



## Your Children and Fire Safety

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### Plan to get out **ALIVE**



Get out, stay out, and stay alive! When children see smoke or fire they often respond by trying to hide in a closet or under a bed. Make sure they know exactly what to do if they see fire or smell smoke. Make sure they know how to respond if they hear the smoke alarm or hear someone yelling "Fire!" Planning ahead and being prepared will ensure that everyone responds immediately and escapes to safety. When preparing your escape plan, take into consideration that:

- Most fatalities happen at night when people are sleeping.
- Your fire escape plan will be specific to your family's dwelling, be it a bungalow, a two-storey house, a high-rise apartment, etc.

### Smoke Alarms

Did you know that 7 out of 10 fires in Canada occur at home? Protect your family and home from fire with smoke alarms and by planning your escape. Make sure children know what a smoke alarm is and where they are located in your home. Teach your children:



- Smoke alarms warn them if a fire starts
- To stop what they are doing and get out of the house immediately when they hear the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Why it is so important to test smoke alarms every month and change the batteries at least once a year.

## Escape Plan

- Prepare and practice a home fire escape plan with your children.
- Plan and demonstrate two escape routes from every room in your home (during the night and day).
- Practice fire drills at least twice a year with your children.
- In an apartment fire, your children need to know which stairways will get them out of the building.
- *NEVER* take an elevator during a fire.
- Decide on a planned meeting area outside the home as part of your fire escape plan.
- Tell your children *NEVER* to go back into a burning building!
- After everyone is outside, call 9-1-1 from a safe location. Teach children how to dial 911 for emergency help.

## Crawl under Smoke

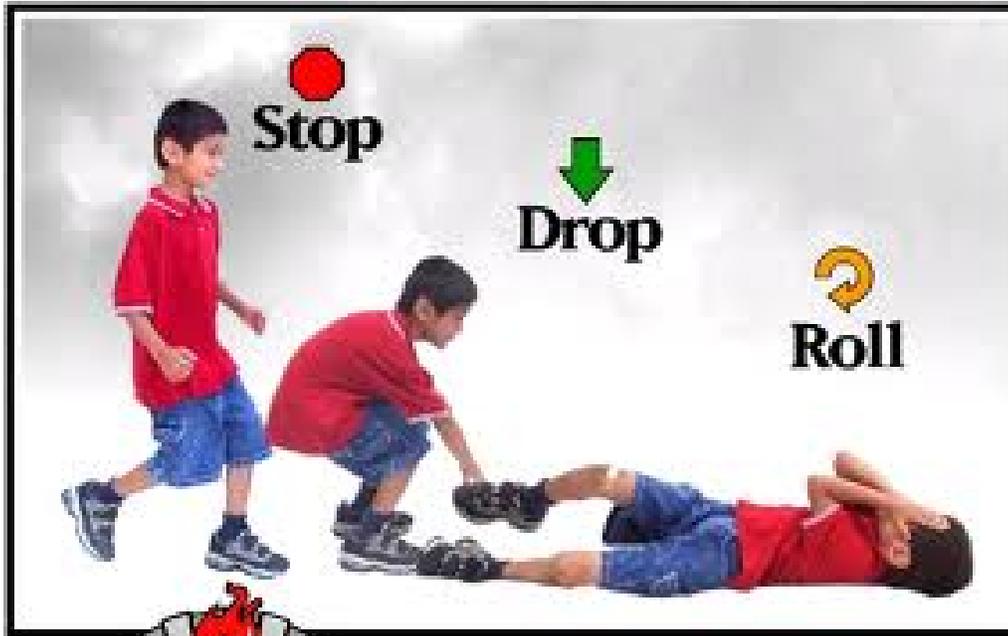
The majority of deaths in fires are caused by smoke inhalation. Teach children:

- Smoke is dangerous
- Smoke rises, so cleaner cooler air is near the floor
- To get down on their hands and knees, and crawl low under the smoke to the nearest safety exit.

## Stop, Drop, and Roll

Practice the '**Stop, Drop, and Roll**' movements with your children. This could save their lives if their clothes ever catch on fire. Teach children to:

- ➡ **STOP** where they are. Don't run!
- ➡ **DROP** to the floor and cover their faces with their hands.
- ➡ **ROLL** over and over until the flames are out.



## Lighters, Matches and Candles

In North America hundreds of children die or are seriously injured in fires each year. Children are much more likely than adults to be injured in a fire. Teach your children the importance of fire safety at an early age.

Keep lighters and matches out of sight and out of reach of children!



### Lighters and Matches

- Keep matches and lighters out of sight and out of reach of children. Store them up high, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Make sure the lighter you buy is 'child resistant'. Disposable lighters sold in Canada must be 'child resistant' but this does not mean they are 'child-proof'. Child resistant lighters are

designed so that children have a harder time making them work. While devices provide a safeguard, they are not foolproof!

- Even toddlers can learn how to light lighters and matches. Children as young as 18 months have started fires by playing with matches and lighters.
- Set a good example. If you smoke, be very responsible in your use of matches and lighters. *Children learn by watching you!*
- Children are fascinated by fire and don't understand the imminent danger so clearly and firmly set the ground rules at an early age.
- Teach your children that:
  - 1) matches and lighters are not toys
  - 2) matches and lighters are very dangerous
  - 3) matches and lighters produce fire which can hurt them
  - 4) matches and lighters can set things on fire and destroy them
  - 5) once a fire starts it is difficult to control
  - 6) matches and lighters should only be used by adults
- Teach your children that if they find matches or lighters, or if they find themselves with other children playing with matches and lighters (at home, school, playground), they should tell an adult/grown-up/parent right away.
- In addition to matches and lighters, barbeque (utility or multi-purpose) lighters/starters are used to start barbeques, fireplaces, woodstoves and candles. Again, these devices may be 'child resistant' but they are not 'child proof'. Treat these items in the same way you would matches and lighters – out of sight and out of reach!

## Never Leave Lit Candles Unattended

Fire is the third leading cause of accidental death in Canada. Approximately, 85% of fire deaths occur in the home, and most deaths are due to smoke inhalation. Many fires, particularly in homes, are started by candles, which have been left burning with no one watching. These preventable fires needlessly destroy peoples' lives. Here are some common sense tips:



- Lit candles are a fire and burn hazard. They should be placed in a safe location out of reach of children.
- Don't place burning candles close to curtains, lampshades or party decorations.
- **NEVER** place lit candles on your Christmas tree!
- Place candles firmly in sturdy candleholders that can't tip over and where they can't be knocked over.
- Don't use wood or plastic candleholders that can catch on fire. Metal candleholders are safer. Be careful with glass candleholders because they can break or shatter if the candle flame gets too hot.

- Cut the candlewick short to prevent a high flame. Candles with more than one wick close to one another are not safe, and should not be used.
- **Never** leave lit candles unattended!

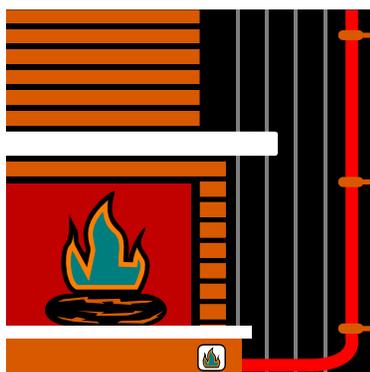
## Fireplaces and Woodstoves



Children have a fascination with fire and have a natural impulse to want to touch the flames. Making sure that you childproof your fireplace and/or woodstove is imperative to the safety and well-being of your children. A fireplace brings warmth and ambience to every home but it is very important that you make your children understand that fire can be dangerous. Please make sure the following steps are taken to ensure the safety of your children:

- Never leave children unattended within the vicinity a fireplace.
- Teach your children about the dangers of fireplaces and how to protect themselves from injury.
- Create a barrier by installing a hearth gate and/or child guard screen around the fireplace and make sure it is bolted correctly to the perimeter of your heat source according to the manufacturer's instructions, BUT, please bear in mind that you cannot rely solely on the hearth gate to protect your children from the dangers of a fireplace.
- Position a safety gate in the doorway to the room with a fireplace.
- Consider using your fireplace only after your children have gone to sleep.
- Install a Carbon Monoxide Detector to ensure that your fireplace is burning correctly and that your home is adequately ventilated.
- Keep combustibles such as paper, kindling, draperies, cushions, and pillows are away from the fireplace.
- Keep all fireplace equipment and accessories out of reach from your children.

## Gas Fireplaces



Children's skin is 4 times thinner than adult's skin and can burn in less than 1 second on the glass of a gas fireplace. Gas fireplaces are becoming more popular in homes not just as decorative or ambient accents but more so, as genuine heat sources. Gas fireplaces provide instant fire at the flick of a switch and produce intense heat almost immediately. Children receive burns from the glass barrier positioned at the forefront of a gas fireplace. Please make sure you take the following steps to ensure the safety of your children:

- Never leave children unattended within the vicinity a fireplace.
- Create a barrier by installing a hearth gate and/or child guard screen around the fireplace and make sure it is bolted correctly to the perimeter of your heat source according to the manufacturer's instructions. Please bear in mind that you cannot rely solely on the hearth gate to protect your children from the dangers of a fireplace.
- Position a safety gate in the doorway to the room with a fireplace.
- Make sure the fireplace On/Off switch is not in reach of your children.
- Teach your children about the dangers of fire.
- Consider using your fireplace only after your children have gone to sleep.
- Please remember that once the fuel source to a gas fireplace is shut off, it takes an average of 45 minutes for gas fireplace glass to cool off to a safe temperature.
- Install a Carbon Monoxide Detector to ensure that your fireplace is burning correctly and that your home is adequately ventilated.
- Keep combustibles such as paper, kindling, draperies, cushions, and pillows are away from the fireplace.



## Toronto Fire Services - Tips Card

If you would like to obtain the free Tips Card in PDF format that is available in many languages or read more highly detailed safety and fire prevention information, please go to [www.toronto.ca/fire/prevention/children.tm](http://www.toronto.ca/fire/prevention/children.tm)

**TVO "The Royals" in conjunction with Toronto Fire Services present this fire safety message."**

 [View the Matches and Lighters video.](#)

 [View the Stop, Drop and Roll video.](#)



Tips Card and videos are courtesy of [Toronto Fire Services](#)

## Fire Alarm Notification Appliances

A **Fire Alarm Notification Appliance** is an active fire protection component. A notification appliance may use audible, visible, or other stimuli to alert the occupants of a fire or other emergency condition requiring action. Audible appliances have been in use longer than any other method of notification. Most of today's appliances produce sound pressure levels between 45 and 120 decibels at ten feet. The primary function of the notification appliance is to alert persons at risk.

## How do you know if you have hearing loss?

- Do people seem to mumble or speak in a softer tone than they used to?
- Do you feel tired or irritable after a long conversation?

- Do you sometimes miss key words in a sentence, or frequently need to ask people to repeat themselves?
- When you are in a group or crowded environment, is it difficult for you to follow the conversation?
- When you are together with other people, does background noise bother you?
- Do you often need to turn up the volume on your TV and radio?
- Do you find it difficult to hear the doorbell, telephone, cell phone, or alarm ringing?
- Has someone close to you mentioned that you might have a problem with hearing?
- Is carrying on a conversation on a telephone or cell phone difficult?
- Does difficulty hearing cause you anxiety or embarrassment in a new situation?



If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, we recommend that you have your hearing assessed by an audiologist.

Canadian Hearing Society endorses the following Kidde Fire Alarm Appliances called 'Supplementary Life Safety Devices' for people with hearing disorders.

To speak with a Representative at Kidde please call 1-800-880-6788.  
 To speak with a Representative at the Canadian Hearing Society please call

### ***Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detectors***



Stay safe with this selection of either hardwired configurations, or portable easy-to-install solutions. Kidde smoke and carbon monoxide systems can be custom designed to meet your unique needs. Hardwired configurations are all interconnected through your existing home wiring system and must be installed by a certified electrician. Combine any of the smoke, carbon or the combination carbon and smoke detectors (up to 12 in total) and add on the number of add on strobes you require to provide you with the visual strobe in case of a fire or carbon monoxide detection.

#### **HARDWIRED**



#### **PORTABLE**

