

Jackson Township Fire Safety Bureau Fire District 3
Standard Operating Guidelines
CHILDRENS FIRE SAFETY TRAILER

Guideline # 230.06

Date: 6/11/12

PURPOSE : To outline the procedures to be used when demonstrating and towing the Fire Safety House. The Fire Safety House is a mobile travel trailer that is scaled down "kid-sized" two-story house. Kids and adults are able to walk through a kitchen, living room, and bedroom and spot fire hazards. The children are able to practice simple methods of eliminating potentially dangerous situations.

The trailer provides excellent hands on learning tool for children to learn not only about fire safety but also life safety in the home. A typical tour is usually broken up into 3 group stations of a maximum of 8 visiting the kitchen, living room and bedroom and usually takes about 15-20 minutes. Children will learn safety tips relating to fireplaces, space heaters, chemicals, smoke alarms, keeping rooms clean, stoves to name a few. The big benefit of the unit is it's ability to teach the kids the importance of 'two ways out of every room' using a fog machine to 'smoke' the upstairs and have the children try to exit the main bedroom door only to find out it's hot so they need to exit the trailer through the window/patio door on and crawl down the ladder to safety

RESONSIBLTY : It is the responsibility of the driver of the towing vehicle for the Fire Safety House to ensure that this policy is adhered to. Demonstrators are responsible to familiarize themselves with the recommended lessen plan outlined in this procedure.

PROCEDURE: It is the responsibility of all members to review operating procedure manual for the fire safety trailer to familiarize themselves with the operation of equipment, maintenance, safe towing procedures.

SAMPLE LESSON PLANS:

• **General Fire Safety**

- Never play with matches, lighters or a lighted candle
- Do not play near a fire or heater or leave toys near a fire or heater
- Do not put anything on top of heaters or lights
- Do not touch electric sockets or electric appliances or pull on electric cords
- Never turn on the stove or put anything on top of the stove
- Do not touch pans or skilletts on the stove
- If you find matches or a lighter, tell an adult
- If you see fire or smoke, find an adult immediately
- Get out of the house
- Get to a phone and call the fire department (you may need to ask a neighbor to help)
- Never go back into the house
- Crawl along the floor if you are in the house and smoke fills the air
- Never hide under the bed or in a closet
- If you cannot get out of the house, go to a room with a window, put something under the door to keep the smoke out, open the window and call for help

Fire Safety Tips for Parents

- Install smoke alarms and regularly check them
- Have an escape plan in case of fire and make sure everyone knows how to get out (keep escape route open and unobstructed)
- Keep matches, lighters and lit candles out of the reach of children
- Never leave a lit candle unattended (blow it out when you go to bed)
- Be extra careful in the kitchen (cooking accidents cause 59% of house fires)
- Use caution when cooking with hot oil (use a thermostat controlled pan)
- Keep clothes and toys away from heaters and keep heaters in a safe place when being used and when they are stored (turn heaters off at night)
- With small children, use a child proof guard in front of a fireplace or heater
- Use plug guards and unplug appliances so children won't trip over cords
- Use childproof locks on cabinets containing anything that could be used to start a fire
- If you smoke make sure cigarettes are completely out and never smoke in bed
- Warn teens about the danger of fire from smoking in case they are around other people who smoke
- If you are tired or have been drinking, use extra caution (half of all deaths occur between 10pm and 8am in household fires)
- Do not leave children alone at home (children can start a fire in minutes if they have access to any material that can start a fire)
- Make sure your house number is easy to see from the street in case you have to call the fire department
- Store flammable liquids outside the house in sturdy containers in ventilated garage or storage room

Fire Safety in the Kitchen

- Keep the oven and stove top clean (fat and food buildup can catch fire)
- Turn pan handles toward the back of the stove and do not leave pan unattended
- Keep electrical cords out of water and do not drape cords over the stove
- Do not hang towels or cloths over the stove
- Don't get distracted while cooking (if you have to go to the door take the pan off the eye)
- Make sure ventilation is working (especially with gas) and keep oven door shut
- When cooking, keep children away from the stove
- Keep the toaster clean and away from curtains
- Do not overload circuits in the kitchen
- Never fill pan more than one third full
- If oil smokes do not add food (turn off heat and let it cool)
- If a pan catches fire do not move it, do not throw water on it, turn off heat if possible (wet a cloth, wring it out and put it over the pan or use a fire blanket if you have one) leave the pan to cool completely

- You can smother a fire with a fire blanket or use a dry powder or a carbon dioxide extinguisher (do not use a fire extinguisher if pan is filled with oil)
- Unplug or switch off the power if you have an electrical fire
- Do not cook if you are having strong effects from prescription drugs or alcohol
- Never put metallic items in microwave and never use it to dry clothes
- Do not leave appliances on (stove, dishwasher, washing machine or dryer) if you leave home or when you go to bed
- If there is a fire and you don't think you can handle it, get out, close the door and call the fire department.

Family Escape Plan

- Include the entire family when making an escape plan from a fire and give older family members a smaller member to be responsible for in case of fire
 - Pick the easiest way to get out of the house and make sure everyone knows the importance of keeping the escape clear
 - Make sure everyone knows what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do if they hear it
 - Discuss openly what to do in case of fire (get out of the house, do not hide)
 - Keys to doors and windows should be kept in the same place and make sure everyone in the family (even small children) know where they are
 - Everyone should know how to call the fire department (keep the number by the phone) children should know the number and their address
 - If you have to escape a fire, decide on a family meeting place outside
 - Decide which room in the house would be the safest to get to if there is a fire and you can't get out
 - Make sure babysitters know your family escape plan
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