

Guide for Families

October:

Structural Fires

Fire Safety All Year Long

Here's a shocking statistic: each year about 4,500 schools nationwide experience a fire of some type. About half of these fires were intentionally set, with about a quarter started in trash cans and other rubbish containers; any of them could quickly turn into life-threatening situations.

Students often take fire drills lightly, but it's critical that everyone knows what to do in a true emergency. New York City Public Schools are required to hold 12 fire drills each year.

Fire safety applies at home, too, of course. Having a family evacuation plan in place can make all the difference.

Let's get ready and be safe during fire drills and real fire events!

Did you know?

- More than 50% of home fire deaths occur between 10 pm and 6 am, when most people are sleeping.
- Installing and maintaining a smoke alarm reduces the chances of dying in a fire by 50%. By law, every home must have a carbon monoxide detector and smoke alarm installed.
- Fire Prevention Week is observed every year from Sunday through Saturday on the week that includes October 9, the anniversary of the great Chicago fire, which occurred in 1871.



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Quick activities to try at home:

- Having an escape plan is critical in the event of a real fire. Use the sketch your child created at school showing two escape routes from each room. Schedule an at-home drill to practice the plan with your family.
- Once your escape plan is in place, discuss any special circumstances in your family. Does a parent work at night? Is there an older adult or young child in the house? Does a family member have physical disabilities that would present extra challenges? Research the best steps to take for each of these circumstances.

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