



## *Clay County Fire Rescue Fire Prevention - 2011*

### *Parents Fire Safety Facts*

**Curious Kids Set Fires** - Children under five are curious about fire. Often what begins as a natural exploration of the unknown can lead to tragedy.

- Children of all ages set over 100,000 fires annually. Approximately 20,000 of those fires are set in homes.
- Children make up 20% of all fire deaths.
- More than 30% of child fatalities in fires are set by children playing with fire.
- At home, children usually play with fire in bedrooms, in closets and under beds. These are "secret" places where there are a lot of things that catch fire easily.
- Too often, child fire setters are not given proper guidance and supervision by parents and teachers. Consequently, they repeat their fire setting behavior.

### *Tips for Teaching Kids About Fire Safety*

- Supervise young children closely. Do not leave them alone even for short periods of time.
- Keep matches and lighters in a secured drawer or cabinet.
- Have your children tell you when they find matches and lighters.
- Check under beds and in closets for burned matches, evidence your child may be playing with fire.
- Develop a home fire escape plan, practice it with your children and designate a meeting place outside. ***Practice this plan once a month.***
- Take the mystery out of fire play by teaching children that fire is a tool, not a toy.
- Teach children the nature of fire. It is **FAST, HOT, DARK and DEADLY!**
- **Don't hide! Go outside!** Teach children not to hide from firefighters. Get out quickly and call for help from another location.
- Show children how to crawl low on the floor, below the smoke, to get out of the house and stay out in the case of fire.
- **Demonstrate how to stop, drop to the ground and roll** if their clothes catch fire.
- **Install smoke alarms** on every level in your home.
- Familiarize children with the sound of your smoke alarm.
- Test the smoke alarm each month and replace the battery at least once a year, we recommend 2 times a year.
- Replace the smoke alarm every ten years, or as recommended by the manufacturer.

## *Children Fire Safety Tips*

1. Shout “**Fire! Fire! Fire!**” to warn others.
2. **Don’t hide! Go outside!** Once out, stay out - never go back inside - Never return to a burning building for any reason; it may cost you your life.
3. Crawl low and fast to escape smoke - '**Get Down, Get Low, Get Out**' Never stand up in a fire, always crawl low under the smoke and try to keep your mouth covered. (Oxygen).
4. Shut doors behind you to slow the spread of fire (Oxygen).
5. **Stop, drop and roll** if your cloths catch on fire (Oxygen).
6. Meet at the planned family meeting place.
7. Phone the Fire Service from a safe phone.
8. **911 Instructions:** Tell the Fire Service your:
  - House number
  - Street name
  - Nearest intersection
  - Development and city
  - Reason for the call

## *Homework For The Family*

**Time is the biggest enemy and every second counts! Pre-planning is important. Escape first!**

1. Count the smoke detectors in your house.
2. Test your smoke detectors. Make it a standard practice to replace the battery of your smoke detector 2 times a year. A good time to remember this is when you set your clocks for the time change twice a year. ***Children should participate in this activity so they can hear the sound of the alarm.***
3. Create a fire escape plan for your house - ***Practice it monthly.***
4. Perform a fire drill every month with your children.
5. Make sure everyone in your family knows **two ways to escape** from every room.
6. Practice feeling your way out with your eyes closed.
7. ***Determine an outside meeting place and make sure the whole family knows.***
8. Practice the technique for stop, drop and role.
9. ***Review 911 calling instructions.***

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