

Chattanooga Fire Department



Fire Safety House Teacher's Packet

Includes:

- Preparing Students
- Parent Permission Slip (English and Spanish)
- Sample Schedule
- Key points for Kids

Brought to you by

Chattanooga Fire Department
Fire Marshal's Office
(423) 643-5602

CHATTANOOGA FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE SAFETY HOUSE

INTRODUCTION

Dear Teacher,

Thank you for your participation in this program. By investing your time, you will contribute in providing your students with skills that may possibly save their lives.

Fire is the second major cause of accidental death and injury to children. The vast majority of these injuries and fatalities occur in the home. This program attempts to provide students with valuable fire safety information and skills, and the opportunity to practice these skills in a realistic, controlled environment.

The Fire Safety House is a 39-foot mobile travel trailer that is a functional one-story house, scaled down to a child's level. Your students will walk through a kitchen, living room, and bedroom, attempting to locate family fire hazards. The children will also practice simple methods of eliminating potentially dangerous situations. In addition, they will feel a "hot door" and locate alternate emergency escape routes. At the conclusion of the tour, the House will fill with a non-toxic smoke, and the students will exit via an escape ladder. All of the activities will be done under the supervisory guidance of the Chattanooga Fire Department.

In order to accommodate groups of students while one group is touring the Fire Safety House, others will participate in one of four teaching stations in the following order:

- Meeting Place
- Calling 911
- Stop, Drop and Roll
- Viewing a Fire Engine and Fire Equipment

These stations are outdoors, so have your students ready to spend at least one hour out in the elements. **IMPORTANT! The Chattanooga Fire Department reserves the right to cancel a Fire Safety House presentation due to bad weather (rain, sleet, snow, temperature extremes). We will attempt to reschedule as needed and will notify your office at least 1 hour prior to the event. This is an outside event and your safety comes first!**

The Chattanooga Fire Safety House requires the following:

- A level, paved, secure parking area 100 feet by 100 feet in size, and within 100 feet of an electrical outlet. We are equipped with a portable generator, but we prefer an electrical hookup.
- Accommodations for lunch for ten or more Fire Personnel, or scheduling one hour for off campus travel for lunch.
- Signed permission slips from parents for each participant.
- The name and telephone number of a contact person in charge of scheduling the event with cell phone capability.
- Minimum group size is 25 students, first grade through fifth grade. No exceptions on this. We do not teach pre-K or K students because some of our educational tactics such as the use of theatrical smoke tends to frighten them.
- All requests for a presentation must be received three weeks in advance.

Thank you for this opportunity to become partners in education.

Chief Craig Haney
Fire Marshal
Chattanooga Fire Department



FAMILY FIRE SAFETY

Dear Parent/Guardian(s):

Imagine you are a young child and you awake during the night to find your bedroom filling with smoke. Your house is on fire! What would you do?

To make sure your child has the skills that can potentially save their life, we will be teaching burn prevention and fire escape in class. A key element of this learning process will include an interactive training class in the Chattanooga Fire Department's Fire Safety House.

This 39-foot mobile classroom is specially designed to teach children vital burn-prevention and Fire escape techniques through fun, safe simulation of common hazards. The Fire Safety House is equipped with a kitchen and bedroom, which simulates the types of dangers children may encounter.

In addition, the house fills with non-toxic smoke to teach children to crawl low to safety. A heated door helps children choose the right exit, and a fixed escape ladder allows them to practice emergency escapes.

If your child suffers from asthma, other respiratory conditions or allergies that may be irritated by the non-toxic smoke please indicate this below before allowing them to tour the house.

Please Check One:

_____ My child, _____, may tour the Fire Safety House.

_____ My child, _____, may not tour the Fire Safety House.

_____ My child, _____, has an allergy or respiratory condition that may be irritated by the non-toxic smoke and should not be in the house during that part of the tour.

Parent/Guardian's signature _____

Date _____

¡Cuidado con el fuego!

Queridos Padres:

Imagínese que usted es un niño que despierte una noche para encontrar el humo llenando su habitación. ¡Su casa se está enciendo! ¿Qué haría usted?

Para asegurar que sus hijos poseen las habilidades para salvarse la vida en caso de fuego, vamos a enseñarles protegerse contra las quemaduras y el fuego en su clase en la escuela. Un elemento muy importante de esta enseñanza es una visita de "Fire Safety House" (Una casa especialmente diseñada para enseñar a los niños protegerse del fuego). Esta visita tomará lugar durante el día escolar. Los niños aprenderán a escapar de una casa que está encendiendo y para protegerse de quemaduras.

Además, la casa se llena con humo NON-tóxico para enseñarles a los niños como arrastrarse a un lugar seguro. Los niños pueden usar puertas y escaleras especialmente diseñadas para practicar escapar del peligro.

Si su hijo sufre del asma u otras condiciones o alergias que pueden ser irritadas por el humo non-tóxico, por favor indícalo abajo antes de darle permiso a visitar la casa.

Escoge uno (Ponga una equis)

_____ Mi hijo/a, _____, puede visitar Fire Safety House.

(Escriba el nombre de su hijo/a aquí)

_____ Mi hijo/a, _____, NO puede visitar Fire Safety House.

(Escriba el nombre de su hijo/a aquí)

_____ Mi hijo/a, _____, tiene una alergia o condición de los pulmones que puede ser irritada por el humo non-tóxico y NO debe estar en la casa durante esta parte de la visita.

Firma aquí: _____ Padre / Madre /
Guardián

CHATTANOOGA FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE SAFETY HOUSE

Preparing for a Fire Safety House Visit:

1. Since we have started this program, we've noticed the largest problem we have is children not knowing their home phone number or their home address! This information is required by our 911 dispatchers! Please work with parents to teach children this information. '911 Calling' is one of our teaching stations, so have the students ready!
2. Our tours are flexible! We can take as little or as much time you desire to ensure a quality visit. Most tours last one hour per 40 children. Tell us your needs and we'll attempt to make it happen. Special need's children are not a problem! We do ask that you only invite 1st grade students and up, as smaller kids are frightened by some of our information and theatrics.
3. Please take time to discuss with your class the proper behavior during the Fire Safety House demonstration.
4. Lastly and most importantly - Have the Written Permission Slips signed.

General Outline:

We split up your students in four groups and send them to four stations and switch stations every 5 to 20 minutes, depending on your needs in the following order:

Station 1 – The Fire Safety House (5 to 20 minutes)

At this station we take a group of 4 to 10 students and sit them inside the kitchen area of the house. We talk to them about the need for smoke detectors, testing them and replacing batteries during both seasonal time changes. We stress the importance of staying at the stove when cooking, to avoid unattended cooking fires. We then discuss unsafe housekeeping practices, such as extension cords under rugs, overused outlets, cluttered cooking areas, lighters and matches lying around the house, and storing gasoline in the house. Now,

we discuss the need for 'TWO WAYS OUT' of any home or building, utilizing doors and windows. We then teach the students that when they hear the smoke detector alarm, they are to 'GET OUT AND STAY OUT'- to leave the home or building and to not return for any reason. The children then will then go to Sparky's bedroom.

In the bedroom, we ask the kids to think about their own bedroom. It's late at night and they are asleep, when they hear the smoke alarm sounding. We stress the importance of 'FALL AND CRAWL' – avoiding smoke by staying low, and finding one of two ways out. They crawl to the bedroom door and touch it with the back of their hand and find it WARM, so they have to crawl to the window and escape. For children who suffer asthma or another lung related illness, we have them pretend it's smoky and have them open the window and use the ladder to escape outside, where there's a firefighter ready to assist them down the 4 foot ladder and onto a landing pad. Once clear we start over and have the room fill up with white theatrical smoke and have the students 'GET OUT AND STAY OUT'.

Station 2- The Meeting Place (5 to 10 minutes)

After escaping their bedroom, the students then go to the 'MEETING PLACE'- a pre-designated area agreed on by the family to meet at when disaster strikes. Here, we discuss the need for a meeting place and go over 'TWO WAYS OUT' again. We then have the children draw on a sketch of a typical home and show two ways they would escape in case of fire.

Station 3 – Calling 911 (5 to 10 minutes)

Here the students gather around a table with a phone on it and we discuss what they need to do and what to say when they dial 911. We have them call 911 and speak to a simulated dispatcher located inside the Fire Safety House. We stress the need to give clear, calm speech and give the dispatcher their information in the following order:

- Their address
- The nature of the emergency
- Their name
- Their phone number

Please have your students learn this information beforehand! Also remind your students to not be scared to ask for help, and not to be shy and speak clearly to the dispatcher, as they are friends!

Station 4 – STOP, DROP & ROLL (5 to 10 minutes)

Fire doesn't just happen at home, It can happen anywhere! That's why we have added 'Stop, Drop and Roll' Station. We have an exercise pad laid out for them and teach them to:

- **Stop** where you are - don't run.
- **Drop** to the ground.
- **Roll** - cover your face with your hands and **roll over and over** to smother the flames.

We then have each student give it a try and then advance to the next station.

Station 4 – THE FIRE ENGINE (5 to 10 minutes)

We invite your neighborhood fire station to come and visit with you. The students get to meet the Firefighters and they give a detailed tour of the Fire Engine and all the equipment on it. Some children are scared and intimidated by the size of the apparatus, so please watch them for signs of stress. In most cases the Fire Engine will not be on call for emergencies, but if one arises, calmly take charge of the students and move them behind the Fire Engine and FIFTY FEET AWAY and await further instructions from the lead Public Educator.

After our visit, have your kids send Sparky an E-mail at:

sparky@mail.chattanooga.gov

We love feedback! So please send your suggestions and post comments to:

pubed@mail.chattanooga.gov

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to teach Fire Safety to your students. Remember, we are here to serve your needs!

In your service,

The Chattanooga Fire Department
Fire Marshal's Office

**Chattanooga Fire Department
Fire Safety House**

Post-Visit Student Activities

Identifying toys versus tools

Have children collect pictures from magazines of things that are safe to play with -- such as bikes and balls -- and things that are not -- such as matches, lighters, and power tools. Put the cutout pictures into a box, draw them out one at a time, and have the children say if the item is safe or unsafe for children.

Crawling under smoke

Practice crawling under smoke as part of a fire drill. Have adults assist by stretching out a bed sheet two feet above the floor to represent the "pretend" smoke at some point along the exit route. Have the children find an alternative escape route or crawl under the sheet to an exit.

Thinking ahead

Have the children act out what they would do in specific fire situations. Possible scenarios: "Pretend you wake up and there's smoke in your bedroom" (crawl low under the smoke to the exit), or "Pretend you're helping in the kitchen and your sleeve catches fire" (stop, drop, and roll).

Taking the message home

Encourage young children to take the fire safety message home by asking them to talk with their families about home fire escape plans. Make fire safety information part of meetings with parents. Send information home on child-resistant lighters and the importance of smoke detectors, fire escape plans, meeting places, and smoke alarms.

You can also copy the next few pages and send it home for parents and siblings to read to promote fire safety in the home.

Chattanooga Fire Department Fire Safety House Handout

Everybody out!

- Does your family have a home fire escape plan? If not, make one today; it's easy! Start by walking through your home and identifying two ways out of every room. (One way out might be the door; the other could be a window). Then, draw out your escape plan, so you can post it where everyone in the fire can see it.
- Clean up your room! Make sure that doors, stairways and other exits out of your home are clear of toys, furniture, and other clutter.
- Does someone in your house need help getting around (like a grandparent, or an infant)? A grown-up should make sure that they have someone to assist them in case of a fire. Be sure to assign a backup person in case the assistant isn't home.
- Pick an outside meeting place where everyone can gather after they've escaped safely (a neighbor's house, a mailbox, or even a tree will do). Make sure that you mark the spot you've picked on your escape plan.
- Memorize the emergency phone number of the fire department. Remind everyone that they should get out first, then call for help from outside, or at a neighbor's home.
- Be ready for the real thing. Put your escape plan to the test with a fire drill at least twice a year. That way if a real fire ever happens, everyone in the family will know what to do.
- Always choose the escape route that is safest. Practice crawling under smoke in case you must go through it to get out. Smoke is nasty stuff—even worse than fire itself. To keep from breathing it in (and possibly knocking yourself out), crawl low under the smoke on your hands and knees. Your head will be in a "safety zone" of clean air about knee high.
- Close the door behind you. Closing the doors as you leave can slow the spread of fire and smoke.

Sound the alarm!

- Your home should have smoke alarms on every level (even the basement). It's especially important to have them inside or near every sleeping area.
- Do the batteries in the smoke alarms work? Have a grown-up test them once a month. Batteries should be replaced twice a year, or when you hear the alarm "chirp"—that means that the battery is low.
- How old is that alarm anyway? Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. And if no one can remember how old it is, it's probably time to replace it.
- Never paint or decorate a smoke alarm (even with stickers!) because this could keep it from working properly.
- Make sure that everyone in your home knows the sound of the smoke alarm, and knows exactly what to do if the alarm goes off. Have a grown-up sound the alarm at night to make sure that everyone wakes up. If they don't, make sure to factor that into your escape plan.
- When the alarm sounds, get out. Always assume that the alarm means a real fire and follow your escape plan.

Keep the fire from starting!

- If food is cooking on the stove, make sure that a grown-up is always in the kitchen.
- Keep the stove clear of anything that could catch on fire: paper, towels, curtains, or potholders.
- Make the area around the stove a "kid-free zone." No kids or pets within three feet (one meter) of the stove when grown-ups are cooking!

- Grown-ups should always turn off portable space heaters when they leave the room or go to sleep. Keep heaters three feet from anything that can burn like walls, bedding, and clothes.
- Make sure that grown-ups blow out any candles when they leave the room. Also, be sure that candleholders are big and deep enough to catch dripping wax, and can keep the candles from tipping over. Most important: never, ever have candles in kids' bedrooms.
- If anyone in your home smokes, make sure that they put water on any butts or ashes before throwing them away. Be sure they use large, heavy, non-tip ash trays.
- Keep matches and lighters out of sight and reach of kids—preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Remind grown-ups to make sure that electrical cords are in good condition, with no cracked or frayed areas.
- Any fuel or liquid that can catch on fire, like gasoline, propane, or kerosene, needs to be kept in a safe container, outside the home in a garage or shed. If any of these are in your home, a grown-up should move these items outside immediately, and keep them in a locked shed or garage.



Visit Sparky at www.sparky.org
<http://www.nfpa.org/riskwatch/kids.html>