

Spring into a Teachable Moment: Learning Smoke Alarms



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Working smoke alarms should be installed on every level of

the home and outside each sleeping area. It is up to caregivers to maintain these alarms, to teach young children that they warn of smoke and fire as well as what they are to do when they hear them. Follow this simple lesson to teach your children about

smoke alarms.

EXPLAIN: Smoke alarms give people an early warning of smoke so that they have a greater chance of escaping a fire.

1. Show your child the alarm. Explain that it will warn them if there is fire and smoke.
2. Tell them that when they hear the sound it means they must get out of the building they are in. Press the test button and hold it down so they hear how it sounds.

3. Let the child touch the smoke alarm and push the test button.

ACTIVITY: Make a pretend Smoke Alarm.

1. Glue two paper plates together.
2. Paint a test button on the pretend alarm.
3. Have child imitate the sound of the smoke alarm while pushing down the test buttons on their pretend alarm.

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Add Cleaning Your Dryer to Your List This Spring~

Did you know that the leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them? Follow these few tips to prevent a dryer fire.

Clothes Dryer Do's:

- Have your clothes dryer installed by a professional.
- Clean the lint filter before and after each load of laundry. Don't forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up.
- Clean lint out of the vent pipe every three months.
- Inspect the venting system behind the dryer to ensure it is not damaged or restricted.
- Put a covering on outside

wall dampers to keep out rain, snow and dirt.

- Make sure the outdoor vent covering opens when the dryer is on.
- Have your dryer cleaned regularly by a professional, especially if it is taking longer than normal for clothes to dry.
- Have gas-powered dryers inspected every year by a professional to ensure that the gas line and connection are together and free of leaks.
- Check regularly to make sure nests of small animals and insects are not blocking the outside vent.
- Keep the area around the

clothes dryer free of items that can burn.

• If you will be away from home for an extended time, unplug or disconnect the dryer.

Clothes Dryer Don'ts:

- Don't overload the dryer.
- Don't dry anything containing foam, rubber or plastic. Ex: a bathroom rug with a rubber backing.
- Don't dry items that have come into contact with anything flammable like alcohol, cooking oils or gasoline. Dry them outdoors or in a well-ventilated room, away from heat.

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Safety Educator

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Wednesday, April 30, 2014
5:30-7:30

Join **Safe Kids NH** for free bike and helmet safety checks and ride your bike on the same track used by some of your favorite NASCAR stars! More information: call **(877) 783-0432** or email

IPC@Dartmouth.edu

9 Volt Battery Safety

9-volt batteries power our smoke alarms, household items and toys. They can be found in most homes. But these batteries can be a fire hazard if not stored safely or disposed of with care.

The problem

*9-volt batteries can be dangerous. The positive and negative posts are close together. If a metal object touches the two posts of a 9-volt battery, it can cause a short circuit. This can make enough heat to start a fire.

*It is unsafe to store 9-volt batteries in a drawer near paper clips, coins, pens, or other batteries. Do not store common household items such as steel wool, aluminum



Cover Posts with electrical tape to prevent fire.

foil, and keys near 9-volt batteries. If these items touch the two posts, there is a greater risk of a fire starting.

* Weak batteries may have enough charge to cause a fire. Some fires have started in trash when 9-volt batteries were thrown away with other metal items.

Storing 9-volt Batteries

* Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape. Prevent the posts from

coming in contact with metal objects.

*Keep them someplace safe where they won't be tossed around. Store batteries standing up.

* 9-volt batteries should not be stored loose in a drawer. Do not store them in containers with other batteries.

Disposal

* 9-volt batteries should not be thrown away with trash. They can come in contact with other batteries or pieces of metal.

* 9-volt batteries can be taken to a collection site for household hazardous waste.

* To be safe, cover the positive and negative posts with masking, duct, or electrical tape before getting rid of batteries.

►► www.nfpa.org

NFPA releases New Fire Safety Music Videos

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has recently released two fun and exciting music videos for kids featuring Public Broadcasting System (PBS) personality Steve Rosnolek of "Steve Songs" fame and the top-ranked Seattle children's band, Recess Monkey. The videos, which focus on the importance of smoke alarms, are currently available on its Sparky School House website. The videos, "Little Rosalie" and "What's That Sound?", teach young children the importance of fire safety and help children remember what they should do in the event of a fire.



Grill Safety

Read More: www.cpsc.gov

www.nfpa.org

There's no better way to celebrate the arrival of spring and summer than to barbecue outdoors. Take these steps to keep your family safe from grilling accidents or injuries. Here are tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission for safeguarding your family:

►Propane and Charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
►Grills should be placed away from the home, deck railings, and overhanging branches.

GAS GRILL SAFETY:

●Check burner tubes that lead into

the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders or food grease.

●Check grill hoses for cracking, holes and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.

●Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease.

●Always keep propane gas containers upright.

●Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors.

●Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.

●Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause

the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.

CHARCOAL GRILL SAFETY:

Charcoal produces carbon monoxide (CO) when it is burned. CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate to toxic levels in closed environments. To reduce the risk of CO poisoning follow these safety tips:

●Never burn charcoal inside homes, vehicles, tents or campers.

●Since charcoal produces CO fumes until the charcoal is completely extinguished, do not store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.

WINDOWS: Keep Bugs Out NOT Kids In

We tend to think of children falling down the stairs, falling off playground equipment or falling off a bike or skates not falling out windows. All of these can result in serious injuries, but window falls are especially



dangerous because of the heights and hard landing surfaces. Safe Kids reports that every year in the United States, nearly 5,000 children, mostly toddlers, fall out of windows. It is extremely important to remember that a window screen is not a safety device. It is designed to keep insects out, not to keep children in. Window guards, window locks or wedges or other means should be installed to keep the window from opening too much. Proper safety devices on windows save lives. As the spring weather arrives, we tend to have

our windows open more frequently. These few safety precautions may save your child from serious injury or death.

- ♥ CPSC recommends **against** knotting or tying the cords together on window blinds or shades because this creates a new loop in which a child could become entangled.
- ♥ Keep windows closed and locked when children are around.
- ♥ Keep furniture and anything that a child can climb on away from windows to reduce the chances of a child falling through a window.
- ♥ When opening a window for ventilation chose one that a child cannot reach.
- ♥ If you have windows that open from the top as well as the bottom, it is generally safer to open the top pane.
- ♥ Don't assume an unlocked, closed

window is childproof.

- ♥ Set and enforce rules that your child cannot play near windows especially the activity many kids love, jumping on the bed.
- ♥ Strategic landscaping may lessen the extent of injury sustained in the event of a fall. Shrubs and soft edging such as wood chips or grass under a window can cushion potential falls.
- ♥ Finally, while you're childproofing your windows, take a moment to secure the curtain pulls or blind cords out of reach, kids have been strangled while playing with dangling cords.



Install safety tassels on the end of blinds or cut the loop so a child is less likely to get trapped.

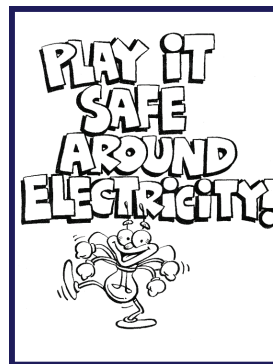
ELECTRICAL Safety

Flipping a light switch; plugging in a coffeemaker; charging a laptop computer? These are second nature for most of us. Electricity makes our lives easier. However, we need to be cautious and keep safety in mind.

- * Have all electrical work done by a qualified licensed electrician.
- * When buying or remodeling a home have it thoroughly inspected by a qualified electrician.
- * Only plug one heat-producing appliance (coffee maker, toaster, hair dryer, flat iron etc) into an outlet at a time.
- * Major appliances (refrigerator, washer/dryer, stove, air conditioner, etc) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle

outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should NOT be used.

- * Arc fault circuit interrupter (AFCI's) is a kind of circuit breaker that shuts off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home by a qualified electrician.
- * Use ground fault interrupters (GFCI's) to reduce the risk of shock where there is a possible contact with water. GFCI's shut off an electrical outlet when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages, and base-



ments. ALL outdoor outlets should be GFI protected.

- * Test AFCI's and GFCI's monthly to make sure they are working properly.
- * Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets.
- * Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Consider having additional outlets professionally installed so you do not have to use extension cords.
- * Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.
- * Replace damaged or loose electrical cords.

**THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE FIRE
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Be sure to follow us on
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Safety Educator

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



Hey Kids!
Check out these websites
related to fire and life
safety.



www.sparky.org



www.smokeybear.com/kids



www.sesamestreet.org/ready



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