

Learning Fire Safety Can Help Save Lives



Eleven-year old Kelsey Olden of Massachusetts woke up early one January morning and noticed that the lights were flickering in her bedroom. Kelsey didn't see any flames, but she did smell smoke, so she woke up her brothers and parents. She helped get everyone outside, and then she called the fire department.

A fire had started in the wall behind the family's fireplace and was spreading behind the walls. Thanks to Kelsey, everyone was safe and firefighters put out the fire before the house was badly damaged.

Kelsey had learned in school what to do during a fire. Do you know what to do if you think there is a fire in your house or somewhere else? If you don't, October 8-14 is National Fire Prevention Week, and it is a good time to learn about fire safety. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme is "Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat."

NEWS WORD BOX

damaged prevention
escape detector
flickering spreading

This year, firefighters want to share these kitchen fire-safety tips:

- Kids and pets should stay at 3 feet away from the stove when food is cooking.
- Grown-ups must watch the stove when something is frying, grilling, or boiling.
- Dishtowels, curtains, paper, and other things that can burn should be kept at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- Potholders or oven mitts should always be within easy reach.
- Pot handles should always be turned toward the *back* of the stove.

MORE FACTS ABOUT FIRE PREVENTION:

- Homes should have smoke detectors on every level and outside each bedroom.
- Fire Prevention Week always includes October 9, the date in 1871 of a terrible fire in Chicago.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Take a look at each of the fire-safety tips above.
Tell *why* you think each tip is a good one.