

Does a grown-up replace all the smoke alarm batteries once a year?

Are your smoke alarms clean? (Ask a grown-up to use the vacuum cleaner attachment to clean them.)

How old are your smoke alarms? If they're more than 10 years old, grown-ups should replace them with new ones.

And most important: Do you know the sound of your smoke alarms? Newer models feature a special signal pattern — **beep-beep-beep** ... pause ... **beep-beep-beep** ... pause ... **beep-beep-beep**.

If you hear your smoke alarm, leave the building immediately, and don't go back in until the fire department says it's safe.

Does your home team have an escape plan? If not, call a meeting and make one today. Then practise it!

- Draw a floor plan of your home and show two ways out of each room.

- Have everyone learn how to escape from every room in your home.

- Decide on a meeting place outside the home where everyone will go as soon as they've escaped.



**Everybody
get out
and stay
out!**



- Have everyone memorize the fire department's phone number so someone can call them from a neighbour's phone or a portable phone.
- Practise your escape plan. Make the home fire drill interesting by pretending that some doors are blocked.
- If you have visitors or a babysitter, make sure he or she joins your team and learns your household's escape plan.

Visit us online at www.safecommunities.com

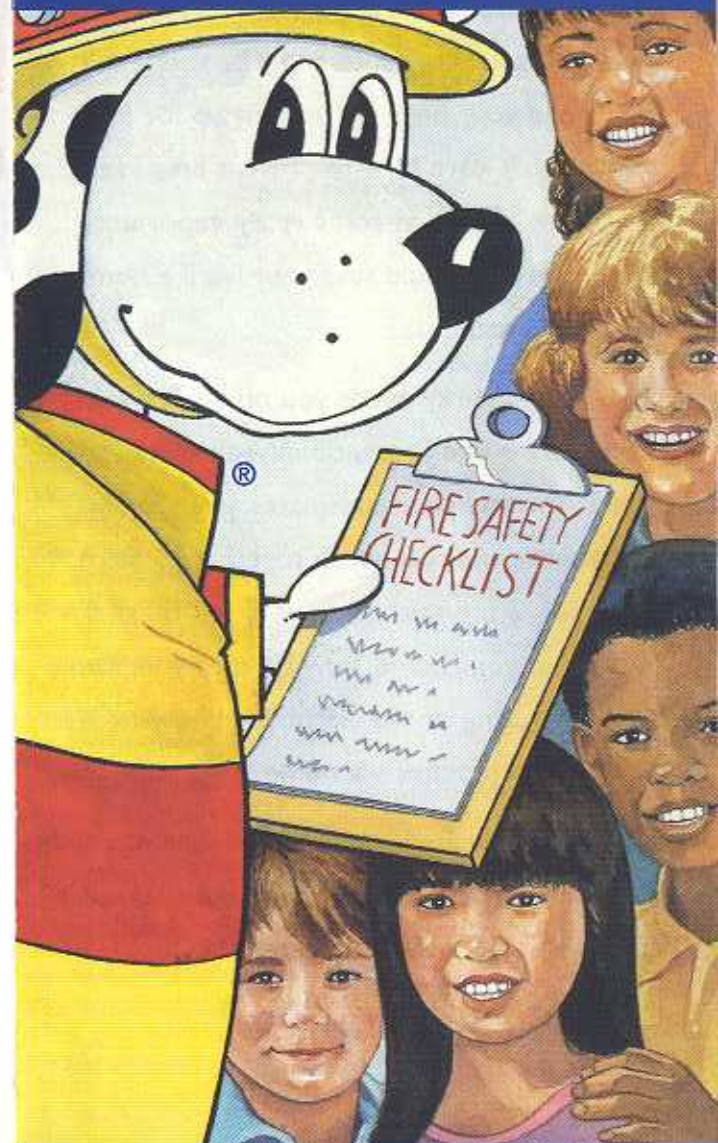
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TEAM UP FOR FIRE SAFETY® WITH SPARKY



**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER • 2002**

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Sparky needs you on his fire safety team!

If there is ever a fire in your home, you can be sure that your fire fighters will be there. But they need your help! By teaming up for fire safety, you'll learn how to prevent fires in the first place, as well as some really important safety tips that could save your life if a home fire does break out.

That's why Sparky needs you on his fire safety team during Fire Prevention Week and all year round. You and your classmates, your family, and your friends can work together to learn the rules of fire safety... how to get rid of fire hazards in your home, how to keep your family safe by using smoke alarms, and how to make – and practise – a home fire escape plan.

Sparky and his firefighter friends want you and your family to be safe from fire. But they can't do it alone. So what are you waiting for? Team up for fire safety.

Everybody in your household is responsible for fire safety.



Work together with every member of your household to find and correct potential fire hazards.

- **Breakfast, lunch, and dinner** – Does a grown-up always stay in the kitchen when something's cooking on the stove?
- **The kitchen range** – Is it clean and uncluttered? Are things that can burn (curtains, dishtowels) kept well away from the stove?
- **Space heaters** – Are space heaters at least one metre away from anything that can burn?
- **Matches and lighters** – Are they locked up and out of reach of children?
- **Your fireplace** – Do you have a screen to keep sparks out of the room?
- **Your chimney** – Has your chimney been professionally inspected or cleaned in the past 12 months? (Ask a grown-up.)

- **Your furnace** – Has your furnace been inspected or professionally cleaned in the past 12 months? (Ask a grown-up.)

- **Electrical cords** – Are they in good shape? No cracks or bare wires showing? (Have a grown-up unplug things before you inspect the cords. Remember, you're a team.)



- **Ashtrays** – If people smoke in your home, do they use large, deep non-tip ashtrays and wet butts before throwing them away?
- **Liquids that burn** – Are gasoline, paint thinner, and other liquids that can burn stored outside your home in proper containers?
- **Candles** – Are candles burned only when adults are present and blown out when adults leave the room? Do candles have sturdy holders to catch the wax?
- **Doorways and stairs** – Are doorways and stairs cluttered? Or are they clear so you could escape a fire quickly.
- **Smoke alarms** – Does your home have working smoke alarms on every floor? (Have a grown-up test them. More teamwork.)