



K9 Molly

Safety Educator

Spring



2018



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ADD THIS SPRINGTIME CHORE TO YOUR LIST: PREVENT A DRYER FIRE IN YOUR HOME



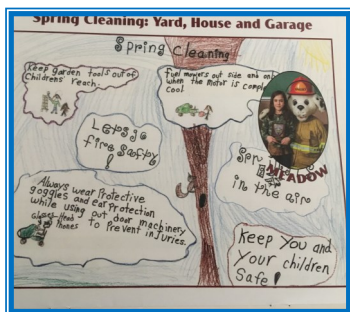
Doing laundry is most likely part of your every day routine. But do you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before and after every load of laundry. Be sure to remove

the lint that has collected around the drum.

- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

LEARN MORE!



Meadow Thompson of Highbridge Hill Elementary School in New Ipswich would like to remind us to take time to spring clean our yard, house and garage this year. She reminds us to keep garden tools away from children. To keep fuel mowers outside and put them away only when the motor is completely cool. These are some excellent reminders Meadow. We thank you for helping to keep NH citizens safer this spring!



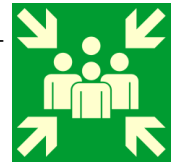
SAFETY IN PLACES OF ASSEMBLY



With Spring comes the excitement of getting together at social events including dance recitals, theatrical productions and graduations to name a few. Unfortunately, every so often the unexpected happens: an earthquake, a fire, a chemical spill, an act of terrorism or some other disaster. We all should have our "Emergency Plans" established for the home; however these do not work when we are away from home. As we enter any public assembly building we need to take a minute to prepare ourselves, our family and friends in case of an emergency.

BEFORE YOU ENTER:

- ▶ **Take a good look.** Does the building appear to be in a condition that makes you feel comfortable? Is the main entrance wide and does it open outward to allow easy exit? Is the outside area clear of materials stored against the building or blocking exits?
- ▶ **Have a communication plan.** Identify a relative or friend to contact in case of an emergency and you are separated from family or friends.
- ▶ **Plan a meeting place.** Pick a meeting place outside to meet family or friends with whom you are attending the function. If there is an emergency, be sure to meet them there.



WHEN YOU ENTER:

- ***Take a good look around.** Whenever you enter a building you should **look for all available exits**. Exits may be in front and in back of you. Be prepared by sharing this with the others that are with you so that you all use the closest exit. You may not be able to use the main exit you entered from.
- ***Check for clear exit paths.** Make sure the aisles are wide enough and not obstructed by chairs or furniture. Check to make sure your exit door is not blocked or chained. If there are not at least two exits or exit paths clear report this violation to the management and leave the building if this is not immediately addressed. Contact your local fire department should you continue to have concerns.
- ***Do you feel Safe?** Does the building appear to be overcrowded? Are there fire sources such as candles burning, pyrotechnics, or other heat sources that may make you feel unsafe? Are there safety systems in place like alternative exits, sprinklers, and smoke alarms? Ask the management for clarification on your concerns. If you do not feel safe, leave the building.



ACTIVITY: Involve young children in creating an **Exit Strategy** whenever you are away from home. Begin by asking children to point to the way you entered the building. Now play "I Spy" by having them 'spy out' other ways to Exit the building should a door not be available. During this time, be sure to create a meeting spot that is safe and away from the building.

SHOULD AN EMERGENCY OCCUR:

React Immediately. If an alarm sounds, you see smoke or fire, or some other unusual disturbance immediately exit the building in an orderly fashion.

Get out Stay out! Just like at home, once you get out, stay out. Under no circumstances should anyone ever go back into a burning building. Let trained firefighters conduct the rescue operations.



▶▶ [Watch this VIDEO and](#)



[Learn More](#)

SLEEPOVER SAFETY



Think upset tummies and lack of sleep are your biggest concerns when your child is spending the night at his or her friend's house? Think again! Before you permit your child to sleep over at a friend's house, talk to the child's parents about fire safety within their home. Depending on what you learn, it can either uncover serious fire dangers or give you peace of mind about your child's sleepover.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, eight out of ten fire deaths take place in the home, with the majority of home fire deaths occurring late at night. If you don't know for certain that the friend's home is equipped with working smoke alarms, and that the sleepover will be supervised by an adult, don't take the risk; reverse the invitation and have the sleepover at your own home.

Teach your child about the importance of fire escape planning in a positive, non-threatening way. Ideally, your child will be well versed in home fire escape planning and drills in your own home. Before you permit a sleepover at a friend's, discuss the importance of knowing how to escape from a fire wherever you are, including a friend's home. Empower your child to ask friends and their parents about fire safety in their home, and to report anything that makes them feel unsafe. Remember, when it's your turn to host other children overnight in your home, make sure they know what your fire escape plan is.

SLEEPOVER SAFETY

Before you say "yes":

- How well do you know the home?
- Is the home clean? Does it appear to be structurally sound?
- Is the home in a safe area?
- If the home has security bars on doors and windows, do you know for certain that the bars have quick release devices inside, so your child could get out in an emergency?
- Is your child comfortable in the home and with all the occupants?
- Are you comfortable leaving your child in the home overnight?

How well do you know the parent(s)?

- Are they mature, responsible and conscientious?
- Will they supervise the children throughout the stay?
- Are they cautious with smoking materials, matches and lighters, and candles?

Discuss with the parents:

- Are there working smoke alarms on every level, inside and outside each sleeping area?
- Are the smoke alarms interconnected?
- Do they have a well-rehearsed fire escape plan that includes two ways out and a meeting place outside?
- Where will your child be sleeping? Is there a smoke alarm in the room? Are there two escape routes from the room?
- Will the parents walk through their escape plan with your child?
- Do the parents prohibit bedroom candle use by children?



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MICROWAVE OVEN SAFETY



Spring is here and so are the busier family schedules. With busy lives, families rely on the microwave oven as a quick way to heat up a meal, warm up a drink or defrost dinner. While the convenience of the microwave oven is something we take for granted, safety should not be. By following a few simple safety tips you can prevent painful burns and possible fires.

PURCHASE a microwave oven that has the label of an independent testing laboratory. Make sure to complete and return the product registration card. This way the manufacturer can reach you if there is a recall on the product.

PLUG the microwave oven directly into the wall outlet — never use an extension cord.

MAKE sure the microwave oven is at a safe height, within easy reach of all users.

OPEN food slowly, away from the face. Hot steam or the food itself can cause burns.

FOOD heats unevenly in microwave ovens. Stir and test before eating or giving to children.

NEVER heat a baby bottle in the microwave. Since a microwave oven heats unevenly, it can create hot pockets, leading to burns. Warm a bottle in a bowl of warm water — not hot or boiling.

ALWAYS supervise older children when they are using a microwave oven.

AVOID letting young children use the microwave oven.



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6th ANNUAL FIRE & LIFE SAFETY CALENDAR CONTEST WINNERS CHOSEN and CELEBRATED!

The NH State Fire Marshal's Office, in conjunction with the NH Fire Prevention Society, would like to **thank ALL** of the students who participated in the 6th Annual New Hampshire Fire & Life Safety Calendar Contest, as well as the supportive parents and teachers! Winners have been selected, notified and were awarded on Thursday, March 29th at the New Hampshire Fire Academy. We look forward to celebrating your artistic talent and important safety messages in the upcoming school year calendar!

[LEARN MORE!](#)



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NH State Fire Marshal



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Message from Fire Marshal Degnan:

The weather is starting to get warmer, the flowers will soon start to bud and with that comes springtime cleaning chores and gatherings for graduation, dance recitals as well as other fun occasions. It is important to take the time to learn what safety precautions we can do to keep ourselves, our family and friends as safe as possible. By doing a thorough spring cleaning of your home that includes proper storage of gasoline and fueling of gas powered machinery you can ensure that injuries are prevented. When attending social gatherings in places of assembly (theaters, restaurants, gymnasiums, auditoriums, etc) it is extremely important that you be made aware of your surroundings, feel comfortable with the location and create an emergency plan that includes an EXIT STRATEGY in the event of an emergency. Should you have questions about the topics in this newsletter please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the NH State Fire Marshal's Office. Fire is **Everyone's Fight and together we can educate and prevent!**



J. William Degnan
NH State Fire Marshal



Student & Parent Approved Websites

K9 MOLLY encourages students to disconnect and enjoy safe outdoor play. However, this dog understands that sometimes the weather just doesn't cooperate. So when it comes to computer time...



try one of these family fun fire and life safety websites! Just click a picture below to open the link and play. Have fun and be safe!



Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:

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Find Us on the Web:

www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/

