FIRE, BURN AND SCALD PREVENTION

GET LOW AND GO

This activity helps children learn what to do if they are in a fire.

LOCATION:
Indoors. This activity can be conducted on its own in a smaller space (such as a classroom) or as one station of a larger safety fair.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:
Safe Kids coalitions have experience conducting fire, burn and scald prevention activities in a variety of settings. Partnering with a local coalition is the easiest way to ensure you have access to the expertise, equipment and resources needed to host a successful event.

Consider inviting your local fire department to attend your event. They might be willing to bring a fire truck and offer tours. It’s also helpful for young children to get accustomed to the sight of firefighters dressed in their equipment so that they are less likely to run or hide from help in an emergency.

MATERIALS NEEDED:
• Black crepe paper
• Chairs, desks or other items to be used as “obstacles”

PREPARATION:
• Hang crepe paper in a doorway or from a classroom ceiling.
• Create an obstacle course for children to crawl through.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTION
• Explain to students and their families:
  • There can be a lot of smoke in a fire.
  • Smoke is up high, and clear air is down low.
  • Crawl low on hands and knees under the smoke to get out.
  • Get outside quickly.
  • Go to your family’s meeting place.
• Ask children to crawl under the hanging crepe paper and through the obstacle course. Remind them that they must stay on their hands and knees to “escape” safely!
• Invite family members to wait in a designated “meeting place” and celebrate with their children when they complete the course.
KEY MESSAGES

When you conduct any activity focused on fire, burn and scald prevention, share the following key messages with parents (either during the activity, or as a take-home):

1. Stay in the kitchen when you cook. Unattended cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and fire-related injuries in homes.

2. Have working smoke alarms in your home. Make sure you test alarms often to ensure the batteries are working. Change the batteries every time you change your clocks for daylight savings.

3. Create a 'kids free zone' and keep children at least three feet away from the stove. Cook on the back burners with pot handles turned back so children cannot pull down hot things from the stove.

4. Plan and practice two escape routes out of each room in the house. It is important to have an alternative escape route in case one is blocked by fire.

5. Choose a safe meeting spot outside, away from your home, where the family will go in case of an emergency.

6. Set your water heater to 120 degrees F to prevent scald burns.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

More information about fire prevention and safety can be found on the Safe Kids Worldwide website: www.safekids.org