



Safety Educator

October 2015



IT'S FIRE PREVENTION WEEK!



What is Fire Prevention Week (FPW)?

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, **"Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm,"** provides the ideal opportunity to educate citizens throughout the country about the importance of having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. The State of New Hampshire uses FPW week as a kick off to a year long campaign to remind citizens to keep their families and homes safer by properly installing and maintaining smoke alarms so they can be sure to hear the beep where they sleep.

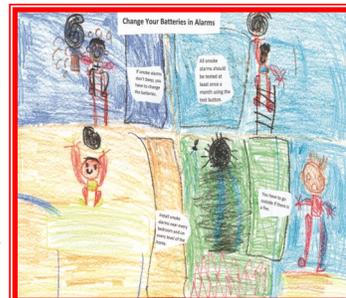
Why was FPW established?

FPW was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871. According to popular legend, the fire broke out after a cow, belonging to Mrs. Catherine O'Leary, kicked over a lamp, setting first the barn, then the whole city on fire. Chances are you've heard some version of this story yourself; people have been blaming the Great Chicago Fire on the cow and Mrs. O'Leary, for more than 130 years. But recent research by Chicago historian Robert Cromie has helped to debunk this version of events.

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OCTOBER: CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES IN SMOKE & CO ALARMS

"Smoke alarm batteries should be changed. All smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month using the test button. If your smoke alarms don't beep (when tested) you have to change the batteries. Install smoke alarms in every bedroom and on every level of the home. You have to go outside if there is a fire." Thank you Nikhil, from Hills Garrison School in Hudson, for reminding the citizens of NH about these important smoke alarm safety facts!



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Hey Kids!

Sparky the Dog® here and I have some really important information for you to share with your family, relatives, neighbors and friends. We **NEED** to make sure everyone knows what a smoke alarm is, where they belong in every home and that they are working. Please help me spread this safety information.



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. Take a moment and see if you can find all the ones in your home. They should be in every bedroom, outside every sleeping area and on every level of the home, even the basement.



What noise does a smoke alarm make?

A smoke alarm makes a very loud beeping noise to warn you that a fire has started. Ask a grown up in the home to test it now so everyone can hear what it sounds like.



How do we test to see if a smoke alarm is working?

Smoke alarms should be maintained according to manufacturer's instructions.

- ♥ Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- ♥ Follow manufacturer's instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working well. The instructions are included in the package or can be found on the internet.
- ♥ Smoke alarms with non-replaceable 10-year batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- ♥ Smoke alarms with any other type of battery need a new battery at least once a year. If that alarm chirps, warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away. Smoke Alarms need to be replaced every 10 years.
- ♥ When replacing a battery, follow manufacturer's list of batteries on the back of the alarm or manufacturer's instructions. Manufacturer's instructions are specific to the batteries (brand and model) that must be used. The smoke alarm may not work properly if a different kind of battery is used.



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What is the BEST smoke alarm for this home?

There are two kinds of smoke alarms.

- ▶ **Ionization Smoke Alarms** is typically quicker to warn about flaming fires, such as a pan fire.
- ▶ **Photoelectric Smoke Alarms** is typically quicker to warn about smoldering fires, as would occur where a lighted cigarette is dropped on a sofa.

Combination alarms provide ionization and photoelectric detection. The NH State Fire Marshal, your local fire department, as well as the NFPA recommends installing combination alarms, or both types of alarms, in the home. Whatever type of smoke alarms you choose, make sure they bear the mark of a recognized testing laboratory.



Are smoke alarms available for the hard-of-hearing or deaf?



Smoke Alarms for the Hard-of-Hearing or Deaf are available. Learn about the various options that are available.

[Learn More](#)

FACT: Did you know that half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11pm and 7am when most people are asleep? Hear the beep where you sleep. Every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm!

www.nfpa.org



Where should we place Smoke Alarms in our home?

- Smoke Alarms should be in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home, INCLUDING the basement. Larger homes may require additional alarms.
- For best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms in your home. When one smoke alarm sounds, they ALL sound. It is especially important to have interconnected alarms if you sleep with the doors closed.
- Smoke Alarms should be installed at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance. Use a photoelectric alarm or an alarm with a "hush" button if the alarm is between 10 and 20 feet from a cooking appliance.
- If cooking fumes set off alarms, either replace the alarm with one that has the "hush" button, which will silence the alarm for a short period of time, OR install a photoelectric type of alarm.
- When installing a smoke alarm, follow the instructions that come with the alarm.



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WHEN THE ALARM SOUNDS: Three Steps to Safety

Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound and understands what to do when they hear a smoke alarm. Being prepared for home emergencies can help lessen fears and anxieties before, during and after an emergency. We strongly encourage families to include children in home emergency planning conversations in advance of potential disasters. Include these topics as part of your planning. Need help or have a question? Please contact your local fire department .



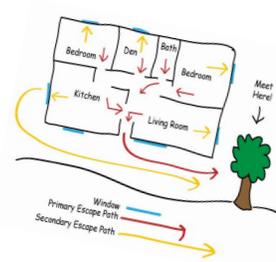
FIRST STEP: HAVE TWO WAYS OUT OF EVERY ROOM

Every room should have two ways out. One way out would be the **door** and the second way out may be a **window**. If your first way out is blocked by fire or smoke you should use your second way out. Emergency escape from a second story window may involve using a home fire safety ladder. If your escape plan includes an escape ladder, practice using it from a first floor window with a grown-up.

Now that your family has created two ways out of every room and made sure that all doors and windows leading outside can easily open, it is time to create your **ESCAPE PLAN** and **MEETING PLACE**.

SECOND STEP: ESCAPE PLAN

- Click** to get your —> [Escape Plan Directions and Map](#) to print and create. Once complete place on your fridge!



THIRD STEP: MEETING PLACE

- Pick a safe meeting place outside.** It should be in FRONT of the home. It should be a safe distance from the home like a light pole, mailbox or neighbor's house.
- Agree that everyone will **meet at the meeting place**.
- Make sure your **house number can be seen** from the street.
- Create** and **practice your plan** with everyone in your home as well as those visiting overnight.
- Learn the emergency phone number **9-1-1** as well as the one for your local fire department.
- Practice** your home fire escape drill **OFTEN!**

Learn More



VISIT SPARKY.ORG and learn fire safety with Sparky the Fire Dog!



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Safety Educator



A message from Fire Marshal Degnan:

This month Governor Hassan, myself and fire departments throughout the State of New Hampshire have declared October 4th-10th as Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is, **"Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm."** This dedicated week provides educators with the ideal opportunity to educate the public about the importance of having working smoke alarms not only throughout the home but IN every bedroom. These smoke alarms need to be tested every month to ensure that they are working properly. Should your alarm be older than 10 years or not working properly that alarm must be replaced immediately to ensure that not a moment passes when your family is left questioning home safety. Should cooking set off the alarm DO NOT deactivate the alarm by removing the battery. We encourage homeowners to purchase either a photoelectric alarm or one with a "hush" button, which silences the alarm for a short time. In addition to smoke alarm information, this newsletter provides valuable emergency steps your family should take to prepare for a fire alarm activation. Should you have any questions please contact your local fire department.

J. William Degnan
NH State Fire Marshal



Child Friendly & Parent Approved Websites

While we encourage students to disconnect and enjoy safe outdoor play, when it comes to computer time try one of these family fun fire and life safety websites. Just click picture to open the links and play!



Find Us 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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