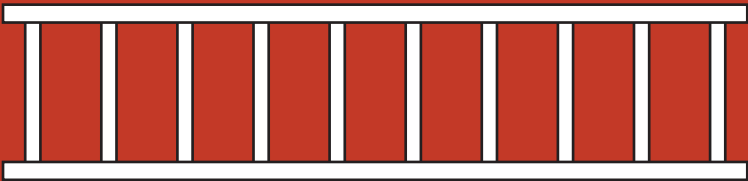




**Fire Department**

**Marty and Jett's Activity Book**



Tape  
Your  
Picture  
Here

**Let's Have  
Fun with Fire  
Safety**



**FEMA**

**U.S. Fire  
Administration**

# Meet Marty and Jett

Welcome to the USFA's Activity Book where fire safety and FUN start.

U-S-F-A stands for the United States Fire Administration. Our job is to help prevent fires. We want everyone to be safe from fire, including you!

## Dear Parents and Educators:

Parents and educators play a vital role in teaching children fire safety and reducing the risk of child-set fires.

This activity book provides children ages 5 through 9 with valuable learning tools about fire safety and prevention. To reinforce the lessons in the book, we encourage you to lead a discussion about fire safety and prevention for children using the following information and fire safety tips:

## Fire Prevention

- **Help your parents place smoke alarms on every floor of your home.**
- **Never play with matches, lighters, or candles.**
- **Be very careful around fireplaces, heaters, and electrical appliances.**
- **If you find matches or lighters, tell a grownup.**
- **Always ask an adult to help you cook.**
- **Know two ways out of every room.**
- **Help to plan and practice a family escape plan.**
- **Post emergency numbers near the phone.**

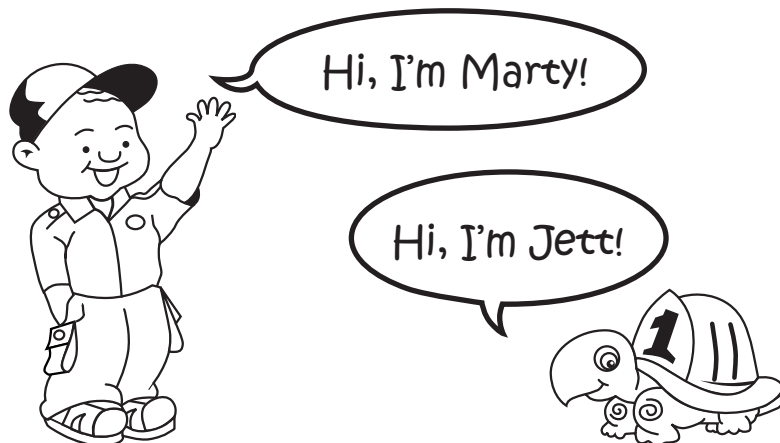
## In Case of Fire

- **Don't hide in closets or under the bed.**
- **Stay low and go -- even if that means crawling out.**
- **Don't be afraid of firefighters.**
- **Once you're outside, don't go back in.**
- **Meet your family in the place where you planned.**

For more information on children and fire safety, fire prevention, and protecting your home, please visit us at [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) or our children's site at

[www.usfa.fema.gov/kids](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/kids)

TheUnitedStatesFireAdministrationthankyouforbringingMartyandJett'sActivity Book to the children in your life.



So turn the page, Junior Fire Marshals, and we'll get started.

# My Page

Fill in the blanks

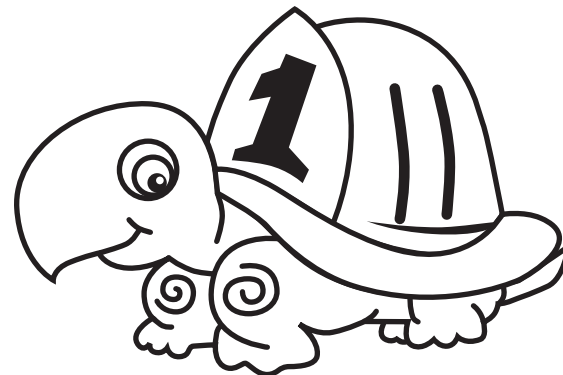
My Name Is: \_\_\_\_\_

My Age Is: \_\_\_\_\_

My Town's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My Local Fire Department's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency Dial: \_\_\_\_\_

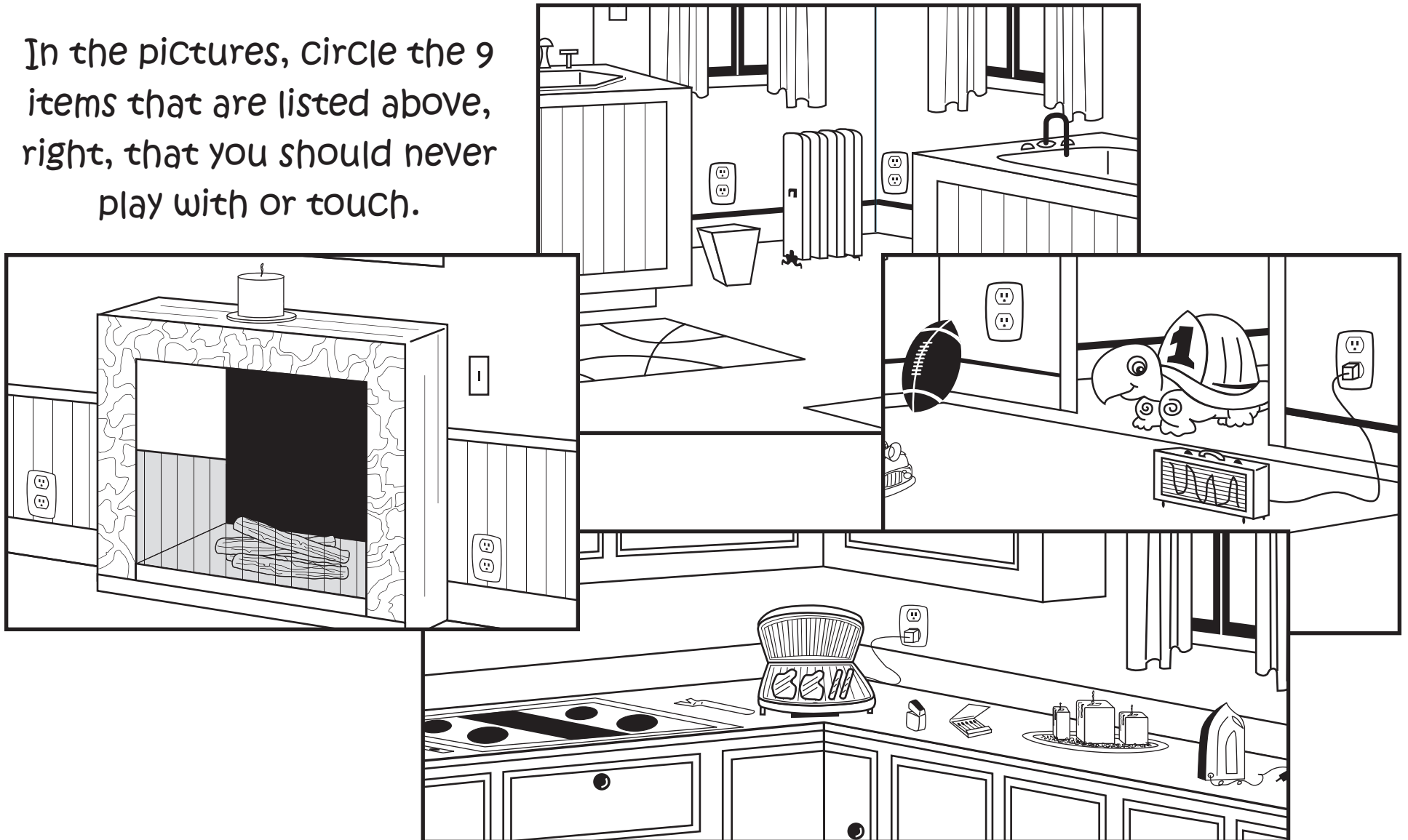




# Item Search

- Matches - Lighter - Heater - Electrical Outlet -
- Fireplace - Grill - Radiator - Candles - Iron -

In the pictures, circle the 9 items that are listed above, right, that you should never play with or touch.



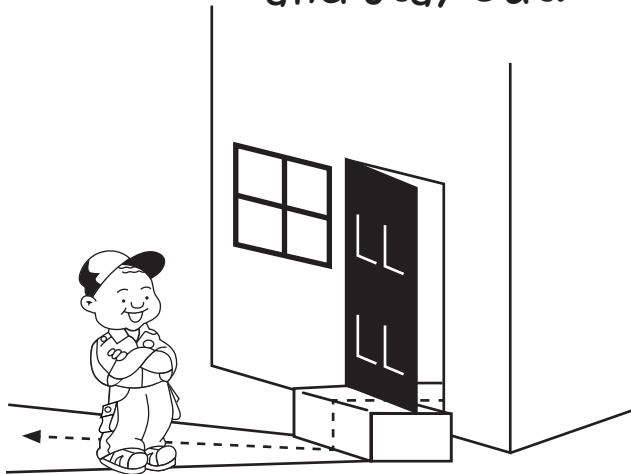
# Four Steps to Fire Safety

In case of fire, here are four easy steps to fire safety. These four pictures show the best way to escape.

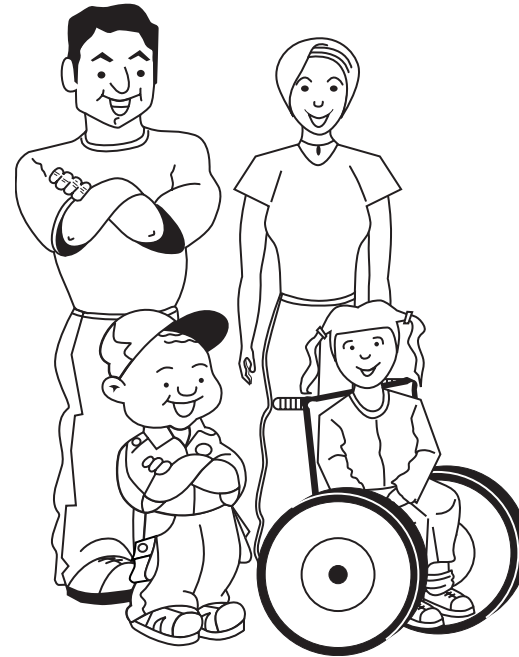


If you hear a smoke alarm in your home...

1) Get out quickly and stay out.



3) Meet your family members at a preplanned safe spot.



2) If there's smoke, stay low to the ground when you exit.

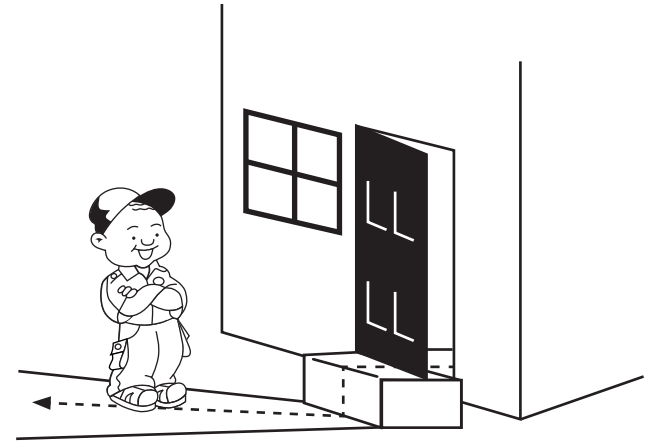
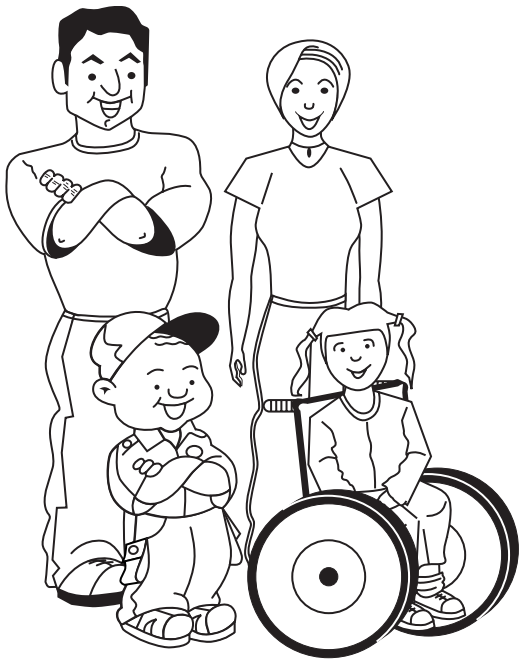


4) Call 911 or the emergency number from a neighbor's place.



# The Fire Safety Order Game

Put these fire safety steps in the right order with numbers 1 to 4.

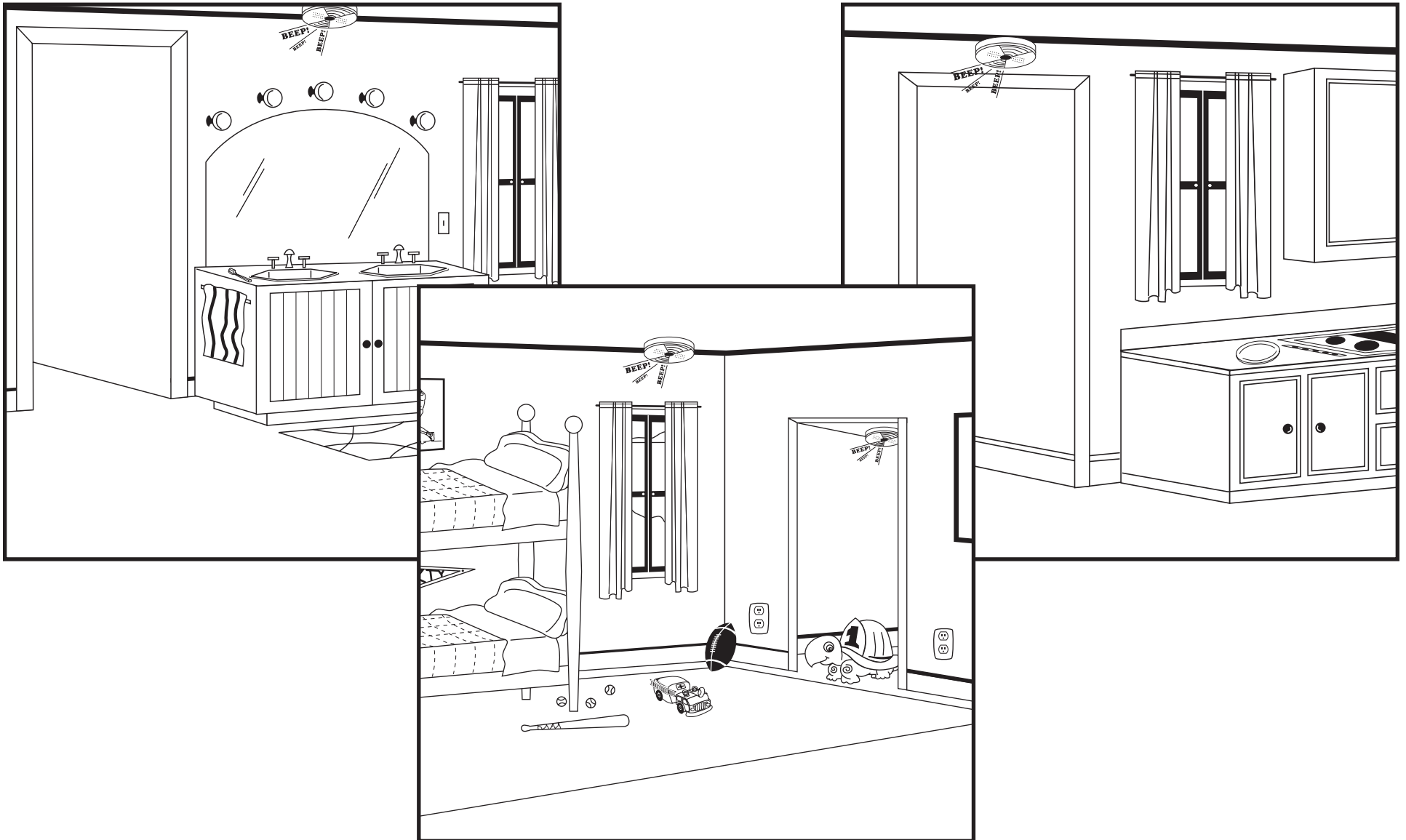


In case of smoke, Stay Low and Go to the nearest exit.

# Find Two Ways Out

It's good to know how to escape a fire.

Can you find two ways out of every room in your home?





# Make the Right Call

Fill in the correct information, then put this page near a phone in your home.

Post your local  
**FIRE & RESCUE**

number on or  
near your telephone,  
along with your address  
and phone number.

Show your friends  
where this information  
can be found.



In case of fire or an emergency,  
Call:  
**FIRE & RESCUE**

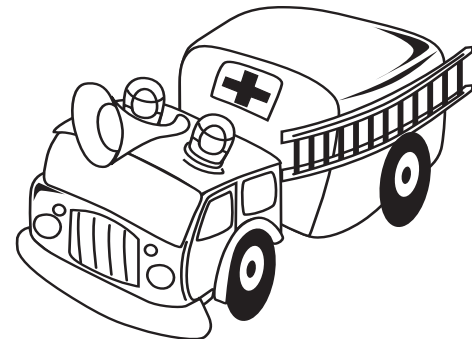
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My address and phone number is:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

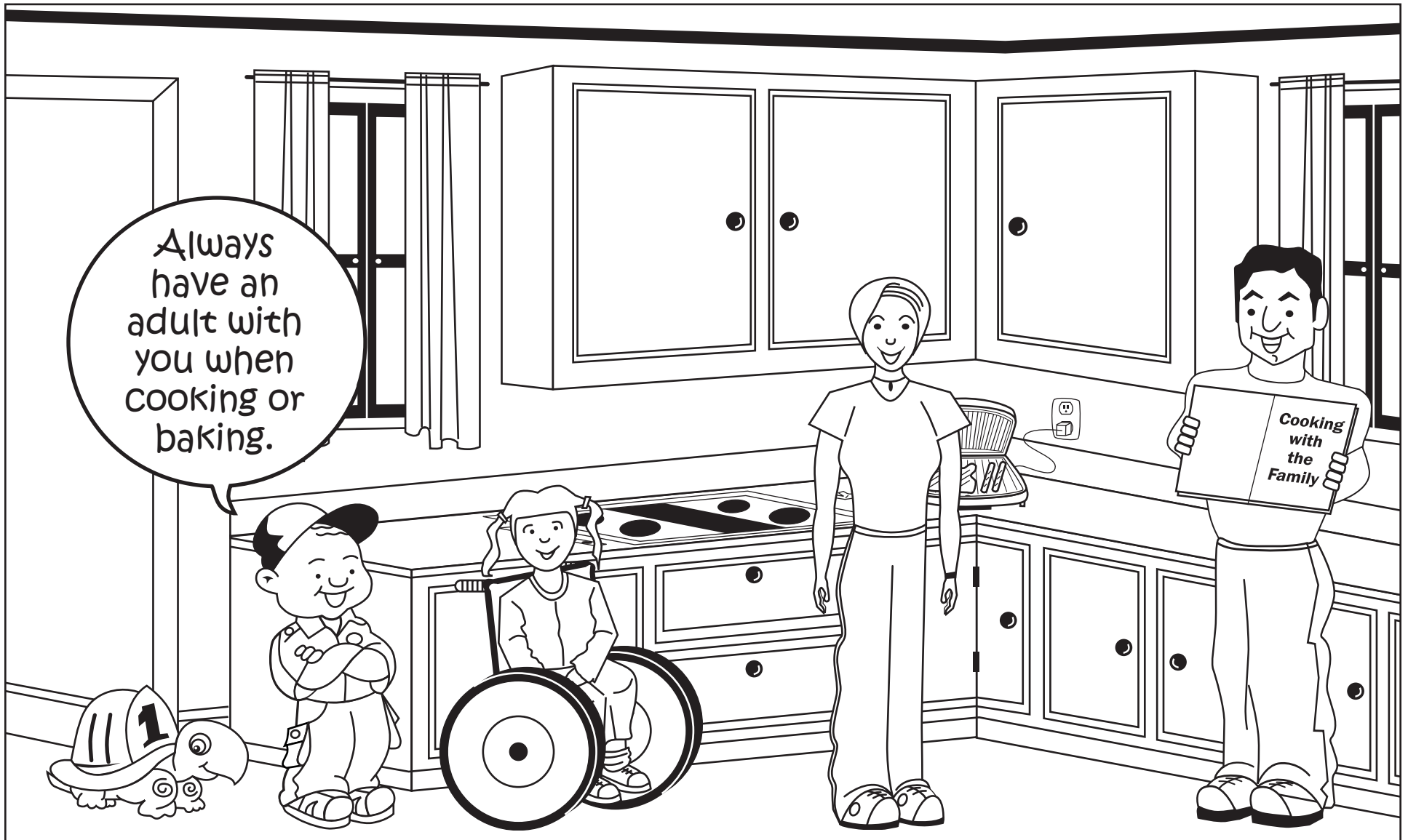
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



# Coloring Page

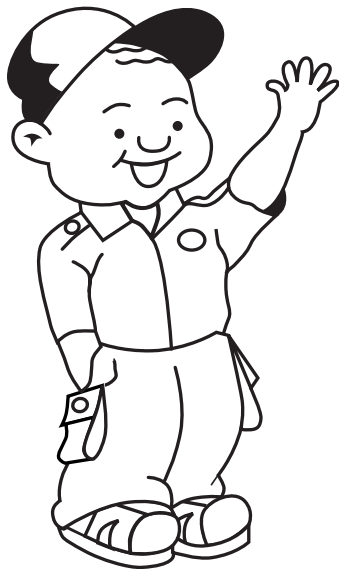
NEVER cook or bake without an adult helping you.



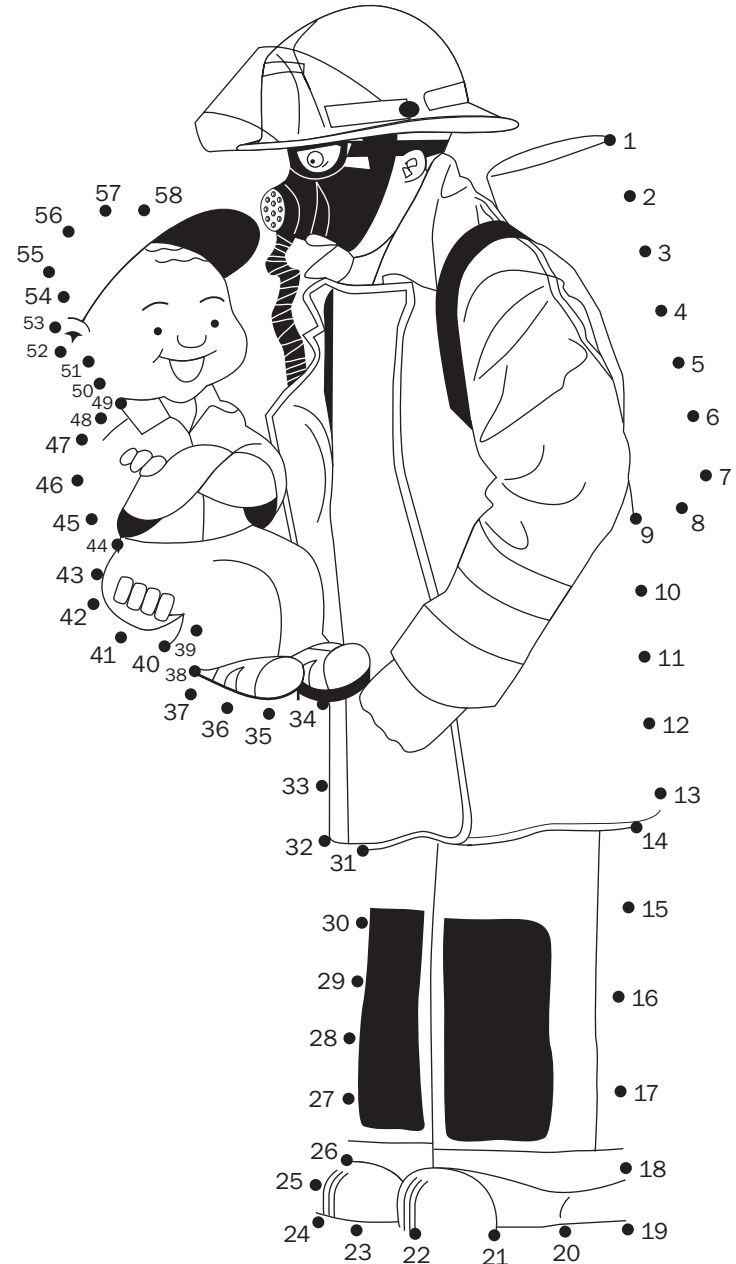
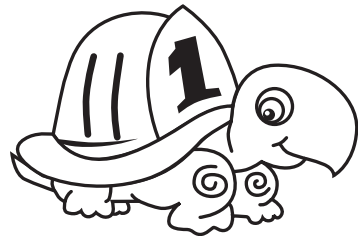
# Connect the Dots

Never hide from firefighters.

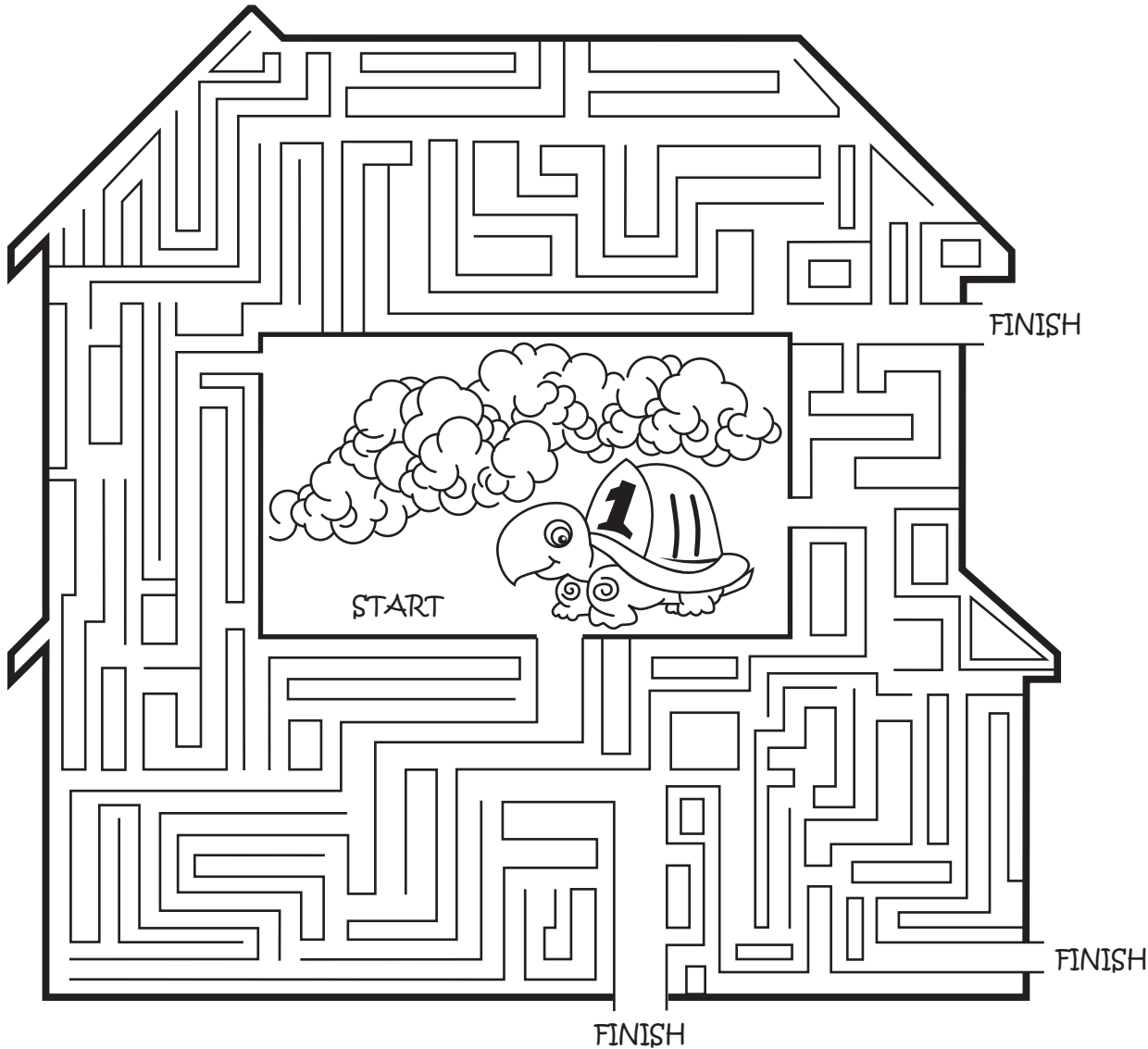
Don't be afraid of firefighters.



In case of fire, they can help you escape.

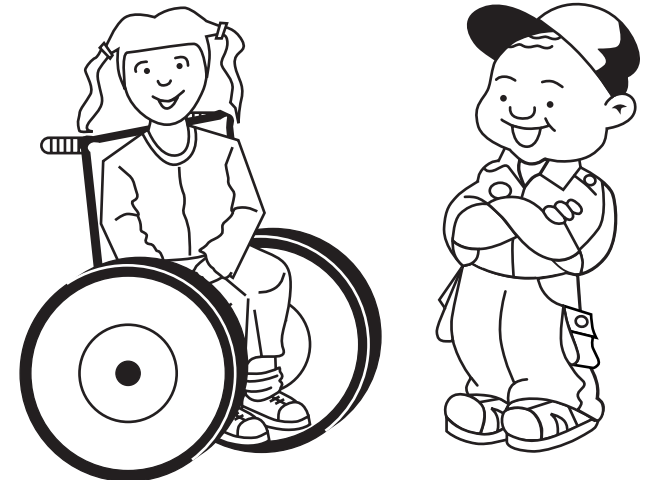


# Escape Maze



As a Junior Fire Marshal, you can make sure your family plans and practices an escape plan.

Help Jett escape through the maze on this page.



# Unscramble the Words

Here are some scrambled fire safety words.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

yast owl

6. \_\_\_\_\_

irfegfhrte

2. \_\_\_\_\_

peacse

7. \_\_\_\_\_

oskme laram

3. \_\_\_\_\_

secrue

8. \_\_\_\_\_

yrtam

4. \_\_\_\_\_

wot tixes

9. \_\_\_\_\_

acwlr

5. \_\_\_\_\_

tryetab

10. \_\_\_\_\_

fase



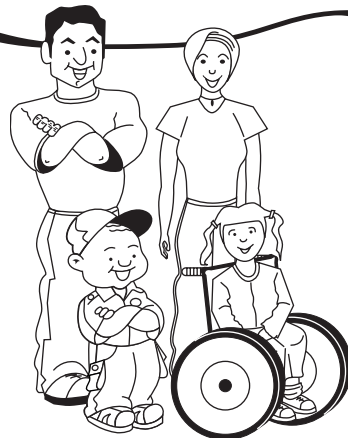
Check your answers on page 20.

# Draw an Escape Plan

In the large space, draw an escape plan for your house or apartment. Draw arrows to show how to get out. Show your plan to a parent so you can practice it with your family.



Don't forget doors and windows.

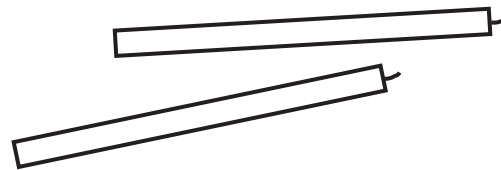
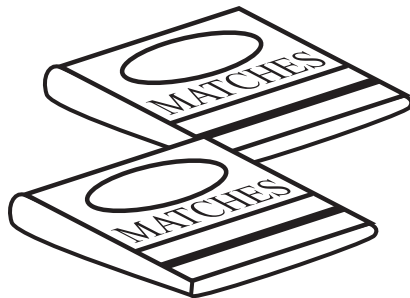
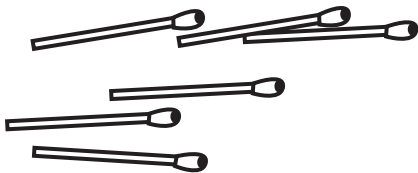
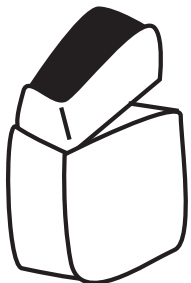
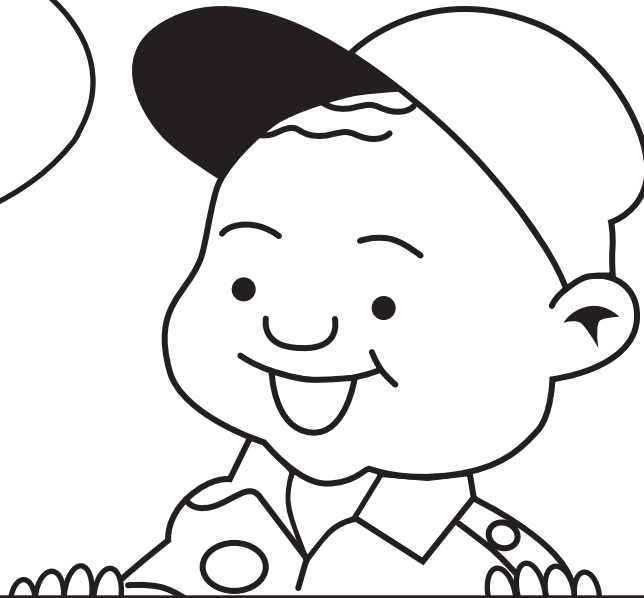


In the small space above, draw your room. Then draw arrows to show two ways out.

# Coloring Page

Remind adults to keep matches, lighters, and candles out of a child's reach.

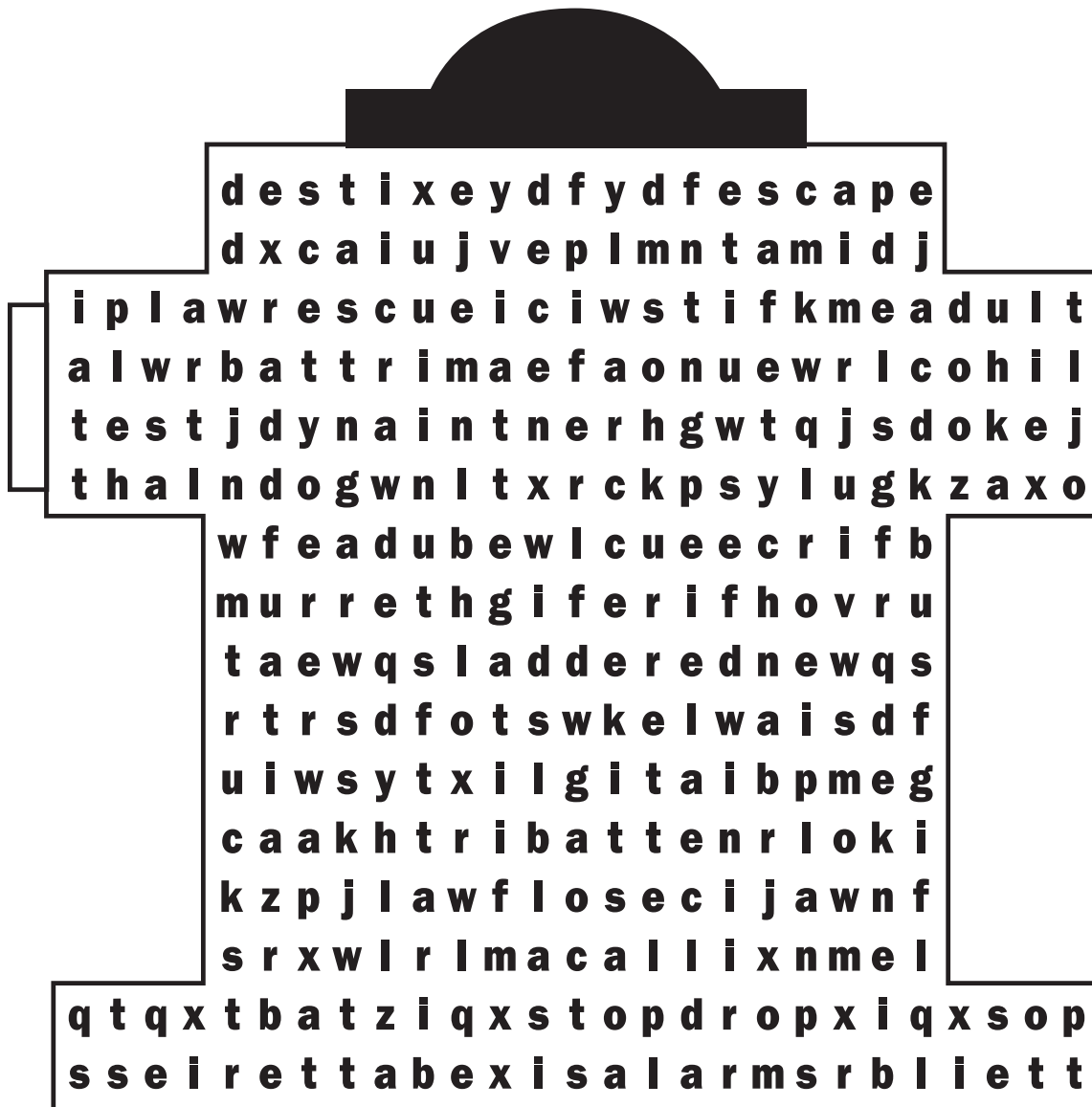
**Never**  
touch matches,  
lighters, or candles.  
If you find them,  
tell an adult.



# Word Search

Remember: the words go up, down, and all different ways.

Circle these hidden  
fire safety words.



alarm

marshal

adult

escape

firefighter

call

crawl

plan

batteries

truck

safety

exits

help

ladder

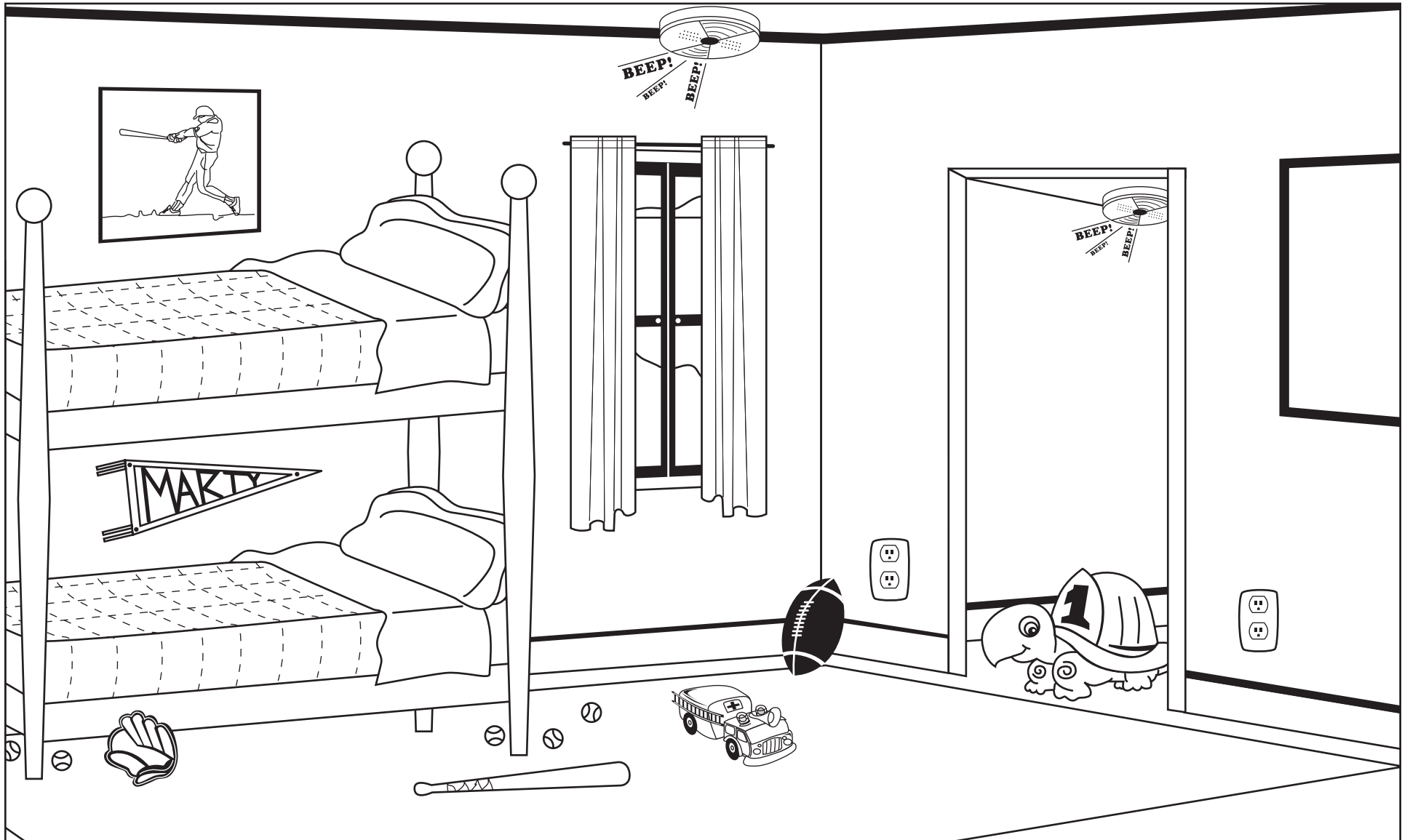
rescue

Check your answers on page 20.



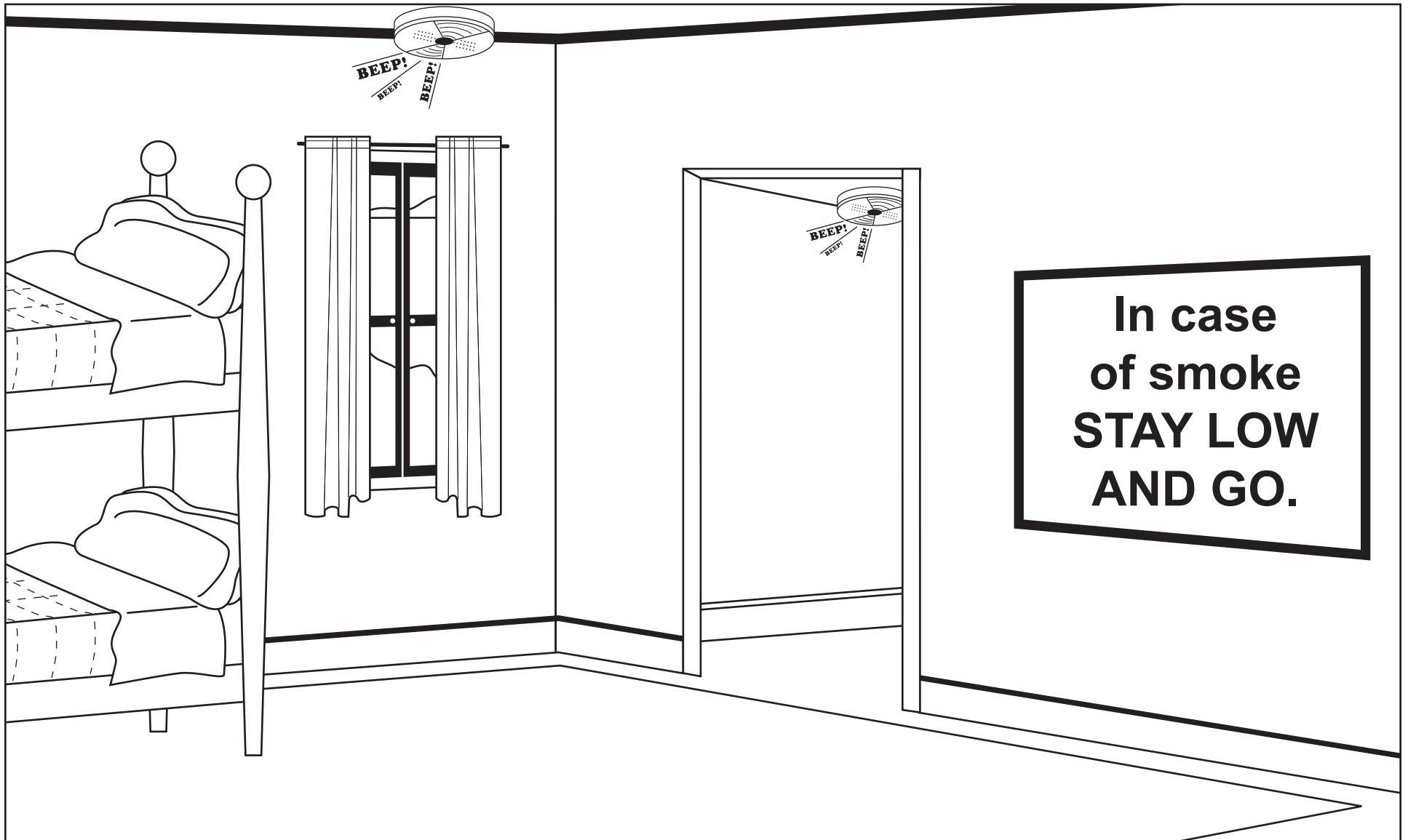
# Coloring Page

Smoke alarms should be in or near every bedroom and on every level of your home.



# Drawing Page

Draw a picture of yourself staying low as you exit your room.



# Fill in the Blanks

Choose the right word from the list below to fill in the blanks.

smoke alarms   two   escape   door   low   dangerous   loud   neighbor's

1. Find at least \_\_\_\_\_ ways to get out of every room.
2. Stay \_\_\_\_\_ to the ground when escaping during a fire.
3. Help your family place \_\_\_\_\_ in your home.
4. Smoke alarms make a very \_\_\_\_\_ beep to warn you of a fire.
5. Fire is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. During a fire, always remember to feel a \_\_\_\_\_ before opening it.
7. After you meet your family outside, call 9-1-1 or the emergency number from a \_\_\_\_\_ place.
8. An \_\_\_\_\_ plan can save your family.

Check your answers on page 20.

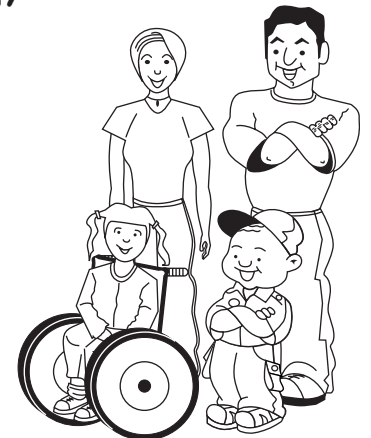
# Important Things to Remember

Fires can be loud, burn very fast, and smoke can make a room very dark.

That's why good escape plans help you get out quickly.

Here's how to help your family with an escape plan.

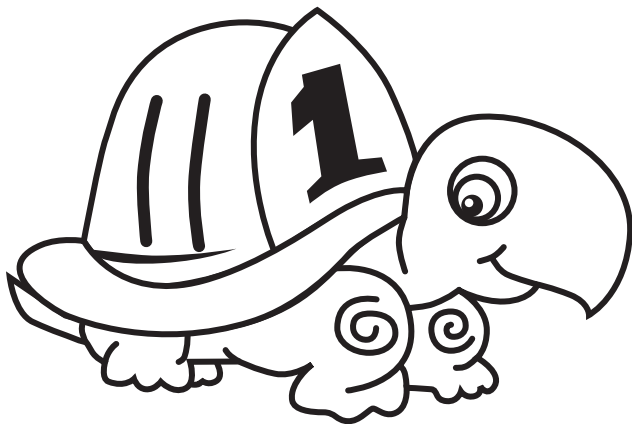
1. Try to find at least two ways out from every room in your home.
2. Every way needs to be planned and practiced with grownups.
3. Remember to stay low and go.
4. Before opening a door in a fire, feel it first. If it's hot, there may be fire on the other side. Do not open the door. Try to get out another way.
5. Pick an easy-to-remember, safe place outside to meet your family after you get out.
6. Call 9-1-1 or the emergency number from a neighbor's place.
7. Stay outside no matter what. Don't go back in for anything!



# Coloring Page

For more fire safety fun and to learn about firefighters, visit our Web site at...

**[www.usfa.fema.gov/kids](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/kids)**



# Answer Page

## Page 11

1. stay low
2. escape
3. rescue
4. two exits
5. battery
6. firefighter
7. smoke alarm
8. Marty
9. crawl
10. safe

## Page 14

d e s t i x e y d f y d f e s c a p e  
d x c a i u j v e p l m n t a m i d j  
i p l a w r e s c u e i c i w s t i f k m e a d u l t  
a l w r b a t t r i m a e f a o n u e w r l c o h i l  
t e s t j d y n a i n t n e r h g w t q j s d o k e j  
t h a l n d o g w n l t x r c k p s y l u g k z a x o  
w f e a d u b e w l c u e e c r i f b  
m u r r e t h g i f e r i f h o v r u  
t a e w q s l a d d e r e d n e w q s  
r t r s d f o t s w k e l w a i s d f  
u i w s y t x i l g i t a i b p m e g  
c a a k h t r i b a t t e n r l o k i  
k z p j l a w f l o s e c i j a w n f  
s r x w l r l m a c a l l i x n m e l  
q t q x t b a t z i q x s t o p d r o p x i q x s o p  
s s e i r e t t a b e x i s a l a r m s r b l i e t t

## Page 17

1. two
2. low
3. smoke alarms
4. loud
5. dangerous
6. door
7. neighbor's
8. escape

# Cut-Out Page

Color and cut out your Certificate.

Cut along dotted line  
and use certificate.

Marty & Jett's Activity Book  
Let's Have Fun with Fire Safety

[www.usfa.fema.gov/kids](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/kids)

## Junior Fire Marshal Certificate



Be it acknowledged that

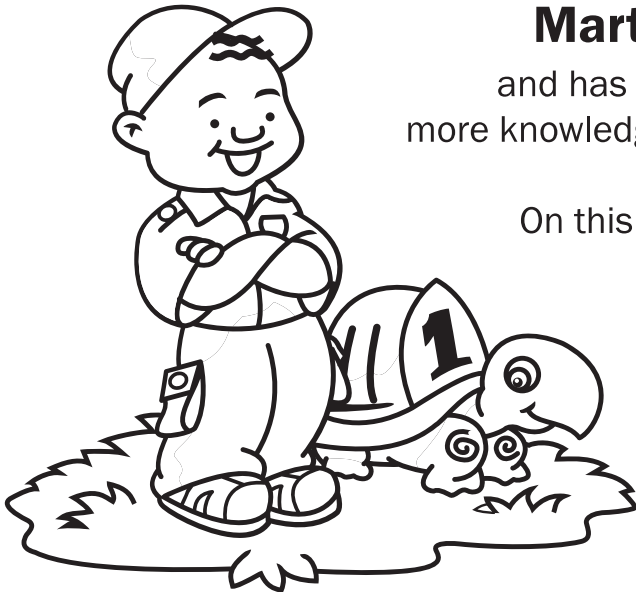
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHILD'S NAME

has successfully completed

### Marty & Jett's Activity Book

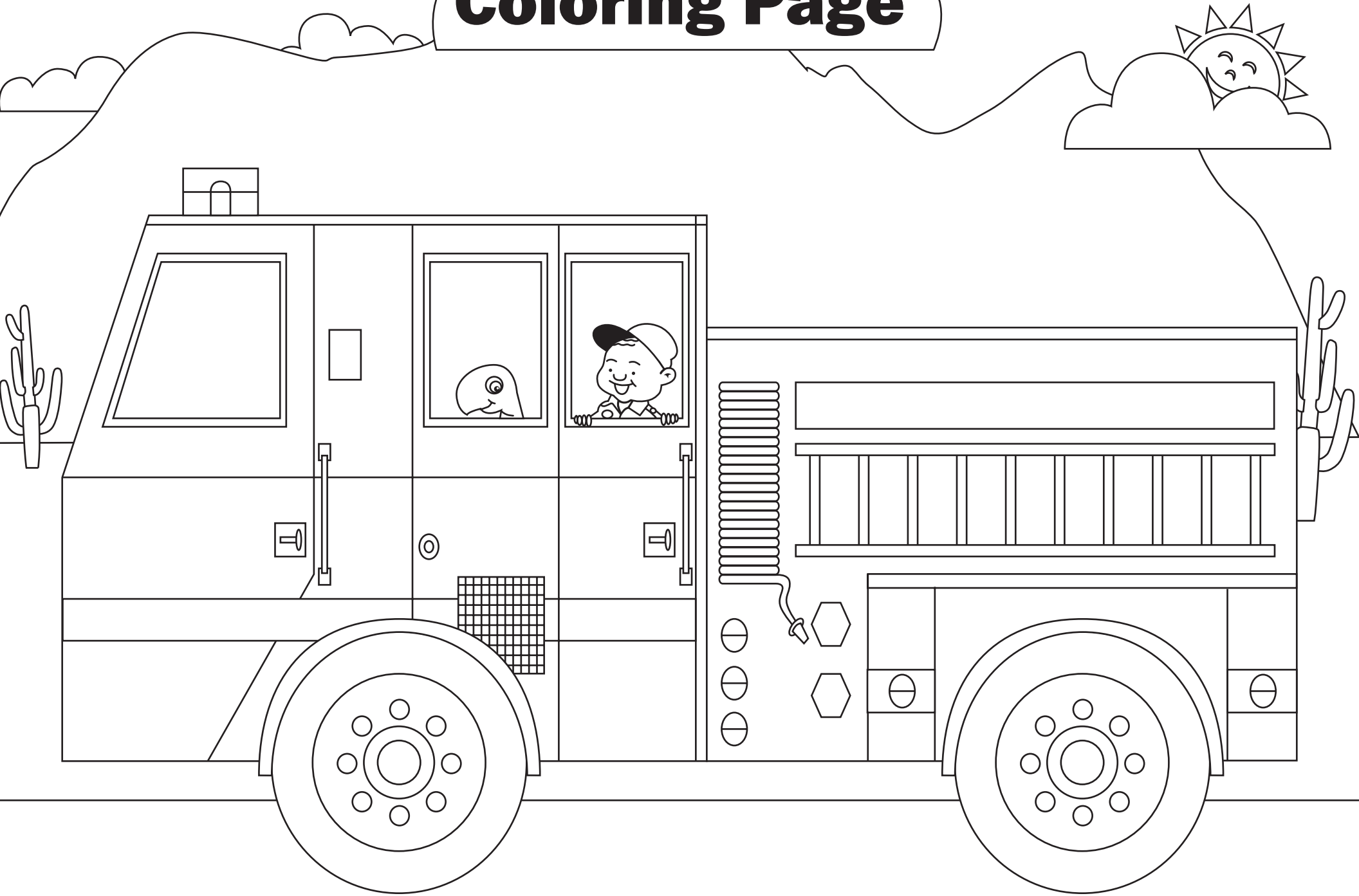
and has proven to be better prepared and  
more knowledgeable about how to help prevent fires.

On this day, \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE



R. David Paulison  
U.S. Fire Administrator

# Coloring Page





# Cut-Out Page

Color and use your cut-outs.

For more  
FUN,  
visit me at  
www.  
usfa.fema.  
gov/kids



For more  
FUN,  
visit me at  
www.  
usfa.fema.  
gov/kids

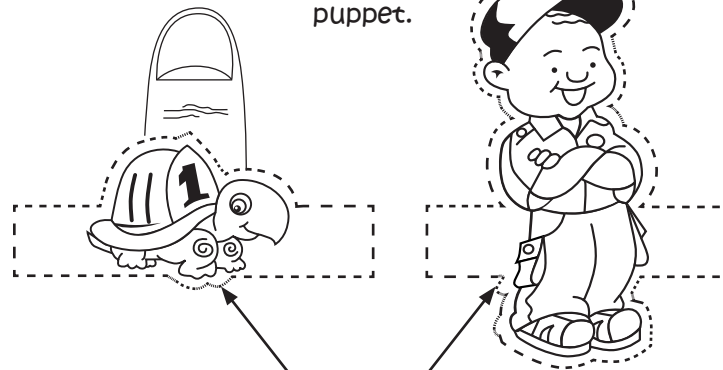


Cut along dotted line  
and use as bookmark.

Cut  
along  
dotted  
line  
and  
use  
as  
a  
badge.



Cut along  
dotted line to  
use as finger  
puppet.



Tape along both edges to  
keep ends together.



# **My Drawing Page**

Use this page to draw something you learned about fire safety.



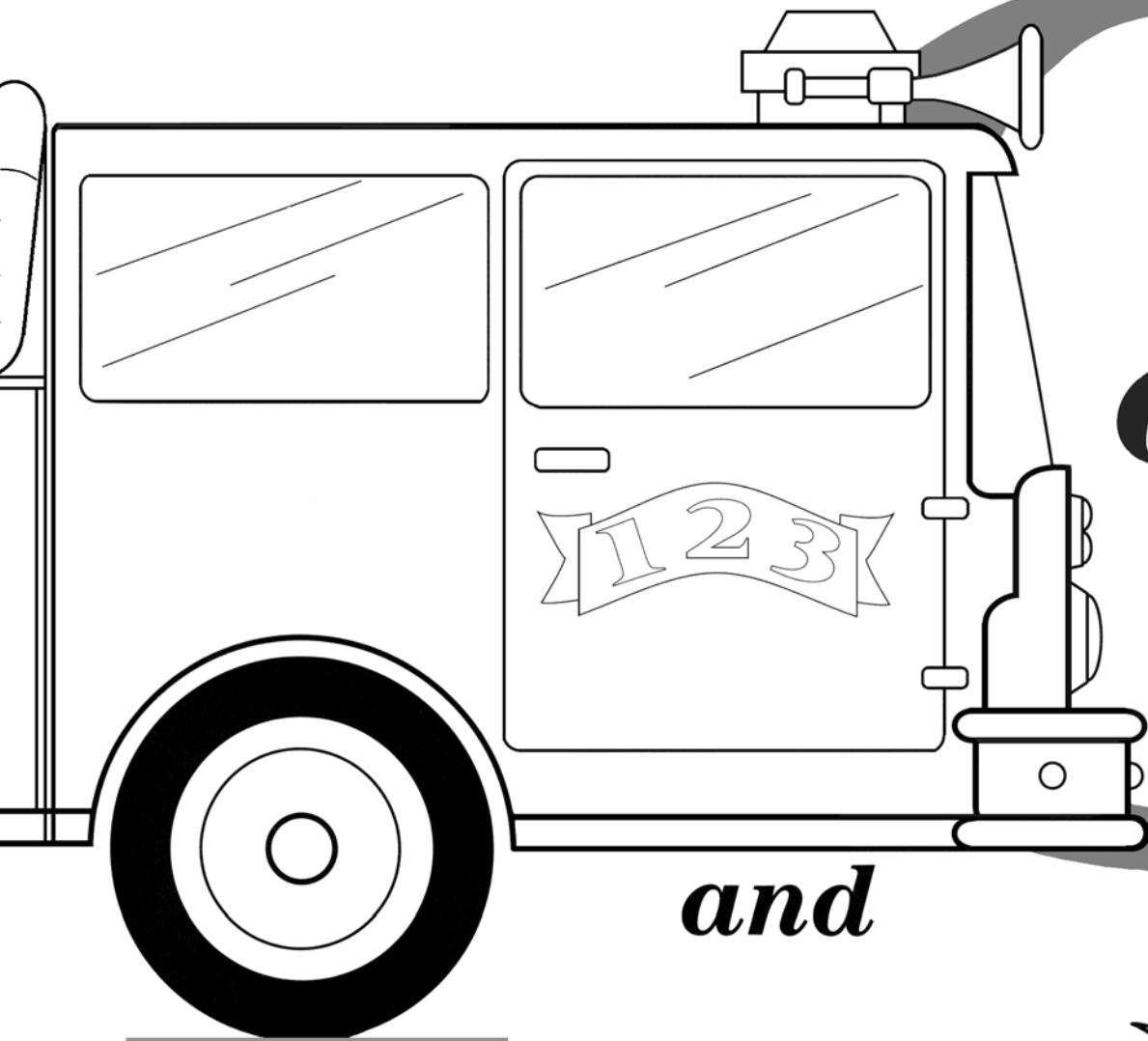
**FEMA**

FA-295/March, 2005

Thanks for learning about fire safety!

You're now a Junior Fire Marshal.

**Congratulations**



*olor*

*and*



*earn*




FEMA



# A Message to Families

**W**elcome to SESAME STREET Fire Safety Station. This coloring book is part of an ongoing fire safety awareness effort at your child's childcare program. Doing the coloring book with your child is one way to reinforce the importance of fire safety in your home.



**Practice fire safety techniques such as "get low and go under smoke" and "stop, drop, and roll if your clothes catch on fire".**

Fire safety educators agree that these two messages are the most important ones to teach young children.

Make working on the coloring book a chance to play and practice fire safety behavior with your child!

**Use the grid on next page to plan your home fire escape routes. Practice leaving the house using these routes. Hang the diagram where everyone in the family can see it, like on the refrigerator, or another visible place in the kitchen or family area. Fire safety educators recommend that you create an escape plan from every room in your house.**

Each page in the book illustrates a particular fire safety message highlighted in the SESAME STREET Fire Safety Station program. These messages include **Plan and Practice Home Escape Plans; Smoke Alarms Warn About Fires; Hot Things Burn; Get Out and Stay Out!; Stop, Drop, and Roll; and Firefighters Rescue People and Put Out Fires.** You will help your child to protect himself if you teach **Hot Things Burn** and **Get Out and Stay Out!** first.



**Ask your child to explain "Red Dot, Blue Dot." Play the game in your own kitchen.**

*Keeping your child safe begins at home—and teaching fire safety is vital to your family's well-being. Let Big Bird, Cookie Monster and all their friends help your child learn fire safety lessons that will last a lifetime.*

## Message to Highrise

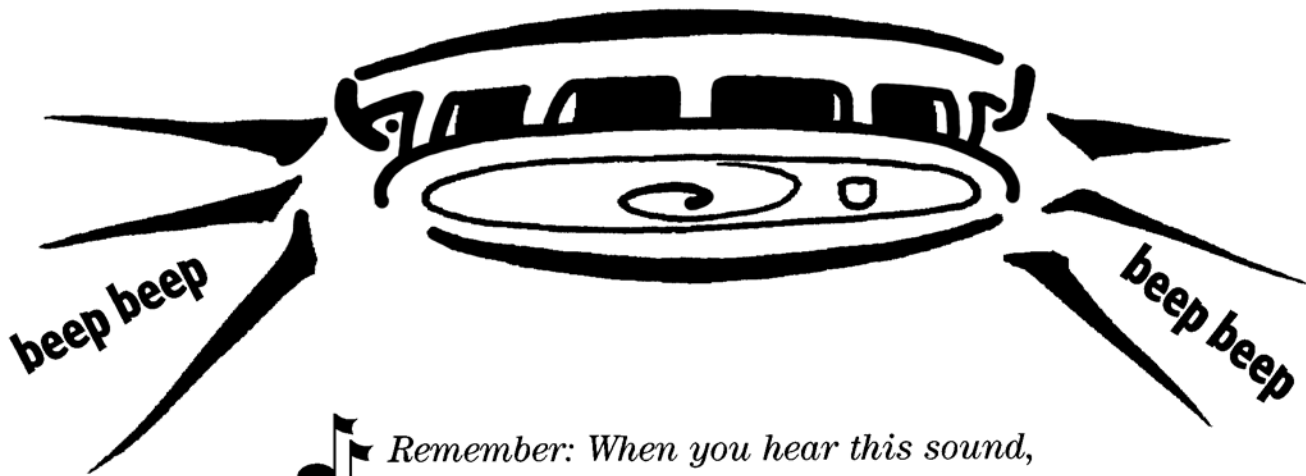
### Apartment Dwellers


Families living in highrise apartments may have more of a challenge getting out during a fire. Here are a few simple rules to follow:

- Feel the door to see if it is safe to exit your apartment. Never take the elevator. Only take stairways marked "Exit."
- If the hallway is blocked by heat, smoke or fire:
  - a) go back into your apartment; close and seal the door and any vents.
  - b) try phoning the authorities to let them know your location in the building.
  - c) signal your location by hanging a light-colored piece of cloth from inside a window.
- Be aware of your building's fire escape plan and practice it!



# Smoke alarms warn *about* fires




 Remember: When you hear this sound,  
It could be there's a fire around.

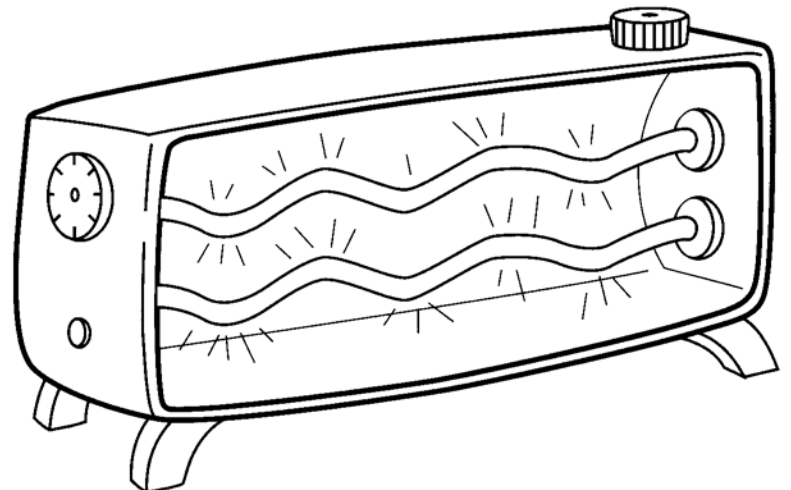
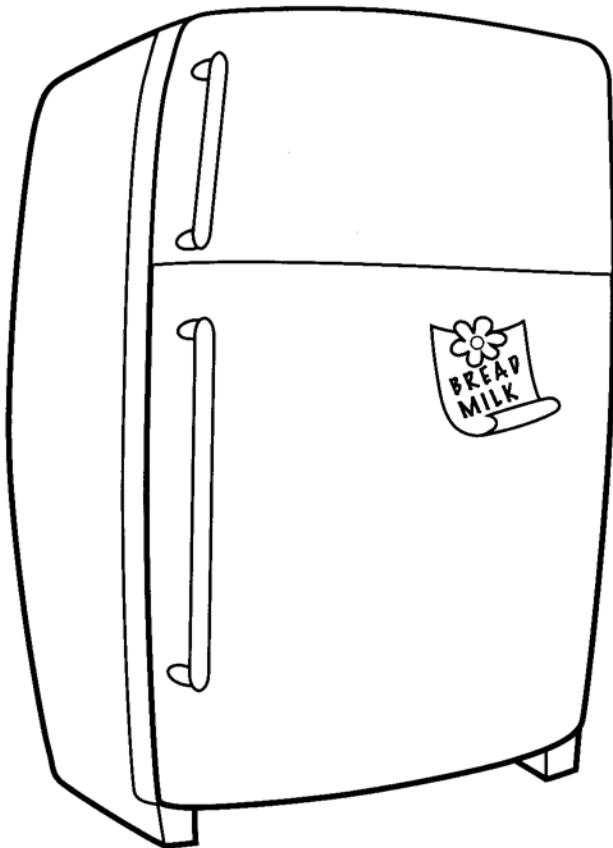
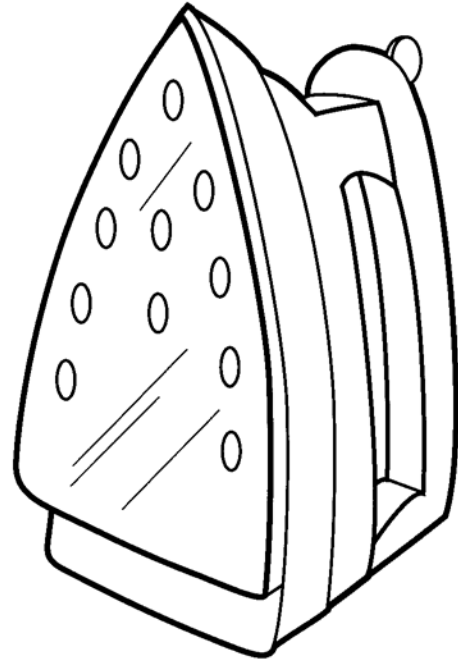
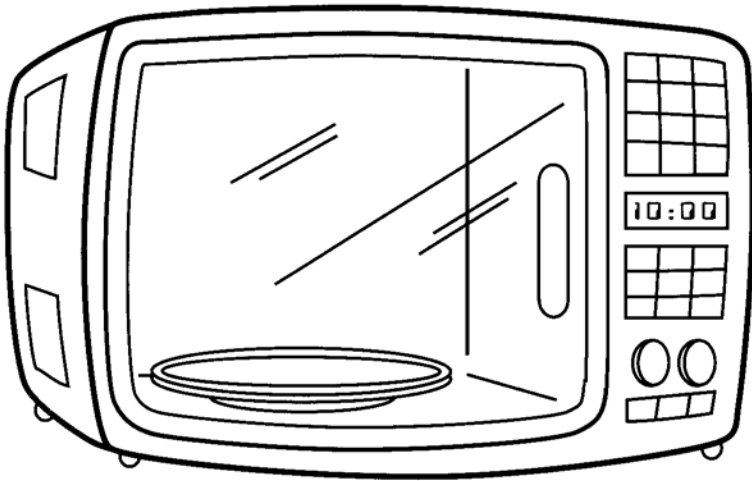


**Elmo hears a smoke  
alarm beeping.  
Can you make this sound?  
What should Elmo do?**



# Hot things burn

 *Hot things burn, so stay away!  
Hot things burn,  
they're not for play!*



**Color the hot things red and the cold things blue. Help your child find other hot and cold things in the house.**



**Stop, drop, *and* roll**



**if your clothes catch on fire,**



**stop,**



**drop,**



**and roll.**

**Practice stop, drop, and roll with Cookie Monster.**

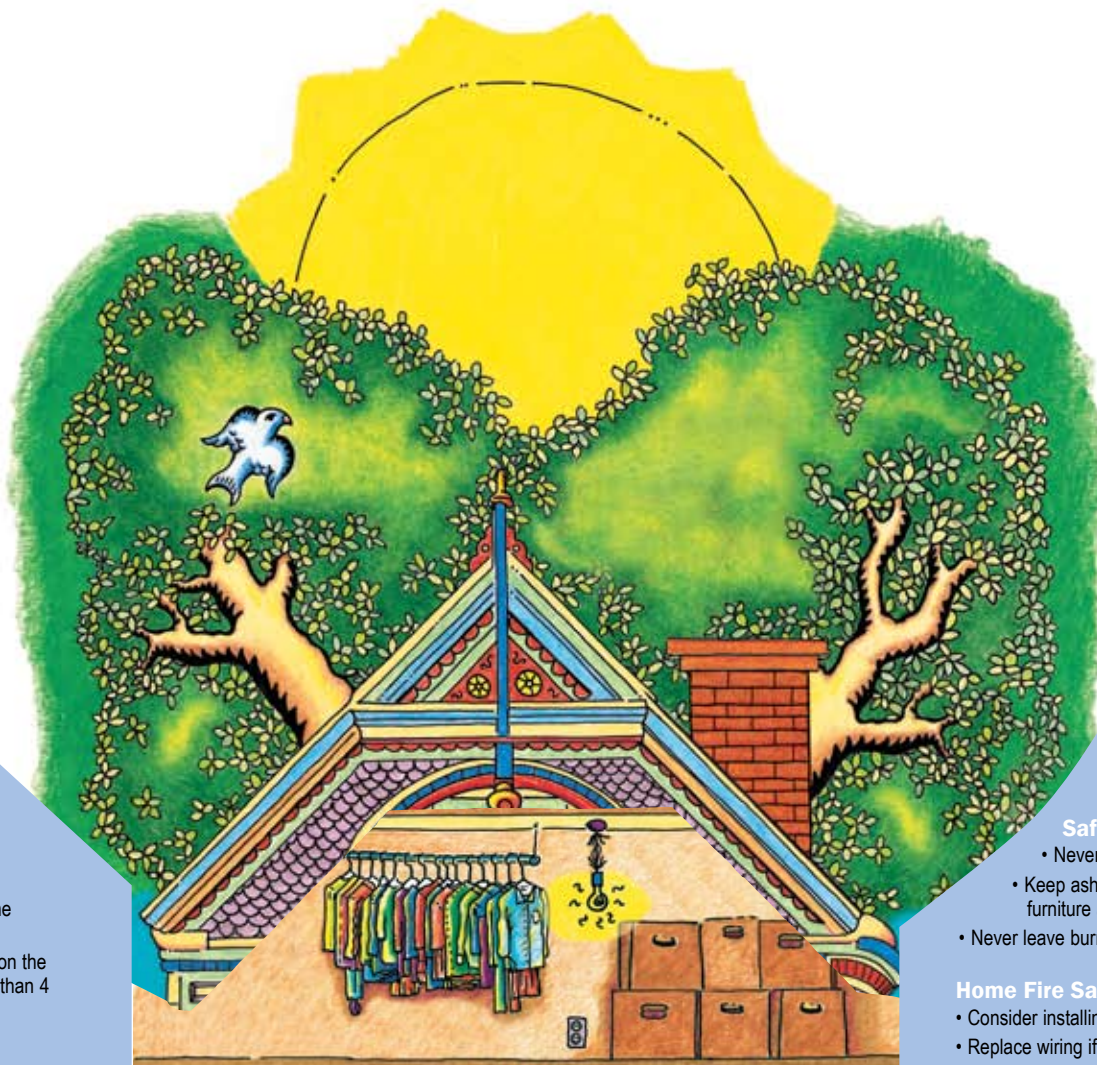


**Firefighters  
put  
out fires  
and help  
rescue  
people.**

This project is made possible by generous support from the U.S. Fire Administration.

Illustrations: Ernest Kwiat  
Lyrics reprinted with permission. © 1997 Sesame Street, Inc. and Splotched Animal Music.

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© 2005 Sesame Workshop. All rights reserved.



#### Smoke Alarms

- Place smoke alarms near bedrooms and on every level of the home.
- Test the batteries monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.
- Install smoke alarms on ceilings or high on the wall, with the top of the alarm not closer than 4 inches from the ceiling.

#### Safe Heating Practices

##### Alternative Heaters

- Keep heaters at a safe distance from curtains, furniture and all combustibles.
- Place heaters where they will not be knocked over easily.

##### Kerosene Heaters

- Fill only with K-1 Kerosene, and never use gasoline or camp stove fuel.

##### Electric Space Heaters

- Plug heaters directly into the wall socket, and not into extension cords.
- Unplug heaters when they're not being used.

##### Woodstoves and Fireplaces

- Always use a protective screen.
- Clean interiors, hearths and chimneys yearly.

#### Safe Cooking Practices

- Don't leave cooking food unattended on the stove.
- Keep dangling clothing away from burners and keep curtains and other combustibles away from the stove.
- Make sure the stove is off and small appliances are unplugged before going to bed.

#### Safe Smoking Practices

- Never smoke in bed.
- Keep ashtrays away from upholstered furniture and curtains.
- Never leave burning cigarettes unattended.

#### Home Fire Safety

- Consider installing residential fire sprinklers.
- Replace wiring if it's frayed or cracked.
- Avoid overloading outlets.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep. Keep candles away from paper and fabrics.

#### Children and Fire Safety

- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Familiarize children with the sound of the smoke alarm and teach them when one sounds off, crawl low, leave the house, and meet at the designated place outside.

#### Home Fire Escape Plan

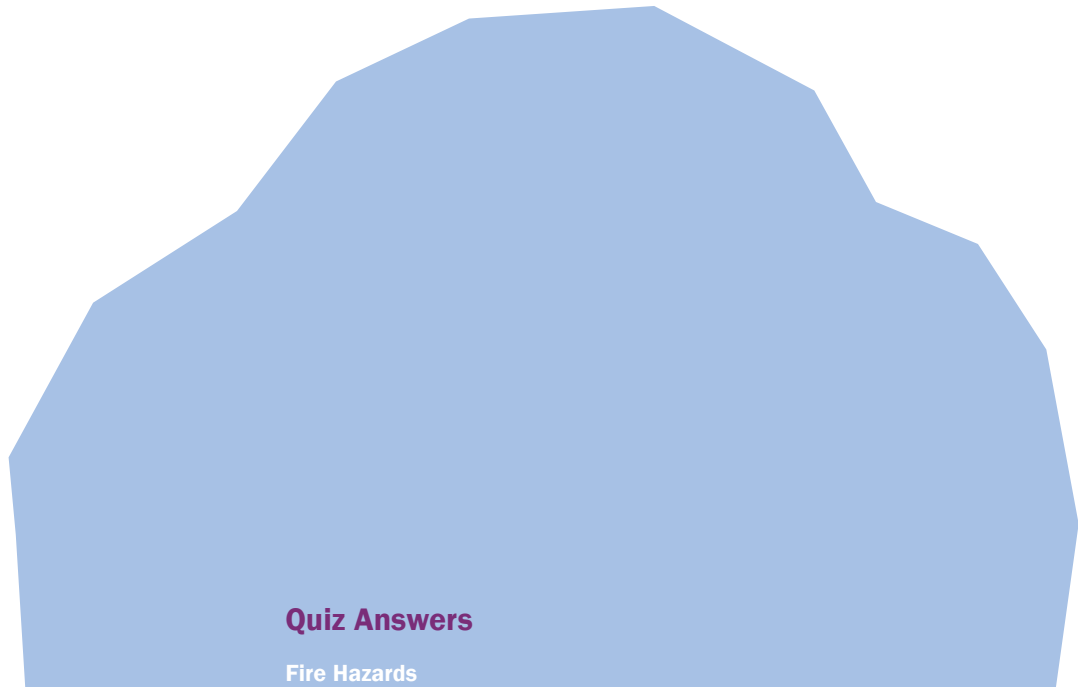
- Develop and practice a fire escape plan. Draw a diagram of the home. Mark all windows and doors, and plan two routes out of each room.
- Have a safe meeting place outside the home and never go back inside.

Take a few minutes to walk through your home and use the checklist to make sure your home is fire safe!

Fire Safety Checklist by the U.S. Fire Administration



In this home, there are 11 fire hazards and 9 fire safety devices. Find all of them using the fire safety checklist. Answers are on the back.



### Quiz Answers

#### Fire Hazards

**Attic**

- Frayed wire on light bulb

**Bathroom**

- Heater can be knocked over
- Overloaded outlet
- Lit candle near towel rack
- House shoes in front of heater

**Bedroom**

- Child playing with matches

**Kitchen**

- Cooking food unattended
- Small appliances left plugged (on stove)

**Living Room**

- Unattended cigarette on table
- No screen in front of fireplace

**Basement**

- Flammable materials next to open flame in water heater

#### Fire Safety Devices

**Bathroom**

- Sprinkler

**Bedroom**

- Smoke alarm
- Sprinkler

**Kitchen**

- Sprinkler
- Fire escape plan displayed on fridge

**Living Room**

- Smoke alarm
- Sprinkler

**Basement**

- Smoke alarm
- Sprinkler

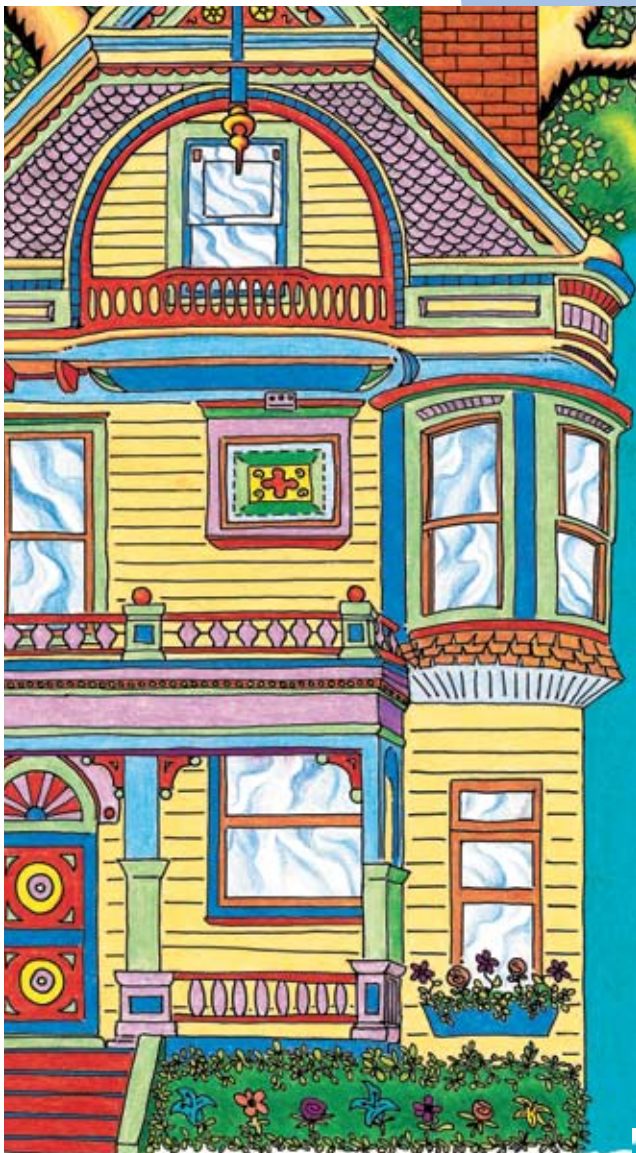
For more information about how to keep your home and family safe from fire, please write to:

**U.S. Fire Administration**  
16825 South Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Or visit: [www.usfa.dhs.gov](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov)



FA-285, July 2004



U.S. Fire Administration

# Fire Safety Checklist

for Older Adults

FA-221 / May 2010




**FEMA**





***Older people are at special risk  
for death and injury from fires.***

***To protect yourself  
and those you care about,  
follow these seven tips:***



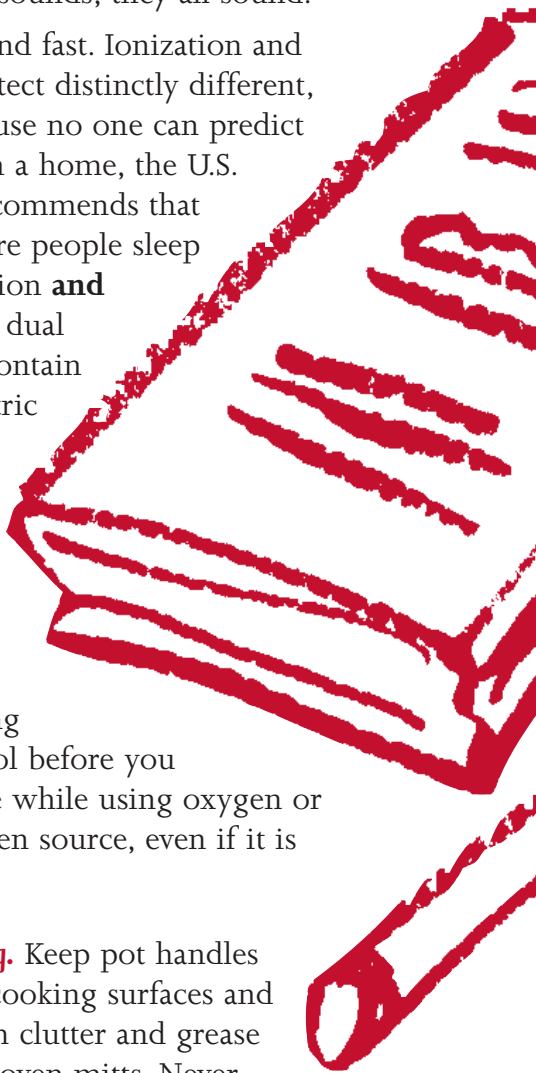


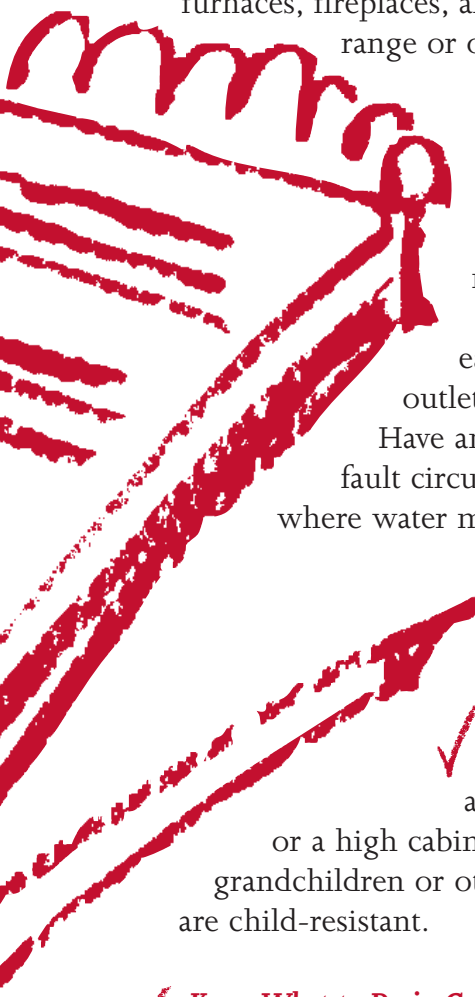
✓ **Install and Maintain Smoke Alarms.** Install working smoke alarms on every level of your home, especially inside and outside of sleeping areas. Test and dust each alarm monthly, change the batteries at least once a year, and replace the entire smoke alarm unit every 8-10 years. Interconnected smoke alarms are best because if one sounds, they all sound.

Get smoke alarms that can sound fast. Ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms detect distinctly different, yet potentially fatal, fires. Because no one can predict what type of fire might start in a home, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) recommends that every residence and place where people sleep be equipped with both ionization **and** photoelectric smoke alarms **or** dual sensor smoke alarms (which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors).

✓ **Use Smoking Materials Safely.** Never smoke in bed, while drowsy, or while under the influence of medication or alcohol. Use large, deep ashtrays for smoking debris, and let the contents cool before you dispose of them. Never smoke while using oxygen or anywhere near a medical oxygen source, even if it is turned off.

✓ **Pay Attention to Your Cooking.** Keep pot handles turned inward, and keep cooking surfaces and surrounding areas free from clutter and grease build-up. Use pot holders and oven mitts. Never lean over a hot burner and avoid wearing loose clothing with flowing sleeves while cooking. Never leave food that is cooking on the stove unattended.





✓ **Heat Your Home Safely.** Have a professional service all heating equipment annually. Keep combustibles and anything that can burn or melt away from all heaters, furnaces, fireplaces, and water heaters. Never use a range or oven to heat your home.

✓ **Practice Electrical Safety.** Have a professional electrician inspect your home's electrical wiring system at least every 10 years, and make recommended repairs. Never overload the electrical system. Plug each appliance directly into its own outlet and avoid using extension cords. Have an electrician install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in rooms where water may be present. Install and maintain electrical appliances according to the manufacturers' instructions.

✓ **Keep Matches and Lighters Away from Children.** Store matches and lighters in a locked drawer or a high cabinet away from the reach of grandchildren or other youngsters. Make sure lighters are child-resistant.

✓ **Know What to Do in Case of Fire.** Practice two ways out of every room in your home. Get out as soon as you discover a fire; do not try to fight the fire. Once out of the house, stay out; do not attempt to enter a burning home to gather possessions left behind. Immediately dial 9-1-1 or your local emergency number for help, preferably from a neighbor's phone.

# Reasons behind the Fire Safety Checklist for Older Adults

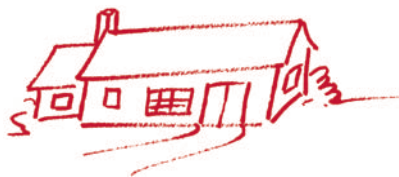
**Older adults (age 65 and older) are twice as likely to die in fires as any other age group. The death rate for those 85 and over is four times the national average. Older people are also at higher risk of injury from fires. The following tips can help protect you and those you care about from fires and burns.**

## **Install and Maintain Smoke Alarms.**

Install working smoke alarms on every level of your home, especially inside and outside of sleeping areas. Test and dust each alarm monthly, and change the batteries at least once a year. Interconnected smoke alarms are best because if one sounds, they all sound.

Get smoke alarms that can sound fast. Ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms detect distinctly different, yet potentially fatal, fires. Because no one can predict what type of fire might start in a home, USEA recommends that every residence and place where people sleep be equipped with both ionization **and** photoelectric smoke alarms **or** dual sensor smoke alarms (which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors).

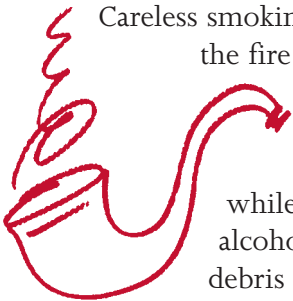
Smoke alarms have significantly reduced the risk of death or injury from fire. Smoke alarms give people an early warning that allows for early escape. If possible, install smoke alarms away from kitchens and bathrooms to reduce nuisance alarms.



To control nuisance alarms, install alarms with a temporary silencing feature. If you are hearing-impaired, install an alarm that alerts using a visual signal. If necessary, get someone (a relative, neighbor, or fire department official) to help you test and clean each alarm monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. The entire smoke alarm unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.

### **Use Smoking Materials Safely.**

**Never smoke in bed, while drowsy, or while under the influence of medication or alcohol. Use large, deep ashtrays for smoking debris, and let the contents cool before you dispose of them. Douse ashes with water and place ashtrays in the sink. Never smoke while using oxygen or anywhere near a medical oxygen source, even if it is turned off. The best place to smoke is outside of the home.**



Careless smoking accounts for nearly one-third of the fire deaths in adults over age 70. It is also a leading cause of fire injuries among older people. If you smoke, never smoke in bed, while drowsy, or while under the influence of medication or alcohol. Use large, deep ashtrays so smoking debris doesn't fall out. Warm ashes dumped in wastebaskets can smolder for hours, then ignite surrounding trash. At the end of the day, put the ashtray in the sink, fill it with water, and let it sit overnight before you dispose of the contents. Or, dispose of cigarettes and matches in a metal container, such as a coffee can with a lid, and let it cool overnight. Check furniture for smoldering cigarette butts and ashes before going to bed. Never smoke while using oxygen or anywhere near a medical oxygen source, even if it is turned off. The best place to smoke is outside of the home. When smoking outside, extinguish cigarette butts in a coffee can that is filled with sand.

### **Pay Attention to Your Cooking.**

**Keep pot handles turned inward, and keep cooking surfaces and surrounding areas free from clutter and grease buildup. Use pot holders and oven mitts. Never lean over a hot burner and avoid wearing loose clothing with flowing sleeves while cooking. Never leave food that is cooking on the stove unattended. A serious fire can start in just seconds.**

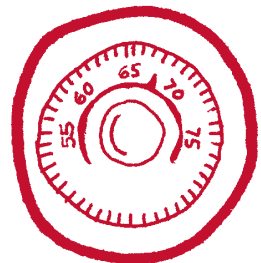
Cooking fires are a leading cause of burn injuries among older people. Prevent fires and burns by being watchful and alert when you cook, keeping pot handles turned inward, not overheating food (especially fats and oils), and keeping cooking surfaces clean. Always use pot holders and oven mitts when opening the oven and handling hot pots and pans to prevent burns. While cooking, never lean over a lit burner and avoid wearing loose clothing with flowing sleeves, such as nightgowns or bathrobes. These can catch on fire from a burner. Never leave food that is cooking on the stove unattended.



### **Heat Your Home Safely.**

**Have a professional service all heating equipment annually. Keep combustibles and anything that can burn or melt away from all heaters, furnaces, fireplaces, and water heaters. Never use a range or oven to heat your home.**

Hundreds of fires start each year when things that burn, such as curtains, clothing, bedding, gasoline, or paint solvents, are placed too close to heaters, furnaces, wood stoves, fireplaces, or water heaters. Store flammable liquids like cleaning solvents and gasoline outside of your home. Have at least 3 feet of clearance in all directions around portable/space heaters. Use the proper fuel for all heating equipment.



Change filters in furnaces monthly. Keep chimneys clean. To prevent scalds, set the temperature of your water heater no higher than 120 °F (49 °C). All heating devices should be checked and serviced every year by a professional. Use your range or oven for cooking only—never to heat your home.

### **Practice Electrical Safety.**

**Have a professional electrician inspect your home's electrical wiring system at least every 10 years, and make recommended repairs. Never overload the electrical system. Plug each appliance directly into its own outlet, and avoid using extension cords. Have an electrician install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in rooms where water may be present. Install and maintain electrical appliances according to the manufacturers' instructions.**

Homes more than 40 years old are 3 times more likely to catch on fire from electrical causes than homes 11-20 years old. That's because older wiring may not have the capacity to safely handle newer appliances and equipment and may not incorporate updated safety features. GFCIs are important electrical safety devices that offer superior protection against dangerous electric shock and also may prevent some electrical fires. Have GFCIs installed in bathroom and kitchen circuits, and in other locations where water and dampness may be present. Call a professional electrician to make sure you have the proper fuses, find reasons for blown fuses and tripped circuit breakers, replace old or damaged outlets, and install more outlets if needed. You are less likely to overload electrical outlets if you use no more than one high-wattage appliance on a circuit at a time. Extension cords are meant for temporary use only, and should be unplugged when not in use. If you see frayed cords on older appliances, have the cord repaired; better yet, replace the appliance altogether.



### **Keep Matches and Lighters Away from Children.**

Store matches and lighters in a locked drawer or a high cabinet away from the reach of grandchildren or other youngsters. Make sure lighters are child-resistant.



Young children are often attracted to products that can produce flames. Be sure to lock away any matches and lighters when you have young visitors in your home. Using lighters that are child-resistant can prevent deaths and injuries. If you light candles in your home, keep them out of the reach of children. Make sure candles are placed on a wide, flat base where they could be hard to tip.

### **Know What to Do in Case of Fire.**

Practice two ways out of every room in your home. Get out as soon as you discover a fire; do not try to fight the fire or gather possessions. Once out of the house, stay out; do not attempt to enter a burning home to gather possessions left behind. Immediately dial 9-1-1 or your local emergency number for help, preferably from a neighbor's phone.

Planning what to do in case of fire can make the difference between life and death. You should practice two ways out of every room in your home. If you use a wheelchair or walker, or otherwise might have a problem escaping from a fire, discuss your escape plans ahead of time with your fire department, your family, the building manager, and neighbors. Let them know about your special circumstances and ask them to help plan the best escape routes for you.



***The most important thing when a fire occurs is to get out of the house immediately and stay out, then call the fire department. If you are behind a closed door, feel it with your hand before opening it. If the door is hot, look for another possible exit out of the room. Make sure windows can be unlocked and opened, and security bars released. If you are passing through a smoky area, stoop low so that your head is beneath the smoke. If your clothes catch on fire, stop, gently drop to the ground, cover your face, and roll to smother the flames. Do not try to fight the fire; that will only delay your escape. Leave your possessions behind, and never go back into a burning building for any reason.***





For more information about seniors and fire safety, visit these Web sites:

U.S. Fire Administration, DHS  
Prevent Fire. Save Lives. Campaign  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

National Fire Protection Association  
[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

National Association of State Fire Marshals  
[www.firemarshals.org](http://www.firemarshals.org)

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)



**PREVENT FIRE.  
SAVE LIVES.**

*For more information or copies of this publication, please contact:*

**Department of Homeland Security**

**U.S. Fire Administration**

16825 South Seton Avenue

Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727

800-561-3356

[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov)

**FA-221/May 2010**

# Fire Extinguishers

USFA recommends that only those trained in the proper use and maintenance of fire extinguishers consider using them when appropriate.



The use of a fire extinguisher in the hands of a trained adult can be a life and property saving tool. However, a majority of adults have not had fire extinguisher training and may not know how and when to use them. Fire extinguisher use requires a sound decision making process and training on their proper use and maintenance.

## Should I Use a Fire Extinguisher?

Consider the following three questions before purchasing or using a fire extinguisher to control a fire:

### 1. What type of fire extinguisher is needed?

Different types of fires require different types of extinguishers. For example, a grease fire and an electrical fire require the use of different extinguishing agents to be effective and safely put the fire out.

Basically, there are five different types of extinguishing agents. Most fire extinguishers display symbols to show the kind of fire on which they are to be used.

## Types of Fire Extinguishers



Class A extinguishers put out fires in ordinary combustible materials such as cloth, wood, rubber, paper, and many plastics.



Class B extinguishers are used on fires involving flammable liquids, such as grease, gasoline, oil, and oil-based paints.



Class C extinguishers are suitable for use on fires involving appliances, tools, or other equipment that is electrically energized or plugged in.





Class D extinguishers are designed for use on flammable metals and are often specific for the type of metal in question. These are typically found only in factories working with these metals.



Class K fire extinguishers are intended for use on fires that involve vegetable oils, animal oils, or fats in cooking appliances. These extinguishers are generally found in commercial kitchens, such as those found in restaurants, cafeterias, and caterers. Class K extinguishers are now finding their way into the residential market for use in kitchens.



There are also multi-purpose fire extinguishers - such as those labeled "B-C" or "A-B-C" - that can be used on two or more of the above type fires.

## 2. Is the fire at a point where it might still be controlled by a fire extinguisher?

Portable fire extinguishers are valuable for immediate use on small fires. They contain a limited amount of extinguishing material and need to be properly used so that this material is not wasted. For example, when a pan initially catches fire, it may be safe to turn off the burner, place a lid on the pan, and use an extinguisher. By the time the fire has spread, however, these actions will not be adequate. **Only trained firefighters can safely extinguish such fires.**

Use a fire extinguisher only if:

- You have alerted other occupants and someone has called the fire department;
- The fire is small and contained to a single object, such as a wastebasket;
- You are safe from the toxic smoke produced by the fire;
- You have a means of escape identified and the fire is not between you and the escape route; and
- Your instincts tell you that it is safe to use an extinguisher.

If *all* of these conditions are not present, you should NOT try to use a fire extinguisher. Alert other occupants, leave the building following your [home escape plan](#), go to the agreed upon meeting place, and call the fire department from a cell phone or a neighbor's home.

## 3. Am I physically capable of using the extinguisher?

Some people have physical limitations that might diminish or eliminate their ability to properly use a fire extinguisher. People with disabilities, older adults, or children may find that an extinguisher is too heavy to handle or it may be too difficult for them to exert the necessary pressure to operate the extinguisher.

## Maintenance

Fire extinguishers need to be regularly checked to ensure that:

- The extinguisher is not blocked by furniture, doorways, or any thing that might limit access in an emergency.
- The pressure is at the recommended level. Some extinguishers have gauges that indicate when the pressure is too high or too low.
- All parts are operable and not damaged or restricted in any way. Make sure hoses and nozzles are free of insects or debris. There should not be any signs of damage or abuse, such as dents or rust, on the extinguisher.
- The outside of the extinguisher is clean. Remove any oil or grease that might accumulate on the exterior.

### Additionally:

- Shake dry chemical extinguishers once a month to prevent the powder from settling or packing. Check the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Pressure test the extinguisher (a process called hydrostatic testing) after a number of years to ensure that the cylinder is safe to use. Find out from the owner's manual, the label, or the manufacturer when an extinguisher may need this type of testing.
- Immediately replace the extinguisher if it needs recharging or is damaged in any way.

### Sound Decision Making. Training. Maintenance.

All are required to safely control a fire with an extinguisher. For this reason, **USFA recommends that only those trained in the proper use and maintenance of fire extinguishers consider using them when appropriate.** Contact your local fire department for information on training in your area.

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## Learn About Fire Escape Plans



In the event of a fire, remember that **every second** counts, so you and your family must always be prepared. Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly. In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for a house to fill with thick black smoke and become engulfed in flames.

**Every month, prepare and practice an escape route with the entire family, including children.** Some tips to consider when preparing your escape plan include:

- Find two ways to get out of each room.
- If the primary way is blocked by fire or smoke, you will need a second

way out. A secondary route might be a window onto a neighboring roof or a collapsible ladder for escape from upper story windows.

- Only purchase collapsible ladders evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- Make sure that windows are not stuck, screens can be taken out quickly, and that security bars can be properly opened.
- Practice feeling your way out of the house in the dark or with your eyes closed.

### Security Bars Require Special Precautions

[Security bars](#) may help to keep your family safe from intruders, but they can also trap you inside in the event of a deadly fire! Windows and doors with security bars must have quick release devices to allow them to be opened immediately in an emergency. Make sure everyone in the family understands and practices how to properly operate and open locked or barred doors and windows.

### Immediately Leave the Home

When a fire occurs, do not waste any time saving property. Take the safest exit route, but if you must escape through smoke, remember to crawl low, under the smoke and keep your mouth covered. The smoke contains toxic gases, which can disorient you or, at worst, overcome you.

### Never Open Doors that are Hot to the Touch

When you come to a closed door, use the **back of your hand** to feel the top of the door, the doorknob, and the crack between the door and door frame to make sure that fire is not on the other side. If it feels hot, use your secondary escape route. Even if the door feels cool, open it carefully. Brace your shoulder against the door and open it slowly. If heat and smoke come in, slam the door and make sure it is securely closed, then use your alternate escape route.

### Designate a Meeting Place Outside and Take Attendance

Designate a meeting location away from the home, but not necessarily across the street. For example, meet under a specific tree or at the end of the driveway or front sidewalk to make sure everyone has gotten out safely and no one will be hurt looking for someone who is already safe. Designate one person to go to a neighbor's home to phone the fire department.

### Once Out, Stay Out

Remember to escape first and then notify the fire department using the 9-1-1 system or proper local emergency number in your area. Never go back into a burning building for any reason. Teach children not to hide from firefighters. If someone is missing, tell the firefighters. They are equipped to perform rescues safely.

## **How Fire-Safe Is Your Home?**

### **You won't know until you do a fire safety walkthrough**

Conduct a fire safety walkthrough of your home on a regular basis. Use the following tips to help you in your walkthrough:

- Keep clothes, blankets, curtains, towels and other items that can easily catch on fire at least three feet from space heaters, and away from stove burners.
- Place space heaters where they will not tip over easily.
- Have chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a professional.
- Clear the area around trash, flammables and decorative materials.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces and leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Be sure your stove and small appliances are off before going to bed.
- Check for worn wires and do not run cords under rugs or furniture.
- Never overload electrical sockets.
- Keep lighters and matches out of the reach of children.
- Never leave cigarettes unattended and never smoke in bed.
- Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out. The cigarette needs to be completely stubbed out in the ashtray or run under water.