

Fire

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see firefighters in full turnout gear. "Our gear can make us look like movie monsters," Beisel said. "We want the kids to recognize us in our gear as friends, so that they won't be afraid to come to us when they see us. We don't want them to hide from us because they're afraid."

- Never leave coffee pots warming or food cooking on the stove unattended. The most common household fire hazard is a constant, unattended heat source, Beisel said.

Since many coffee makers have electric timers, it's a good idea to unplug them before leaving the house, he added. Bad coffee maker timers can cause fires.

- When going away for a few days, unplug the TV, VCR, microwave and other electrical appliances which have electrical current constantly going through them.

"Especially during the summer, it's a good idea to unplug these things," Beisel said. "Also, disconnect the TV cable. More lightning strikes come through the cable than a regular TV antenna because there's current always going through the cable."

- Take advantage of fire company open houses and Scout fire safety badges.

The National Safety Council also recommends that all chimneys, central heating systems, space heaters, fireplaces and wood or coal-burning stoves be properly installed, vented, cleaned, filled and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications.

In 1993, home fires, most often caused by heating equipment, killed 3,200 people nationwide, according to the National Safety Council.

FACT: Fire strikes a home in the United States about every minute. More than three-quarters of all fire deaths occur in home fires.

FACT: Each year, more than 4,500 lives are lost (on average, 12 each day) and 21,500 people are seriously injured.

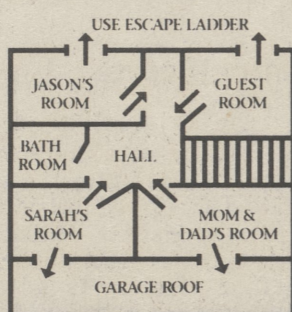
FACT: Children under five years are most likely to suffer because they have a fire death rate twice the national average.

Many deaths and injuries resulting from home fires are preventable if families have planned for safe home evacuation. Immediately exiting a burning home is the most important thing to do to stay safe from harm. To help your family get started on planning and practicing escape from your home in the event of fire, KinderCare Learning Centers, Inc. and the National Safety Council have created this booklet for you.

STEP

1 Have a Fire Escape Plan

Most home fire fatalities occur between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., when the family is asleep. Smoke and poisonous gases claim most victims in these fires, not flames. The best protection against this occurrence is to install a smoke detector; it will reduce your risk of dying by 50 percent. If fire occurs, a warning alarm allows your family to awaken and escape.



A very important first step is planning for each person's escape. Your plan should have two routes from every bedroom, in case the door exit is blocked. Be sure that everyone knows how to work locks, dead-bolts and window ladders. If

window bars are used in a child's room, these should be (re)movable from the inside of the room by the child. If your family lives in an apartment, be familiar with stairway and fire exit locations. Never plan to use an elevator as part of an escape route; elevators are electric and may stop and trap you if the power fails, or go to the fire floor and open their doors.

A good rule is to practice your escape plan at least twice each year. Everyone in your family should participate in the drills. Additionally, keep bedroom doors closed at night. A closed door will slow a fire and help keep out dangerous gases and smoke.

STEP

2 Stay Low As You Go

Another part of your fire escape plan should be to make sure that each member of the family knows

how to stay safe while exiting a burning home.

Most fires occur when the family is asleep; the smoke and carbon monoxide that a fire gives off will further reduce everyone's ability to think straight; the smoke can make it difficult or impossible to see.

With a working smoke detector and a practiced exit plan, you have an excellent chance of getting out safely, if you stay low as you go. Smoke and carbon monoxide will impair your thinking; they may even make you faint. So stay low to avoid them.

If you wake to a fire, roll out of bed. DON'T STAND UP! Crawl to the door. Check for fire on the other side by putting the back of your hand against the door knob and its face plate, then check the top of the door. Are they unusually warm? If so, don't open the door — smoke and flames may rush in. Use your second way out. Stay low. Take small baby breaths. Remember, smoke and toxic gases kill more than half of all fire victims.

STEP

3 Fire Fighters Are Friends

Very young children should be shown how fire fighters look when they are dressed in their "turn-out" gear and ready to fight a fire. Children unfamiliar with how fire fighters in gear look

may hide in fear from them during a fire. Show your children the illustration in this brochure and explain that fire fighters are there to help. Additionally, arrange for your children to visit the local fire department to meet real fire fighters and to see their fire trucks and fire fighting equipment.

STEP

4 If You Are Trapped

If you can't exit from the door or your second exit, stuff towels, sheets or rugs around the top and bottom of the door to keep the smoke out. Close doors between you and the fire. If there is a telephone, call your emergency number and let them know exactly (floor, room) where you are. Wait near a window and signal for help so rescue workers can find you; use a flashlight or wave a sheet or light-colored cloth.

STEP

5 Have an Outside Meeting Place

Your escape plan should also include an outdoor meeting place for everybody. Each person, including young children, must know to exit the home as quickly and safely as possible and go directly to this meeting place. Planning will prevent wasting time in deciding what to do, or in looking for other household members. Remember, everyone must know how to get out, as quickly and safely as possible. When everyone is at the meeting place, call the fire department from a neighbor's home.



Candidates need sign permits

All political candidates who plan to post signs in Kingston Township are reminded that signs can be posted no earlier than 30 days prior to any election and must be removed no later than 30 days after the election.

Campaign signs may not exceed four square feet in size and may not be attached to fences, trees or utility poles.

A \$100 bond must be deposited with Kingston Township prior to issuance of a sign permit and the posting of any sign.

The bond will be returned if all signs are removed within 30 days after the election.

A permit to post political signs can be obtained from the Township Zoning Office, 11 Carverton Road, Trucksville. Questions may be directed to the Zoning Officer at 696-3809.

Jackson

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In other business, the supervisors:

- Authorized solicitor Blythe Evans to advertise an ordinance requiring that new construction in the Toby's Creek watershed conform to county drainage regulations.

- Voted to buy a used grader for \$4,000 from the Regional Equipment Center and apply the payments on the use agreement against the purchase price.

- Award a bid for \$9,800 to American Asphalt to pave a 1,000-foot section of Bulford Road to a width of 20 feet and bring it up to township specifications.

- Apply for a \$22,900 county grant for road work on Smith Pond Road.

fall at

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KINGSTON
283-5116

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288-3500
Mark Plaza, Edwardsville, Rt. 11

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NEWS

Coverage area: The Dallas Post covers the "Back Mountain" area of Luzerne County, including Dallas, Kingston, Lehman and Jackson townships, Dallas Borough, Harveys Lake and the Dallas and Lake-Lehman school districts. We try to get to as many events as possible, but staff and space limitations make it impossible to cover everything. If you have news about your family, town or organization, please send it to us and we'll try to get it in. Photographs are welcome; we prefer black and white, but color will usually work.

Corrections, clarifications: The Dallas Post will correct errors of fact or clarify any misunderstanding created by a story. Call 675-5211.

Have a story idea? Please call, we'd like to hear about it.

Letters: The Dallas Post prints all letters which have local interest. Send letters to: Editor, The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612. All letters must be signed and include a phone number at which we can reach the author. Deadline is Noon, Monday prior to publication.

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