

# Fire Safety Rangers KNOW THE DRILL



## Dear Educator,

As an educator, the safety of your students is important to you. You teach and consistently reinforce school safety rules. Yet, the lessons reach beyond the walls of the classroom. You can help them stay safe in school and at home by teaching them about fire safety. To help you accomplish this goal, the Home Safety Council® teamed up with Weekly Reader Corporation Custom Publishing to create "Fire Safety Rangers Know the Drill." The reproducible activities and parent/caregiver letter in the program stress the importance of having and maintaining smoke alarms in the home. They also encourage families to create and practice home fire escape plans so that everyone in the family knows what to do and where to go in the event of a fire. School is not the only place kids should practice fire drills!

Smoke alarms are often our first signal that there is a problem. In fact, smoke is a great danger in a real fire. Unfortunately, many people just ignore sounding smoke alarms. Sometimes they wait to see what others do before deciding whether or not to exit the building. This can be a deadly mistake. It is important to assume there is a fire and respond immediately. You can help communicate this message to your students and encourage their families to be prepared in the event of a fire.

Keeping children safe is important to you and to us. Teaching them how to react if there is a fire is an essential lesson that may save their lives.

Sincerely,

Meri-K Appy

Meri-K Appy

President

Home Safety Council

Angela Mickalide

Angela Mickalide Ph.D., CHES

Director of Education and Outreach

Home Safety Council



## Please Write!

We would appreciate it if you would take a moment to complete the enclosed reply card to share your thoughts on the program. And if you received a program evaluation, please complete that, too. Your comments can help us create future materials to suit your needs and those of your students.

For Spanish versions of the activities and letter, visit [www.coderedrover.org/teachers.html](http://www.coderedrover.org/teachers.html)

### Components

- This teacher's page
- Two reproducible activities
- A reproducible letter to parents and caregivers
- A wall poster on the reverse side
- A survey and reply card

### Intended Audience

Students in grade 2 and their families

### Getting Started

Ask your students what they can do to prevent fires (e.g., not playing with matches, staying away from the stove, reminding parents to put out candles, etc.). Then, ask them what they think they should do if there is a fire or if they hear the smoke alarm sound. Write their answers on the chalkboard. Explain that you are going to talk about two things that are very important for fire safety — smoke alarms and home fire escape plans. Tell them that it is important to know what to do if they hear the smoke alarm and how to get out quickly and safely.

### Activity One: Getting Out Safely

To help students and families understand the importance of home fire escape plans, this activity presents the basic steps involved in creating and practicing the plans. For additional information you can share with your students and their families, visit [www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org).

**Answers:** 1. at least two ways; 2. outside or away from the home; 3. by a tree; 4. 911

### Activity Two: If There's Smoke in the Air, Get Out of There!

This activity explains that every home should have smoke alarms and provides tips on how they should be tested and cared for. Have students color, cut, and fold the page to create mini booklets. Encourage them to read the book with their families and answer the questions. Once they are done, they should sign the last page and bring the completed book back to class. Provide a deadline by which the books should be returned. Be sure to give families enough time to do the activities in the book (e.g., a week). Use the information collected by the students to complete the graph on the poster.

### Using the Poster

Once students have completed the questions on the mini book with their families, use the information to fill in the graph on the poster. The number scale on the graph has been left blank so that you can create a counting system that works for your group. As an alternative, kids might write their names in the appropriate boxes on the graph after completing a task, and put the number of smoke alarms and batteries next to their names.

### Letter to Parents/Caregivers

Copy and distribute this page for the parents and caregivers of your students. The information and checklist will reinforce the lessons and provide families with important fire safety tips.

### Follow-Up

Contact your local fire department to see if a firefighter can speak to your students about fire safety. You might also ask whether they offer free smoke alarm installations for families in the community that may not be able to purchase them, and then spread the word to families. Another fun idea to get your students involved is to have them make fire safety posters for the school hallways to share these important fire safety lessons.

### Resources

- [www.coderedrover.org](http://www.coderedrover.org)
- [www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org)
- [www.usfa.fema.gov/kids](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/kids)

Visit the new [coderedrover.org](http://www.coderedrover.org) Web site with your students for additional home safety lessons and interactive games.





# Fire Safety Rangers KNOW THE DRILL



## Activity One GETTING OUT SAFELY

Rover, the Home Safety Hound, and his friend Freddie Flashlight™ have a home fire escape plan. It's a plan to get out of the home if the smoke alarm sounds or if there is a fire. Every family needs one! Here are some tips from Rover and Freddie about making a home fire escape plan.

- Know two ways out of every room. Some exits are doors, and some might be windows.



- Get out right away when you hear the smoke alarm or if there is a fire.

- Pick a family meeting place outdoors. It should be away from the home.



- Call the fire department from outside, not inside the house or building.



- Never go back into a burning building.

- Practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year.

- Know your address and phone number. Learn the fire department's phone number.

- Make sure your house or building number can be seen clearly from outside. This can help the fire department find your home.



Look at Rover and Freddie's home fire escape plan. Use your fire safety smarts to answer these questions.

1. How many ways can they get out of each room?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. If there is a fire, where should they be when they call the fire department?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Where is their meeting place?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the phone number for their fire department?

\_\_\_\_\_



### Now It's Your Family's Turn!

With your family, draw a map of your home. Mark the windows, doors, and smoke alarms. Next, show two ways out of each room. Be sure to show your meeting place. Put the fire department's phone number on your map. Test your smoke alarms and then practice your plan! Visit [www.coderedrover.org](http://www.coderedrover.org) for more information about home fire escape plans.



# Fire Safety Rangers KNOW THE DRILL



## Activity Two IF THERE'S SMOKE IN THE AIR, GET OUT OF THERE!

Smoke alarms are very important. They can help keep us safe. Color the pictures below. Then, cut the box on the dotted lines. Fold it on the solid lines. Then, read this book about smoke alarms with your family. Answer the questions together. Sign the book and bring it back to school when you are done.



How many new batteries did your family put in this year?



A grownup should change the batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year.

Did your family test its smoke alarms this month?



Smoke alarms should be on every floor of your home and in or near the places you sleep. A grownup needs to test them at least once a month.

Every family needs a home fire escape plan. Remember to practice it at least twice a year.



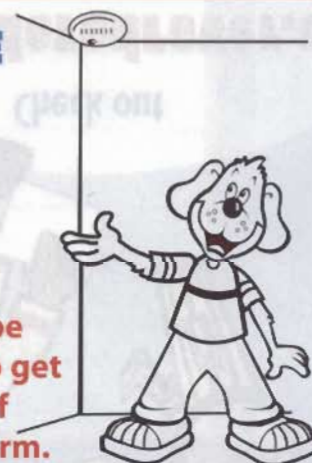
Did you create and practice your home fire escape plan? \_\_\_\_\_

We've read the book! \_\_\_\_\_  
(sign here)

**IF THERE'S SMOKE IN THE AIR,**

**GET OUT OF THERE!**

Smoke from a fire can be dangerous. You need to get out quickly and safely if you hear the smoke alarm.



How many smoke alarms are in your home?  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Fire Safety Rangers KNOW THE DRILL



## Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Keeping your children safe is your top priority. At the Home Safety Council®, we want to help you keep your entire family safe at home, including from fire.

The Home Safety Council has teamed up with Weekly Reader Corporation Custom Publishing to create "Fire Safety Rangers Know the Drill," an educational program about fire safety that was recently sent to your child's school. We urge you to talk to your child about what to do if the smoke alarm sounds and if there is a fire in your home. Create a home fire escape plan so everyone knows what to do, how to get out of every room, and where to go in the event of a fire. It's important to practice the plan.

Every home must have working smoke alarms to warn us when a fire has started. The alarms are often our first signal that there is a problem. Not having working batteries in alarms and ignoring sounding alarms can be deadly mistakes. In a real fire, smoke is a great danger. And, fire spreads very quickly. So, if the alarm sounds, assume there is a fire and respond immediately. Your children must also learn to do the same. Make sure everyone in your family knows they must exit first and then call for help once they are outside.

Keeping your children safe is important to you and to us. Please teach them what to do in a fire. It could save their lives. You can get free information about home fire safety by visiting [www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org).

Sincerely,

*Meri-K Appy*

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President  
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*Angela Mickalide*

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Director of Education and  
Outreach  
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Check out [www.coderedrover.org](http://www.coderedrover.org) with your child for educational home safety games!  
And, visit [www.homesafetycouncil.org/firedrill](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org/firedrill) for more information about smoke alarms, home fire escape planning, and other home safety tips.

Here are some tips to help you keep your family safe:

## Smoke Alarms

- Have working smoke alarms on every level of your home (even the basement). They should also be in or near rooms where people sleep.
- Make sure everyone knows the sound your smoke alarms make.
- Test every smoke alarm at least once a month.
- Test smoke alarms at night when everyone is sleeping to see if the sound wakes them. (Let your family know about this ahead of time.) If anyone sleeps through the alarm, plan to have others wake them and help them get out.
- Put a new battery in all smoke alarms once a year.
- Put in a new battery if your smoke alarm makes a "chirping" sound (like a bird).
- If your smoke alarms are 10 years old or older, get new ones.
- If you can, install interconnected smoke alarms. With interconnected alarms, when one goes off, they all sound. This helps wake you up sooner. A new model smoke alarm uses wireless technology. You can install them yourself without an electrician.
- If the alarm sounds when you cook, open a window or door and fan the smoke away. Do not take the battery out of your smoke alarm.

## Home Fire Drills

- Make a home fire escape plan. Draw a map of your home. Show where all the doors and windows are. Show your children what to do if the smoke alarm sounds. Know two ways to get out of every room, especially your bedroom.
- Some family members may not wake up when the smoke alarm sounds. Some may have trouble getting outside fast. Have a grownup plan to help those who need it.
- Practice a home fire drill at least two times a year with all the members of your family.

## Teach Your Children

- How to call 9-1-1 (or your local number) for help in an emergency
- The street address where they live

