

Fire Prevention & Fire Safety

DRAFT SCRIPT 4

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By

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<Name here> lives in <State here>, which is right next to Pennsylvania. She was six -- and maybe in Kindergarten or first grade -- when she helped save her mom, dad, and little brother.

It was the middle of the night, and <Name here> and her family were sleeping when a fire started in the kitchen. She heard the smoke alarm, woke up, and told her family right away. Their house burned down, and <Name here> lost most of her stuff -- her toys, her backpack, her clothes. Everything.

But she's alive today -- and so is her family -- so she was able to get new clothes and toys and school supplies.

<Name here's> dad is a firefighter, but you don't need a firefighter in your family to be prepared.

That's the key:

Be prepared.

<Name here> was asleep when the fire started, so she couldn't see any smoke or fire yet. She was upstairs asleep, so she didn't feel or smell any smoke or fire yet.

So how did <Name here> first know about the fire?

- A) Her dad is a firefighter
- B) Text message
- C) Smoke alarm
- D) Youtube or TikTok

If you chose C), then yourrrrr correct!

Have a smoke detector with new batteries on every floor of your house or apartment building, even the basement and attic. And always have one in the kitchen and another one where everyone can hear it if they're asleep.

Don't have one? Save this number:

717-XXX-XXXX

It's the phone number for the Harrisburg fire department when you don't have an emergency.

And save this number:

866-XXX-XXX

It's the Red Cross in Harrisburg.

Do you live somewhere else in Harrisburg, like Pennbrook? Susquehanna Township? Lower Paxton Township? Paxton Township? Or Swatara Township? Maybe you live across the river. Ask your teacher, parents, guardians, or principal if you live in the City of Harrisburg or a township in Harrisburg. They can help you search the internet for your local fire department or Red Cross.

Quiz time. Take your best guess.

If there's smoke or fire, how long should it take you to get out of your house or apartment?

- A) 5 minutes
- B) 2 minutes
- C) 30 seconds

It should take only two minutes for you and your family to get out the house or apartment. Remember at least two ways to get out, and practice every school term.

Smoke gets hotter and hotter the higher it goes, so stay low when you leave. There might be a fire on the other side of the door, so test the temperature of the door with the back of your hand, never the front. And open the door, the window, where you're escaping through slowly.

If the handle isn't hot, then close each door you pass so the fire doesn't spread. The oxygen in the air or the wind or the breeze makes smoke and fire bigger and faster.

Practice by yourself. Practice with your family.

Be prepared. And don't play around. Here are a few things not to play with or play around. They can cause a fire.

<< IMAGES >>

Lighters.

Matches.

Stove.

Oven.

Heater or fire place.

Outlets and frayed cords.

Flammable sign.

Lamp shade covered with fabric.

And if you're at home, look around to see what other stuff might cause a fire.

Questions?

Questions, anyone?

Student: Meee!

Teacher: Alright. What's *your* question?

Student: What do we if there *is* a fire?

Teacher: Great question. <Pause. Clears throat.> Repeat after me: Stop. Drop. And Roll.

Students: Stop. Drop. And Roll.

- **Stop:** So you can stay calm and find a door, window, or other exit that's cool enough to get out the house or apartment.
- **Drop:** Because it's easier to breathe and there's less smoke the closer you are to the floor. Get as low as you can or crawl if you have to.
- **And Roll:** If you catch fire, then Roll and Roll and keep Rolling till you put the fire out.

<< REVIEW >>

When you roll, how long should it take you to get out the house or apartment building?

< "2 minutes" appears/disappears from screen >

What's one thing you should never do to help firefighters fight a fire?

Voice Over: Phew! That's a mouth full. <Pause.> Let's see who can say it faster.

Ready?

Set?

Go.

<< MANY VOICES >>

WHAT'S-ONE-THING-YOU-SHOULD-NEVER-DO-TO-HELP-FIREFIGHTERS-FIGHT-A-FIRE?

<< PAUSE >>

Narrator's Single Voice: WHAT'S-ONE-THING-YOU-SHOULD-NEVER-DO-TO-HELP-FIREFIGHTERS-FIGHT-A-FIRE?

Okay, okay. I cheated.

- A. Never call 9-1-1 if there's a fire (or black smoke) coming from an empty apartment or house.
- B. Never call 9-1-1 if there's a fire (or black smoke) coming from a car near a house or apartment building.
- C. Never call 9-1-1 and say there's a fire (or black smoke) at your home if there isn't a fire.

The answer is C):

- Never call 9-1-1 and say there's a house fire if there's no fire (or black smoke). That's a false alarm because there's no smoke or fire.

Why is that, you might ask? Firefighters need a lot of energy and strength to fight house fires. And I mean a lot of it.

They wear big, heavy fire suits and equipment to protect them from catching fire. They also carry a heavy water hose that's even heavier when water spews out of it with enough force to counter-attack a fire.

In addition, firefighters in the City of Harrisburg sometimes have to squeeze their big fire truck down a little one-way streets or a narrow two-way street to reach a house or apartment. Other streets like State Street are wide, but they're also busy with cars travelling to and from downtown and the Capitol Complex.

If you're outside when a firetruck is about to pass you, then stay out of the way by getting out of the street and onto a sidewalk.

Sometimes, a house fire is so big and powerful that firefighters have to come from a fire department from another city or town to help fight it.

So, it's super-important that there's really a fire or black smoke before you call 9-1-1. And test your smoke detectors every month to make sure they work and the batteries are good.

* * * * *

Here in Pennsylvania, there's a city called Erie at the top-left corner of the state. << Map of Pennsylvania pops up. >> A daycare in Erie caught fire one night during summer vacation. All five children there died, including four of them who were brothers and sisters.

<< **PICS OF THE CHILDREN** >>

The oldest of the five children was 8 years old. The youngest one was just a baby.

Remember <Name here> from <State here> in the beginning?

Like <Name here>, the sisters and brothers at the Erie daycare had a father who is a firefighter -- a volunteer firefighter. During the fire at the daycare, he and other firefighters were working at another fire in the same area.

But wait!

There was no fire where they were working. Why is that?

A false alarm.

Sadly, the alarm there wasn't working right.

True or false? A false fire alarm is an alarm that goes off when there's no smoke or fire.

<< **"TRUE" ticker tape crosses screen** >>

They went to fight the fire, but there was no fire when he and fellow firefighters got there.

How many times should you test your fire alarms?

- A) Once a week?
- B) Once a month? Or
- C) Once a year?

Correct! It's B) Once a month.

When you press the button, the fire alarm should have a long, super-noisy siren. When the alarm is quiet, you should see a small light flashing about once a minute.

If you don't see a small, light flashing every minute or if you hear a quick, beeping noise:

Have a grown-up change the batteries right away. If that doesn't work: Get a free, new smoke detector.

Again, the number to get a free smoke detector from the Harrisburg Bureau of Fire is 717-XXX-XXXX or the Harrisburg Red Cross is 866-XXX-XXXX.

Save it! And save a life!

Now for a word from our fire chief for the City of Harrisburg:

Chieeeeef Enterline!

<< **Chief's Message Here** >>

<Project Title> was in part inspired by these books, all of which are available in the Dauphin County Library System at the time of this project:

Stop, Drop, and Roll (Margaret Cuyler, Authur Howard - illustrator) 2001.

Be Safe Around Fire (Bridget Heos, Silvia Baroncelli – illustrator) 2015.

Stay Safe! Fire Safety (Sue Barraclough) 2008.

In My Neighborhood: Fire Fighters (Paulette Bourgeois and Kim LaFave - illustrator) 1998.

Fire Safety (Lisa M. Herrington) 2013.ch

Fireboy to the Rescue!: A Fire Safety Book (Edward Miller) 2010.

<Project Title> is dedicated to every grade school student in the Harrisburg School District or the City of Harrisburg. Stay fire safe and fire smart!

In the memory of <toddler who perished in an pre-dawn fire after caretaker left early, circa 2018>.

Other sources:

www.nj.com/middlesex/2020/01/6-year-old-daughter-of-firefighter-helps-family-escape-blaze-that-damaged-home.html.

Last accessed May 26, 2022.

habc11.com/new-jersey-fire-6-year-old-hero-young-girl-saves-family-in-nj-avenel/5866976/. Last accessed May 26, 2022.

vimeo.com/686022615/7db115ea7b. Last accessed May 26, 2022.

harrisburgpa.gov/bureau-of-fire/. Last accessed May 26, 2022.

www.goerie.com/story/news/local/2021/08/12/erie-fire-suit-blames-fan-extension-cord-19-blaze-killed-5-kids-overton-pacley-faccchiano-austyniak/8098610002/. Last accessed Aug. 31, 2022.

Ages of children at Erie daycare | Father of Erie children is volunteer firefighter:
www.goerie.com/story/news/local/2019/08/12/i-lost-piece-me/4442621007/. Last accessed Sept. 29, 2022.

Erie father was responding to false alarm: www.thesun.co.uk/news/9710325/pennsylvania-daycare-death-fire-latest-news/.
Last accessed Sept. 29, 2022.

Pics of children: www.goerie.com/story/news/local/2021/08/12/erie-fire-suit-blames-fan-extension-cord-19-blaze-killed-5-kids-overton-pacley-faccchiano-austyniak/8098610002/. Last accessed Sept. 29, 2022.

Pics of Erie daycare: www.thesun.co.uk/news/9710325/pennsylvania-daycare-death-fire-latest-news/. Last accessed Sept. 29, 2022.