Issues in Fire Safety: Focus on Children

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Today’s Topics

- What makes a fire dangerous
- Smoke detectors and doors
- Escape planning
- Burns, scalds, and sleepwear
- Child set fires
- NFPA fire prevention week theme
Five things we need to know about fire

1. Fires are dark

This is a once in a career or “TV” fire.
Five things we need to know about fire

2. Smoke is a poisonous gas
Five things we need to know about fire

3. Fire is HOT!
Five things we need to know about fire

4. You don’t have time in a fire
Five things we need to know about fire

5. Small fires have a big impact

Kids are especially subject to harm from smoke and heat.
Tools of the Trade

- Smoke detectors
- Doors
- Escape plans
Pop Quiz

How often should you check your smoke detector?

A. Once a year
B. Twice a year
C. Once a month
D. Weekly
Smoke detectors

- One on the ceiling of each level of the home, audible in the sleeping area
- One in each bedroom
- Check with your local fire service as to what type are acceptable
- Check detectors monthly
Closed doors will keep smoke and heat out of a room and buy you or a child some time.
Home Escape Plans

- Plan, write and practice two ways out of each sleeping area.
- Designate a meeting place.
- Stay outside; call from a cell phone or a neighbor's house.
Fire Escape Plan

1. Use the grid to draw a floor plan of your home; make one grid for each level.
2. Designate two ways out of every room, through the doors and windows, and mark them clearly on your diagram. Also mark the location of each smoke alarm with an SA.
3. Choose a meeting place safely outside your home – like a tree or other landmark.
4. Post your escape plan in a place where everyone can see it. Share it with everyone who visits your home.
5. Hold regular family fire drills at least twice a year. Practice makes perfect.

Emergency Number: ________________
Burns and Scalds

- Foods / Liquids
- Hot water
- Hot objects
Foods / Liquids

- When cooking on the stove, keep pot handles turned inward
- 3 foot burn free zone around stove
- Laps are no place for small children when handling hot foods and liquids
- The risks of microwave cooking
Pop Quiz

Have you tested your water heater temperature?

Yes or No
Testing your water temperature

- Run your water until hot
- Partially fill a bucket
- Insert an instant meat thermometer
- Read temperature
  - If over 120F, lower setting on thermostat of the water heater
- Test again
Hot Objects

- Candles
- Space heaters
- Halogen lights / Utility lights
- Electrical outlets
- Small appliances
  - Clothes Irons
  - Hair Dryers
  - Curling Irons
Child set fires

- Matches and lighters should be **inaccessible** to children!

- Never allow children to keep candles and incense in their rooms
Impact of child fireplay / firesetting

Nationally:

- Children are responsible for setting 300,000 fires annually
- This number is approximately half of the total number of fires set annually
To address juvenile firesetting in Pennsylvania a regional multidisciplinary approach has been developed:

- Fire Departments
- Police Departments
- District Attorney
- Mental Health Professionals
- Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Social Services (CYA, JPP)
Contact Information

Office of the State Fire Commission
2605 Interstate Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(800) 670-3473
National Fire Prevention Week
October 8-14, 2006

Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat

www.nfpa.org
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK October 8th - 14th, 2006

PREVENT COOKING FIRES...

WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT!

FOR MORE FIRE SAFETY TIPS, CHECK OUT firepreventionweek.org!
Contact your local fire service

- Fire prevention week
- Car seat checks
- Smoke detector projects
- School programs
- Firehouse tours

Collaboration is key!
Thanks

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