



Children and Fire



Did you know that 80% of all fire deaths occur in the home? And that most of those fires could easily have been prevented? Deaths due to children playing with fire are particularly avoidable. Following the simple tips below can boost survival rates dramatically. For example, having a working smoke detector more than doubles your chances of surviving a fire. Please share the following fire tips with your audience, because knowledge is the best fire protection.

- Keep matches and lighters in a secured drawer or cabinet.
- Have your children tell you when they find matches and lighters.
- Teach children not to hide from firefighters, but to get out quickly and call for help from another location.
- Show them how to crawl low on the floor, below the smoke, and to get out of the house and stay out.
- Teach them a signal to alert the rest of the family to get out if they hear a smoke detector's alarm.
- Demonstrate how to stop, drop to the ground, and roll if their clothes catch fire.
- Develop a home fire escape plan and designate a meeting place outside.
- Familiarize them with the sound of your smoke detector.
- Help your child check the smoke detector each month and replace its batteries at least once a year.
- Check under beds and in closets for burnt matches, evidence your child may be playing with fire.

This document is IFAS
publication DH 1311.

Adapted by UF/IFAS from:
U.S. Fire Administration
(USFA)