



HARRISBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Safety Education

Third Annual Fire Safety Education for Home School

The Harrisburg Fire Department is charged with the task of educating the public in fire safety and life safety. One of the primary and most beneficial ways this is accomplished is through childhood education. Each year, during the month of October, Harrisburg Fire Department visits each educational facility in the district to teach the essential fire and life safety lessons we all know and remember from childhood. Such lessons as: Stop, Drop, & Roll; Call 9-1-1 in an emergency, smoke alarms mean get out and stay out, and feel the door for heat with the back of your hand. These messages were ingrained in our brains at such a young age that we don't even ponder the idea of not knowing them. So, can you remember when and where you learned these vital life safety tips? The majority of us will answer, "At school, in the 1st Grade." That is where most of us learn them. But what about the children that do not attend the traditional public school? That is

a question that has the Public Education division at Harrisburg Fire Department concerned. That is why this **October 23rd**, the fire department will host the 4th "Fire Education for Non-Public School Students." Our hope is to have every student or child who is not receiving this education through public school, participate in this fun educational opportunity. The fire fighters themselves will be demonstrating the fire truck, equipment, and gear they use everyday to protect the Harrisburg community. In addition, there will be a

smoke simulation trailer on-scene where the students will learn to recognize the sound of a smoke detector and learn to react appropriately in order to exit a smoky structure quickly and safely. Don't let your child miss out on the exciting, fun, learning experience that will serve as a foundation for life-long fire safety practices. This special program is hosted by the Harrisburg Fire Department at absolutely no cost to you. If interested in signing your child up to participate, please visit Harrisburg Parks & Recreation registrations page.



History of Fire Safety Week

The inspiration behind the national recognition of Fire Prevention Week is the Great Chicago Fire of Oct. 9, 1871. Burning for nearly 27 hours, this fire killed more than 250 people, destroyed more than 17,400 buildings and left 100,000 homeless. According to popular legend, the fire broke out after a cow

-- belonging to Mrs. Catherine O'Leary -- kicked over a lamp, setting first the barn, then the whole city on fire. Chances are you've heard some version of this story yourself; people have been blaming the Great Chicago Fire on the cow and Mrs. O'Leary for more than 130 years. But recent research by

a Chicago historian has helped to debunk this version of events.

The history of fire safety week and "The 'Moo' Myth"

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Fire Education Day for Non-Public School Students

When: October 23, 2017
Where: Providence Baptist Church
5315 Hwy 49 S. in Harrisburg
Time: 9am (4 events approx. 1.5 hrs)

Sign Up Now! FREE

[Click here to register](#)

Questions, please email Capt. Jack Gonzalez at: jgonzalez@hfdnc.org

The 'Moo' Myth

Like any good story, the "case of the cow" has some truth to it. The great fire almost certainly started near the barn where Mrs. O'Leary kept her five milking cows. But there is no proof that O'Leary was in the barn when the fire broke out, or that a jumpy cow sparked the blaze. Mrs. O'Leary herself swore that she'd been in bed early that night, and that the cows were also tucked in for the evening. Forty years later, fire marshals across the country

decided to recognize a fire



prevention day, to educate the public and pass along valuable fire safety messages to prevent another great fire from occurring. Finally in 1922, the nation's fire officials decided to recognize an entire week in October — whichever week the ninth falls in — as Fire Prevention Week, and to encourage communities to use this time to learn more about preventing such fire tragedies large and small.

Did You Know?

Did you know that North Carolina had more than 9,000 reported home fires in 2013? And did you know that in many of those homes, there were no working smoke alarms? That is why we need your help! Many of those fires could have been prevented, and

the damage, injuries and deaths they caused could have been minimized if working smoke alarms had been there to sound a warning. And that is why this year, the theme of Fire Prevention Week focuses on the importance of

Working Smoke Detectors

Save Lives!

having working smoke alarms in every room and floor of your home including the basement.

We hope you visit us during our fire safety and prevention knowledge event, as well as share the information so that we can pre-

Trick or Treating Safety Tips

S.A.F.E. H.A.L.L.O.W.E.E.N

- . **S**words, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.
- . **A**void trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- . **F**asten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.
- . **E**xamine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.
- . **H**old a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you. Always WALK and don't run from house to house.
- . **A**lways test make-up in a small area first. Remove it before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye

irritation.

- . **L**ook both ways before crossing the street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.
- . **L**ower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.
- . **O**nly walk on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.
- . **W**ear well-fitting masks, costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.
- . **E**at only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.
- . **E**nter homes only if you're with a trusted adult. Only visit well-lit

houses. Don't stop at dark houses. Never accept rides from strangers. **N**ever walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.





HUG-A-TREE
and Survive

Hey Mom and Dad,
The Harrisburg Fire
Department would
like to teach your kids
about what to do if
they get lost.



Phone contact: 704-455-3574
John Lomonaco jlomonaco@hfdnc.org

This program is intended for children 7 to 11 years old. It has saved the lives of many children who have been lost in the woods near home or out in nature since its inception in the 1980s.

**Coming to a school or scout
troup in the Harrisburg area soon.**