



Tasmania Fire Service

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION

A Fire Fighter from the Tasmania Fire Service has been visiting our school this week to present a Fire Safety Program to our students.

The program is an initiative of the Tasmania Fire Service which aims to deliver appropriate fire safety education to every primary school child in Tasmania. The program is part of the Tasmania Fire Services ongoing commitment to educate the public for a fire safe Tasmania.

Activity Books will be handed out to children from grades 1 to 4. After the conclusion of the program the activity book can be taken home and we encourage other members of your family to participate in the activities to ensure your home is fire safe.

INSTALL AND MAINTAIN SMOKE ALARMS (Smoke alarms save lives)

Smoke alarms warn occupants of a fire and ensure safe evacuations. Every home should have photo-electric smoke alarms installed in each bedroom, hallway and at the head of the stairway, connecting levels, if you live in a house with more than one level. They provide an early warning of fire, giving people more time to get out potentially saving lives and thousands of dollars in property damage.

Smoke alarms should be tested weekly with flat batteries being replaced immediately. Batteries should be replaced at least every twelve (12) months; a good time is at the end of daylight savings time. Some alarms have 10 year lithium batteries that do not need replacing every year.

PLAN AND PRACTICE A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

a) With the family, plan two ways out of every room. In case of fire, one exit may be blocked by flames or smoke. Choose a safe meeting place outside where everyone will meet like the letter box

b) *Enable Doors And Windows To Be Easily Unlocked*

Door deadlocks and windows locks are in many homes and can be deadly in a fire. When you are in the home leave keys in any deadlocked door and ensure windows can be easily opened in the event of a fire.

The best fire escape plan is worthless if your escape route is blocked.

CRAWL LOW UNDER SMOKE (Crawl low and go, go, go)

Everyone should know if you get caught in smoke, the cleanest air will be several centimetres off the floor. Get down on your hands and knees and crawl to the nearest safe exit. Shout Fire! Fire! Fire! To warn others.

2 METRES FROM HEATER / FIRE

Always keep clothes, newspapers, kindling and other flammable material at least 2 metres from the heater or 2 big giant steps away from it.

STOP, DROP AND ROCK AND ROLL

Everyone should know this rule. "If your clothes catch fire, don't run! **Stop** put your hands over your face, gently **drop** to the ground, and **rock and roll** back and forth on the ground until your clothes stop burning. This will smother the flames while protecting your face, mouth and lungs from the flames.

A MATCH/LIGHTER IS A TOOL FOR ADULTS

Matches and lighters are extremely dangerous in the hands of a child. Store them up high where children can't reach them. Teach children that matches and lighters are tools for adults; they are not toys for children.

COOKING (Turn it off before you turn away)

Never leave cooking unattended. Turn it off before you turn away. Be alert when cooking; keep children out of harms way. Pot handles should be turned inward so they won't be knocked over the edge of the stove.

IF A FIRE STARTS IN YOUR HOME REMEMBER TO:

- GET OUT – CRAWL LOW UNDER SMOKE
- SHOUT FIRE! FIRE! FIRE! TO WARN OTHERS
- GO TO YOUR SAFE MEETING PLACE (e.g. Letterbox)
- CALL THE FIRE BRIGADE ON TRIPLE ZERO "000"
- GET OUT STAY OUT - NEVER GO BACK INSIDE.

REMEMBER: Plan ahead – there's a lot you can do to prevent a fire

EARLY CHILDHOOD

TFS receives regular requests from kindergartens, preschools and child care centres asking for firefighters to visit and teach children about home fire safety.

TFS does not deliver structured fire safety programs to children below primary school age. This decision was made based on research carried out by the Mental Health Services of the Royal Children's Hospital and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in Melbourne. This research indicated that:

- Children under the age of five had low retention of the information they had learned; and
- In some children, the information had actually stimulated their curiosity about fire and they had begun to play with fire.

TFS believes that parents and caregivers are the best people to make sure that very young children are safe from fire. To help with this, TFS has a fire safety website for parents, carers, teachers and students @ www.tfseducation.com.au

TFS has also developed resources for young children that introduce them to the friendly firefighter characters that they will meet when they receive the School Fire Education

Program:

- A colouring book;
- A money box shaped like a fire truck; and
- Stickers with home fire safety messages for the whole family.

To order free giveaways for your kindergarten, preschool or child care centre, go to www.tfseducation.com.au/order