

# Talking Points/ Tips



## Important Discussion Points

Do you know what to do if a fire started in your home? What about your children? If you answered no to one or both of these questions now is the time to prepare your family, particularly your children, for the unthinkable – a home fire.

Not sure where to start? No need to worry – the Virginia Department of Fire Programs have prepared a list of life-saving tips to assist you in discussing fire safety with your child.

## Did you know? Fire Facts

- According to the United States Fire Administration, 82 percent of all fire deaths occur in the home.
- Deaths due to fires caused by children playing with fire are particularly preventable.
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly one-half.

## Children and Fire – Safety First

- Keep matches, lighters and other ignitables in a secured drawer or cabinet out of the reach of children.
- Teach your children to 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 children how to crawl low on the floor, below the smoke, to get out of the house and stay out.
- Demonstrate how to stop, drop to the ground and roll if clothes catch fire.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan and designate a safe meeting place outside the home. Get out and stay out!
- Make sure everyone in your family knows at least two ways to escape from each room in the house.
- For children who are allowed to cook, remind them to never leave cooking unattended. A serious fire can start in seconds.
- If cooking smoke sets off the alarm, do not disable it. Turn on the range fan, open a window or wave a towel near the alarm.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do if it sounds.
- Keep towels, pot holders and curtains away from flames and heating elements.
- If a fire breaks out while cooking, put a lid on the pan to smother it. Never throw water on a grease fire.
- Double check the kitchen before leaving the house or taking a nap. Make sure all small appliances are turned off.

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PROGRAMS**

**For more fire safety information visit us online at [www.vafire.com](http://www.vafire.com)**