



Sparky the Fire Dog® is a registered trademark of

SAFETY EDUCATOR

SPRING CLEAN YOUR SMOKE ALARMS!



Hello Kids! Sparky the Dog here and I need your help to keep your family safe. Smoke alarms are tools that can tell us if there is smoke in the air. They work even when you can't smell smoke! It is **very important** to make sure smoke alarms are in good working condition to protect you and your family. If smoke alarms get filled with dust, they will not be able to sense the smoke and alert people who need to evacuate. By helping and encouraging the grownups in your home to clean your smoke alarms you can make sure your smoke alarms will alert your family should a fire occur. So grab the grownups in your home and let's GO!

GROWNUPS:

1. Remove smoke alarm from the ceiling or wall. It is easier to clean if you can set it on your table or hold it in your hands.
2. Remove the batteries and use a dry rag to dust the battery compartment. **If you did not replace the batteries when you changed your clock on Sunday, March 8th now would be the perfect time!**
3. Vacuum any dust particles in the smoke alarm.
4. Spray some Pledge on a dry rag and wipe down the outside of the smoke alarm. Pledge is mainly for wood, but it attracts dust and is perfect for collecting any dust on the outside of the smoke alarm.
5. Replace the smoke detector on the wall or ceiling.



TO TEST: Press and HOLD DOWN the test button to make sure the smoke alarm is in working order.

▶▶ Should you have any questions or concerns please contact your local fire department.

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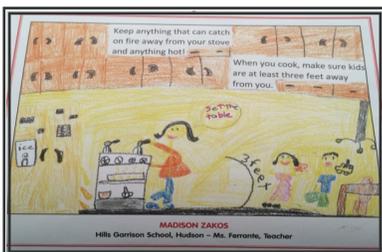
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MARCH: *KITCHEN & COOKING SAFETY*~Madison Zakos

Madison Zakos of Hills Garrison School in Hudson, NH would like to remind everyone about the importance of cooking and kitchen Safety. During the month of March you are encouraged to practice cooking and kitchen safety practices in your home. Madison's important reminders are:

1. Keep anything that can catch on fire away from your stove and anything hot!
2. When you cook, make sure kids are at least three feet away from you.

Excellent reminders **Madison**, we thank you very much for helping us spread these important safety rules!





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POISON PREVENTION

National Poison Prevention Week March 15-21st



Hard Fact:

Half of the 2 million calls to the Poison Help Number in 2011 involved children ages 5 and under. It is a fact that 9 out of 10 poisonings occur within the home.

www.safekids.org

Let's face it, sometimes kids get into things that they probably shouldn't. Things that are convenient for grownups, like keeping vitamins by the sink, can be deadly should a child get into them. Keeping potentially dangerous substances out of little hands is a sure way to prevent unintentional poisoning. Here are a few tips to keep little explorers from finding their way into household items that could be dangerous.

- Store all household products and cleaning solutions out of children's sight and reach. Remember young kids are often eye-level with these items under the kitchen and bathroom sinks.
- Store poisonous items out of reach or **use safety locks on cabinets** within reach. One item to be extremely aware of is the detergent pods for the laundry and dishwasher. They are extremely poisonous. It only takes a few minutes to relocate them, and it gives you one less thing to worry about.
- Read product labels to find out what can be hazardous to kids. Dangerous household items include makeup, personal care products, plants, pesticides, lead, art supplies, alcohol, and cleaning products.
- Keep cleaning products in their original containers. Never put a potentially poisonous product in something other than its original container (such as a plastic soda bottle) where it could be mistaken for something else.



- Throw away old medicines and other potential poisons. Check your garage, basement and other storage areas for cleaning and work supplies you no longer need and can discard.
- Make sure that all medications, including vitamins and adult/child medicines, are stored out of reach and out of sight of children. These are often confused as candy.
- Be aware of any medications or makeup that may be in your handbag.

Store handbags out of the reach of young children.

- Add the toll-free **Poison Help Number (1-800-222-1222)** into your home and cell phones as well as written on your home phone and refrigerator for the babysitter. Hopefully you'll never need it, but it's there should it ever be necessary.
- If living in an older home please check for lead-based paint. Remove any peeling paint or chewable surfaces painted with lead-based paint.

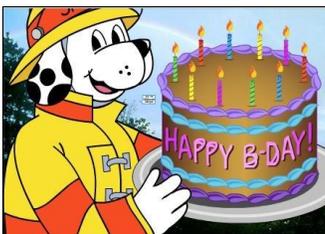
LEARN MORE:

www.cdc.gov

www.safekids.org



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SPARKY THE FIRE DOG!!



March is National Reading Month, which is devoted to creating opportunities for children to fall in love with reading and discover new ways to celebrate the joys of reading. Through real life stories and interactive games, kids can learn with Sparky the Fire Dog important fire safety messages and skills to keep their families safe. Mobile apps are also available. Sparky would love to see you taking a moment to celebrate his birthday by reading throughout and learning with him! Visit his website at: www.sparkyschoolhouse.org

SLEEPOVER SAFETY



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Think upset tummies and lack of sleep are your biggest concerns when your child is spending the night at his or her friend's house? Think again! Before you permit your child to sleep over a friend's house, talk to the child's parents about fire safety within their home. Depending on what you learn, it can either uncover serious fire dangers or give you peace of mind about your child's sleepover.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, eight out of ten fire deaths take place in the home, with the majority of home fire deaths occurring late at night. If you don't know for certain that the friend's home is equipped with working smoke alarms, and that the sleepover will be supervised by an adult, don't take the risk; reverse the invitation and have the sleepover at your own home.

Teach your child(ren) about the importance of fire escape planning in a positive, non-threatening way. Ideally, your child will be well versed in home fire escape planning and drills in your own home. Before you permit a sleepover at a friend's, discuss the importance of knowing how to escape from a fire wherever you are, including a friend's home. Empower your child(ren) to ask friends and their parents about fire safety in their home, and to report anything that makes them feel unsafe. Remember, when it's your turn to host other children overnight in your home, make sure they know what your fire escape plan is.

Sleepover Checklist

Here is a checklist to help parents, and caregivers, consider hazards and make decisions about slumber parties and sleepovers.

Before you say "yes":

- How well do you know the home?
- Is the home clean? Does it appear to be structurally sound?
- Is the home in a safe area?
- If the home has security bars on doors and windows, do you know for certain that the bars have quick release devices inside, so your child could get out in an emergency?
- Is your child comfortable in the home and with all the occupants?
- Are you comfortable leaving your child in the home overnight?



How well do you know the parent(s)?

- Are they mature, responsible and conscientious?
 - Will they supervise the children throughout the stay?
 - Are they cautious with smoking materials, matches and lighters, and candles?
- Discuss with the parents:**
- Are there working smoke alarms on every level, inside and outside each sleeping area?
 - Are the smoke alarms interconnected?
 - Do they have a well-rehearsed fire escape plan that includes two ways out and a meeting place outside?
 - Where will your child be sleeping? Is there a smoke alarm in the room? Are there two escape routes from the room?
 - Will the parents walk through their escape plan with your child?
 - Do the parents prohibit bedroom candle use by children?



►► **LEARN MORE:**

www.nfpa.org

The NH State Fire Marshal's Office, in conjunction with the NH Fire Prevention Society, would like to **thank** ALL of the students who participated in the 3rd Annual Fire and Life Safety Calendar, as well as the supportive parents and teachers! Winners will be notified by the end of this month. We look forward to celebrating your artistic talent and important safety message in the upcoming school year calendar!

**Thank
you!**

**The New Hampshire State
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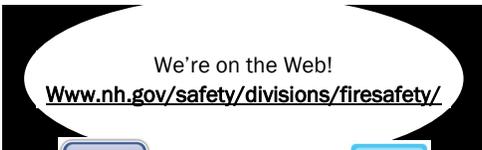


As we begin to prepare for the Spring months we ask that you take a moment to look through this newsletter and see what you can do to ensure your home, family, and visitors are kept safe. Over the last couple of months it has become more obvious that the need for working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms is extremely important. Please take a moment to ensure that your batteries have been replaced and that your alarms are in working order. To learn more about the types of alarms that are available for your home visit:

www.usfa.fema.gov www.nfpa.org

We also ask that you make sure your home is safe with the Poison Awareness and Sleepover Safety tips that have been provided. These types of safety measures take moments to learn and can save lives for a lifetime. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the NH State Fire Marshal's Office.

J. William Degnan
NH State Fire Marshal



Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:

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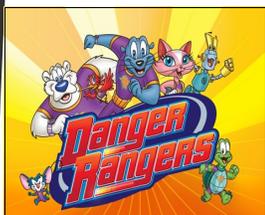
Kids Can Be Firefighters Too!

MARCH 2015 Safety Educator Website Special Feature:

Celebrate the month of March with Sparky the Fire Dog. This website has lots of great FUN learning activities including activities to celebrate Read Across America! Keep up the great reading kids, it makes Sparky VERY proud of you!



Click on photo or link below to visit other Kid Friendly and Parent/Educator Approved websites:



DangerRangers.com



Smokeybear.com/kids



sparky.org



firefighterdayna.com



ready.gov/kids