

YOUTH

HEALTH BULLETIN



DECEMBER 2023

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC: STAY FIRE SAFE



When it gets cold in the winter, many people turn to fire to stay warm and have light. From candles to fireplaces and heaters, fires can help people be comfortable. However, fire is very serious, is never a toy, and is never OK to touch.

Every year, kids of all ages start fires that hurt people and damage things. You can do your part to prevent fires by never playing with matches, lighters, and other fire sources. Also stay away from all open flames, including fireplaces, candles, and stoves. If you are worried about one of these items, always talk to a grown up in your home. Do not investigate for yourself.

Even when people try to be safe, accidents can still happen. Some

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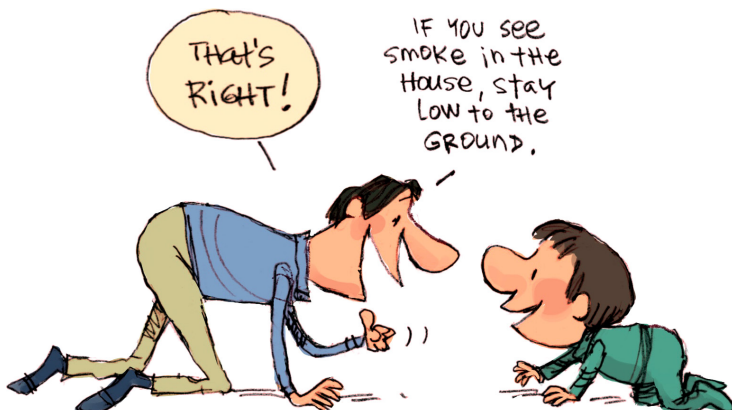
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people don't want to talk about fire safety because no one likes to think about people getting hurt or their things getting burned. But you can feel less worried about a fire if you are ready just in case.

All homes should have a fire escape plan. They should include how to get out of your home in case of a fire and where to meet outside. Smoke from a fire can make it hard to see where things are, so it's important to learn and remember the different ways out of your home. Talk to your family about the different ways to get out of the rooms in your home. The most important thing in a fire is to get out safely. Never try to hide.

If you can see smoke in the house, stay low to the ground as you go to the exit. In a fire, smoke and poisonous air hurt more people than the actual flames do. You'll breathe less smoke if you stay close to the ground. Bend down low or crawl to avoid the smoke and keep going quickly to the outside.

Besides planning how to get out, you also need to know where to meet your family outside. This is helpful because then everyone shows up in one place and you'll know that everyone is safe. It is normal to worry about your pets or a favorite toy, but if there is a fire, you have to leave them behind. The most important thing is that you get out safely. Once you are out, **STAY OUT**. Do not go back in for anything — even pets. You can tell the fire rescue people about any pets that were left behind and they may be able to help.



If you are stuck in a room with a hot door or on an upper floor, keep the door closed and get to a window. Open it if you can and make a lot of noise and move around. Firefighters will be able to see you and help you get down.

If your clothes ever catch fire, do not run away! Instead, cut off air to the fire by remembering to **STOP, DROP** to the ground, cover your face with your hands, and **ROLL** to put out the flames.

You do not need to be afraid of fire. You can make good choices to keep your distance and stay safe.

REFERENCE:

<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/fire-safety.html>

ADULT HEALTH BULLETIN

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