

Fire Safety and Our Kids

When the Alarm Goes Off

The Fire Department consistently attends the school to teach the children about fire safety.

Here is what we teach them:

- When you hear a smoke alarm, get outside the quickest way possible.
- If you run into smoke, get low and crawl under the smoke.
- Once you get outside, go to your meeting place.
- **Never go back into a burning building!**
- You should sleep with bedroom doors closed to keep smoke out.
- If your door is hot, stay in your bedroom and go out the window. Try to get someone's attention that is outside by waving a towel or clothing.

Training Our Kids

Many people have said "my kids don't wake up when the smoke alarm goes off." There is a solution for this that works with most kids. This will take a few nights to accomplish; some kids may take longer than others.

The following steps may have to be repeated to ensure our kids are safe and wake up when it matters most:

Night 1: Set the smoke alarm off when the kids are still awake, making sure they get out safely and go to your meeting place.

Night 2: Set the smoke alarm off immediately after they go to bed, making sure they wake up and get to your meeting place.

Night 3: After they have been asleep for a short while, set the alarm off, making sure they wake up and get out to your meeting place.

Night 4: If they didn't wake up on Night 3, try putting the smoke alarm in their room. If that doesn't work, wake them gently with the alarm still sounding. These steps may have to be repeated a few nights.

Night 5: After the kids are waking to the sound, move the alarm back to its normal place and repeat step 3.

Night 6: If the above has worked, try it just before you go to bed and hopefully the kids will meet you at your meeting place.

False Alarms

False alarms are a great way to have a fire drill. When the smoke alarm sounds because we may have burnt something, yell fire drill and get out. Then start timing and see how long it takes the rest of your family to get out. This may be the best way to have an impromptu fire drill. The next time it happens you may be hard pressed to beat your kids outside to your meeting place.

Meeting Place

A meeting place is a safe place where a family can meet in case of a fire. If you train your family to always meet at the same spot when the smoke alarm goes off, then if a real fire happens you will all get out and meet at the same place.

Your meeting place can be anywhere, but quite commonly it is a place that stands out in your yard. It could be a big tree, a garage or even the playhouse. It doesn't matter what it is as long as it is a safe place removed far enough away from your house in case there is a fire.