

# Waterloo Fire Rescue Fire PALS Injury Prevention Program

## Home Escape Planning

### Grades 2 –5

*To educate the students on importance of operating smoke detectors and having a home escape plan for their homes.*

#### Learning Objectives:

At the completion of this unit, 90% of the students will be able to:

1. describe the components of a home escape plan
2. identify two ways out of every room
3. describe a family meeting place
4. draw a home escape plan

#### Time Element

Knowledge/Attitude: 15 minutes

Activity/Skill: 25 minutes

#### Introduction/Content: 10 minutes

Introduce yourself and explain why you are here today.

**I. As part of the discussion, review what to do if house is on fire.** Students will have learned this from previous grades and smoke house class. Describe what actions to take to safely exit the house. Explain how they must feel door with back of hand, once out of house, stay out, take no time to retrieve pets or possessions, and to call 9 – 1 – 1 from a neighbor's house.

#### 1. Importance of smoke detectors (briefly review from smoke detector lesson.)

- a. Best chance of escape is early warning of operating smoke detectors
- b. Like drug dog with trained nose, detectors are trained nose for house.
- c. Go over smoke detector review.
  - Placement – every floor, outside bedrooms
  - Test once a month.
  - Maintenance
    - Change batteries annually – when clocks change in fall, or Fire Prevention Week.

- Vacuum when batteries are changed to clean.
- Never paint detectors.
- Listen for low battery chirp.

## **2. Importance of a home escape plan**

- a. People become disoriented during an emergency.
- b. The need for practice in a controlled, non-emergency setting.
- c. Most injuries and death due to fire occur between hours of midnight and 4 a.m. (Many of these injuries and deaths are related to failing to regularly check smoke detectors and sleeping through the fire.)

## **II. Activity: 10 minutes**

**Using classroom overhead projector or chalkboard, draw a floor plan of a home or apartment. Have students use the home escape diagram that is in the student handbook.**

- Ask the students which way is their first way out of the house in case of fire.
- Draw the way out on floor plan
- Ask the students which is the second way out of their bedroom, besides the door.
- Draw the line out of the window to the front yard. Have students do the same.
- Ask where should they meet the rest of their family and dial 9-1-1 from.
- Draw the family meeting place in front yard, have students do same.

## **IV. Suggested Activities: 5 minutes**

Have the students describe the escape route from their classroom along with their meeting place.

- ✓ Check for connection to home escape plan.

## **V. Journal**

After discussion, have the students write about the following journal topic:  
 “Home Escape Plans are important because...”

### **Reinforcing Activity**

The smoke house class will reinforce this activity.

- ✓ Check for connection to family meeting place.

### **Home / School Connection**

Have the students complete the letter home to their parents/guardians explaining the dangers of a house fire and importance of smoke detectors and having a home escape plan.

**Materials needed:**

**Working smoke detector**

**Non-working smoke detector**

**Completed home escape plan**