention Week throughout the State of New Hampshire. The theme for this year is: "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives. Test Yours Every Month." This dedicated week provides educators with the ideal opportunity to educate the public about the importance of having working smoke alarms that are tested at the same time every month. We, however, strongly encourage that families take this as an opportunity to learn about smoke alarm safety by ensuring that their homes are properly equipped, and maintained, with working smoke alarms. Smoke alarm awareness needs to become a part of every homeowner's monthly home routine. Please test yours regularly and replace when necessary. Should you have any questions or concerns about the alarms within your home we strongly encourage you to contact your local fire department for assistance. Please keep your homes safe, tragedies are preventable.

J. William Degnan
NH State Fire Marshal

We're on the Web!
www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/



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

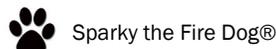
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Kids Can Be Firefighters Too!

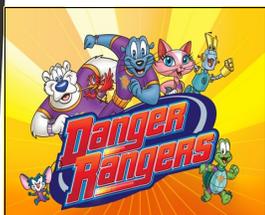
October 2014 Safety Education Website Special Feature:

www.sparky.org

Hi Kids! Fire Prevention Week is my favorite time of year. This year, we are learning about smoke alarms. Having smoke alarms in your home is very important. Smoke alarms let you know when there is a fire. Working smoke alarms give you time to get outside and stay outside.



Click on photo or link below to visit other Kid Friendly and Parent/Educator Approved websites:



DangerRangers.com



Smokeybear.com/kids



sparky.org



firefighterdayna.com



ready.gov/kids