

Fire Safety for Children

The Division of State Fire Marshal urges parents and guardians to take precautionary measures to avoid unnecessary fire fatalities, particularly related to children age five and under.

In the event of a fire, children age five and below are almost entirely dependent on outside help in order to survive. Since many fatal fires occur at night while families are asleep, parents and guardians must be prepared by establishing a home fire escape plan and teaching their young ones what to do if a fire should occur.



Children and Fire: By the Numbers

- Children age **14** and under make up **10 to 15%** of all fire deaths
- More than half of all child fire deaths happen to children under the age of **5**
- Fire injuries happen most often to those under age **4**. The **10 to 14** age group also experience a significant number of fire injuries
- Boys are at a higher risk of death from fire than girls
- African-American children are at an increased risk of death from fire



Children and Fire: Life Saving Tips

- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan. Designate a meeting place outside. Get out and stay out
- Keep matches, lighters and other items used for ignition in a secured drawer or cabinet out of the reach of children
- Teach your children to tell you when they find matches and lighters
- Always dress children in pajamas that meet Federal flammability standards. Avoid dressing children for sleep in loose-fitting, 100% cotton garments, such as oversized t-shirts
- Teach children not to hide from firefighters, but to get out quickly and call for help from another location
- Show children how to crawl low on the floor, below the smoke, to get out of the house and stay out
- Familiarize children with the sound of your smoke alarm
- Check under beds and in closets for burnt matches, clothes, paper and toys. This can be evidence your child may be playing with fire

