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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Safety Educator

Word From Fire Marshal J. William Degnan

As Fire Marshal for the State of New Hampshire, it is my hope that our citizens take every precaution to prepare and protect their families and homes in the event of an emergency situation. As our lives become increasingly busy, it is more important to think about what if my family

has an emergency, are we prepared to handle it? Throughout this newsletter I ask that you share with your kids this age appropriate material and work together on the various topics that are presented. If you have not created your Emergency Escape Plan and Meeting Place, I ask that

you visit the web links provided, print out the map and create the plan necessary to keep your family safe should an emergency arise. Contact your local fire department should you need any assistance. Thank you and be safe.

J. William Degnan

Fire Prevention: "Be Rabbit Ready"

Rabbits build their burrows with 2 ways out so they'll be able to escape if they sense danger. Like rabbits, we should always be rabbit ready with 2 ways out of every room within our home. Fire can spread rapidly leaving as little as two minutes to escape safely once the alarms sounds. It is important to have a fire escape plan that prepares your family to think fast and get out quickly when the alarm sounds.

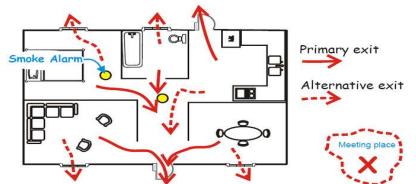
Plan your escape

- Make a home **escape plan**. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home. In every room use sticky notes to mark a door exit as number 1 and a window as exit number 2. This allows your child to visually understand there are 2 ways out of every room.
- 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.

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Create an Escape Plan for your home!

Smoke Alarms



Hey Kids! Sparky the Dog here! 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. Smoke alarms can help!

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! A smoke alarm makes a

very loud beeping noise to warn you that a fire has started. When you hear the loud noise, follow your home escape plan and get out fast.



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Next Month:

- Heating Safety
- Candle Safety
- Severe Winter Weather Preparedness
- Carbon Monoxide Month

Be Rabbit Ready continued...

- **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 a grown up can't help them.
- Close doors behind as you leave.



School Bus Safety

Even safer than riding in your own vehicle, riding on a school bus is the safest way for your child to travel to and from school. The greatest risk is not riding the school bus, but approaching or leaving it, so children need to be especially careful around the school bus "danger zone," which is the 10 feet in front, behind and on each side of the school bus.

Children

- ✦ Get to the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- ✦ When the bus approaches, stand at least three giant steps (6 feet) away from the curb, and line up away from the street.
- ✦ Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says that it's okay before stepping onto the bus.

- Keep escape plan posted on the refrigerator

When 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/ 9-1-1 from outside your home.

FACT: School buses are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in avoiding crashes and preventing injury.

Source: [American School Bus Council](#)

✦ If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least five giant steps (10 feet) ahead of the bus before you cross. Be sure that the bus driver can see you,

and you can see the bus driver.

- ✦ Use the handrails to avoid falls.
- ✦ When exiting the bus, be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags

with straps don't get caught in the handrails or doors.

- ✦ Never walk behind the bus.
- ✦ Walk at least three giant steps away from the side of the bus.
- ✦ If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. Never try to pick it up because the driver may not

be able to see you.

Parents

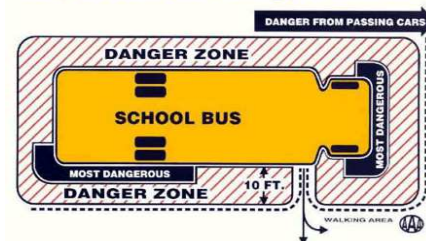
Teach children to follow these common sense practices to make school bus transportation safer

Check out these sites for more information!

www.nhtsa.gov/School-Buses

www.schoolbusfacts.com

Stay out of the Danger Zone!!!



Sing a Song: If There's a Fire (tune: "Frere Jacques")

If there's a fire
If there's a fire
In your house

In your house
What do you do
What do you do



Make learning fun
with music!

YOU GET OUT
(SING OR YELL LOUDLY)
YOU GET OUT ...



For additional information please
visit or contact your local
Fire Department

www.nfpa.org/education

www.usfa.fema.gov/kids

www.befiresmart.com

Halloween Safety

Halloween is a fun holiday but it's also an important time to practice fire and life 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.

*Here are some **Halloween Safety Tips** to help keep all children safe on Halloween night!*

- ⇒ Go only to well-lit houses and remain on porches rather than entering houses.
- ⇒ When choosing a costume, stay away from billowing or long trailing fabric. If wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see out.
- ⇒ Write full name and phone number and attach to young children's costumes if they are too young to remember them.
- ⇒ Provide children with flashlights or glow sticks to carry for lighting as part of their costume.
- ⇒ Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs, and heaters.

⇒ It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candle in a jack-o-lantern. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution.

⇒ Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.



⇒ Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.

⇒ Teach children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.

⇒ If your children are going to Halloween

Parties at others' homes have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

Treats

- Children should not eat any treats before an adult has examined them carefully for evidence of tampering.

Carefully examine any toys or novelty items received by trick-or-treaters who are younger than 3 years of age. Do not allow young children to have any items that are small enough to present a choking hazard or that have small parts or components that could separate during use and present a choking hazard.

www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/halloween.shtm

www.usa.gov/Topics/Halloween.shtml#Halloween_Safety

www.cdc.gov/family/halloween/

www.halloween-safety.com/halloween_safety_kids.html

Send Us Your Pictures!

Email to: Sheryl.Nielsen@dos.nh.gov

The New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's office is a firm believer in not only being there for our community in emergency situations but for the fun community events

as well. Send us your family photos while you practice your fire and life safety skills! We'd like to share them in our next newsletter!

**Safety is as simple as ABC-
Always Be Careful!**

Smoke Alarms cont...

Help Keep your Home safe!

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

1. Test your smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button, and make sure everyone in your home knows the sound.
2. If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery

right away.

3. Change your batteries twice a year. When you change your clock, change your batteries.
4. Keep smoke alarms dust free. Run the vacuum cleaner attachment



over and around them.

5. Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Visit these sites to learn more on smoke alarms/detectors:

www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/parents/

www.nfpa.org/smokealarms



Safety Educator

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**Special thanks for assistance
and contributions to:**

Deputy Chief George Clark
Temple Volunteer Fire Department
432 Route 45, PO Box 80
Temple, NH 03084

It is our hope that you find this edition of the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's newsletter, *Safety Educator* to be helpful in assuring that the homes and lives of the citizens within the state of NH are made and kept as safe as possible. We ask that you share this information with family, friends and neighbors. Together we can keep our community safe. Should you need any assistance please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the NH State Fire Marshal's Office. We look forward to hearing your comments about our Safety Educator Newsletter.

Any Questions or Comments please feel free to contact:

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www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety

Kids Can Be Firefighters too! Practice Life and Fire Safety Skills Online!



Check
out these kid friendly web-
sites related to fire and life
safety!



www.sparky.org



www.smokeybear.com/kids



www.ready.gov/kids



www.sesamestreet.org/ready



www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/