

Parent's  
**Take-Home  
Guide**  
for Home Fire Safety

## Dear Parents or Guardians,

**A**t the start of a new school year we buy book bags, pencils and lunchboxes for our children and do all we can to ensure they are prepared. We are happy to hear that they took part in a practice fire drill — we want them to be safe. But the fact is, children don't die in fires at school, they die in home fires. An average of three children a day die in home fires and 90 percent of those occur in homes without working smoke detectors.\*

### Consider this:\*

- **92 percent of Americans have smoke detectors in their homes.**
- **One third of them don't work because the battery is either worn or missing.**
- **A working smoke detector is the single most effective tool in surviving a home fire.**
- **A working smoke detector nearly doubles the chances of surviving a home fire by providing an early warning system and critical seconds to escape.**

\*Sources: U.S. Fire Administration, National Safety Council, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

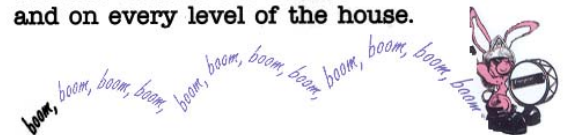
**I**n a new school fire safety program, "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery," we are stressing the importance of home fire safety. This includes acquainting children with smoke detectors and the importance of keeping them working and encouraging your family to practice fire drills at home.

By completing the following suggested activities with your children, you can create important fire safety habits at home and perhaps save lives.

## ACTIVITIES

### Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

- **Create the family habit of changing the batteries** in your smoke detectors at the same time you change your clocks each fall.
- **Make sure children know the sound** of a smoke detector.
- **Tour the house** and show them where the smoke detectors are located. There should be a detector outside each bedroom and on every level of the house.





## Practice Home Fire Drills

- **Identify two different fire escape routes** from your home and practice these two ways out with your children.



- **Push the smoke detector's test button** to "sound the alarm" and practice the drill.

- **Practice fire drills** with family members blindfolded. Most fires happen at night and often the home is filled with smoke, therefore the blindfold will help replicate night conditions.



- **Practice crawling** through the home. It is important to stay low where it is less smoky.
- **Arrange a meeting place** for the family outside the home.

## Remember

- **A working smoke detector** doubles the chance of surviving a home fire.
- **Change your smoke detector batteries** each fall when you change your clocks back from daylight savings time.
- **Test your smoke detectors** each month.
- **Plan and practice** an escape route.



Please complete this form. When you have finished the activities in this guide, detach and have your child return it to his/her teacher.



## Our Home Is Fire Safe Because:

*We have tested the smoke detectors to make sure they are working*

*We are in the fire safety habit of changing the batteries in our smoke detectors annually*

*We have identified and practiced two fire escape routes from our home*

*We know where to meet outside the home if a fire occurs*

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Child's Signature



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