

Waterloo Fire Rescue Fire PALS Injury Prevention Program

Safety Trailer

Grades K – 5

The safety trailer visit contains 3 elements: kitchen safety, emergency 911 and home escape planning.

Learning Objectives:

At the completion of this unit, 100% of the students will be able to:

1. distinguish the behaviors that promote kitchen safety
2. know how to call 911 in an emergency
3. recall practicing home escape skills in the safety trailer and will have the skills to react appropriately if ever facing a fire.

Time Element

Knowledge/Attitude: 20 minutes

Activity/Skill: 10 minutes

Introduction/Content: 15 minutes

The safety trailer visit emphasizes the importance of E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drills In The Home) in the bedroom scenario. By turning on the heated door and watching smoke enter from the door jam, the firefighter shows how to feel for heat and block the non-toxic smoke with a pillow or towel and then evacuate to safety using the window and escape ladder. The firefighter on the outside of the trailer assists children in escaping. The middle section of the trailer has a control room that can be staffed with a firefighter who acts as a dispatcher in a 911 role-playing situation with the children. In the kitchen area of the trailer, the firefighter discusses important safety tips with the children including cooking safety, accidental poisoning prevention, and smoke detectors save lives. The safety trailer experience allows the firefighter to review many important safety lessons that have been touched based on throughout the Fire PALS visits, and gives the children a real life experience that helps the children simulate the dangers associated with a fire.

- I. **Prior to taking the children out to the safety trailer, have the classroom teacher discuss the importance of following classroom rules and discuss expectations for good behavior.**

Divide the children into two groups. The safety trailer experience works best with 2 or more firefighters providing instruction. One Fire PALS instructor takes kids to the kitchen area, the other to the bedroom area.

II. In the kitchen area of the safety trailer discuss the following with the students:

- a. Locate the smoke detectors and fire extinguishers with the children. Review the importance of both.
- b. Show the students the poisons under the sink. Tell the children that poisons can be found anywhere in a home, but kitchen areas tend to contain several because many homeowners keep toxic cleaning supplies under the sink. Review with children how important is to teach younger siblings to stay away from cleaning products, and the importance of keeping poisons locked up and out of reach of small children.
- c. Point out the following kitchen safety tips: Microwave safety (no metal in microwave), no cords running across the sink, keeping flammable material away from heat sources like stove or toaster, unplugging the toaster if something is stuck and never sticking anything in the toaster, turning pot handles in when cooking, not wearing long sleeves when cooking.

III. In the middle section of the trailer, have the firefighter in the control room act as a 911 dispatcher to simulate how to call 911 in an emergency situation. Have several students participate in role-playing different 911 scenarios.

IV. In the bedroom section of the safety trailer, the firefighter reviews important home escape skills with the students before turning on the heated door and smoke and having children exit out the escape window and ladder. For the safety of the children, have a firefighter positioned on the outside of the trailer by the ladder, ready to help them through the window and down the ladder. A classroom teacher should be nearby to corral the students as they await the safe exit of all of the children from the “smoke house.”

Review of important home escape skills should include the components of a home escape plan, identifying two ways out of every room, smoke detectors, describing a family meeting place, crawling low under smoke, sleeping with bedroom door closed, feeling door for heat with the back of the hand, getting out and staying out, never going back inside for pets or anything else, and calling 911 from a neighbor’s house.

**The safety trailer allows the student to practice their home escape skills in a controlled non-emergency setting. This experience has the potential to create the biggest impact on the children when it comes to understanding the importance of home escape planning.*

Journal:

Ask the classroom teacher to provide time for the children to write about their safety trailer experience in the Fire PALS student handbook on the My Safety Trailer Experience page.