



## Hear the Beep



### Mini Fact:

Remember: If your clothes catch fire, **Stop, Drop and Roll!**

It's Fire Prevention Week, so The Mini Page talked with Sparky the Fire Dog and other experts about protecting our families and homes from fire. This year's theme is "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep."



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About half of deaths from home fires happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are sleeping. Smoke alarms in bedrooms give people a chance to get out of the house before it's too late. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a fire in half!

### Smoke alarm tips

• **S**moke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your house, even the basement.

• **T**est your smoke alarms once a month. Pick a day to test each month, such as the 1st of the month or your birthday number.

• **W**hen you hear a smoke alarm sound, get outside and stay out. Don't go back in for pets or belongings.

• **R**eplace all your smoke alarms every 10 years.

• **R**eplace batteries at least once a year. Many people do this when we change to daylight saving time.

• **M**ost fire deaths take place in homes with no working smoke alarms.

### A sad beginning

You may have heard of the Great Chicago Fire. In this case, "great" means big.

One hundred forty-four years ago, a fire burned for two days through the city of Chicago, leaving more than 250 people dead. Many of the buildings in the city had been made of wood, and the weather had been very dry.

Since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed during the week of Oct. 9 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire and to teach fire prevention.

### Fast fire facts

• Home fires killed an average of eight people every day in 2013.

• **C**ooking equipment is the leading cause of home fire injuries, followed by heating equipment.

• **W**hen smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected or dead.



Mount alarms high on the wall or on the ceiling. Remember, smoke rises.

### Who is Sparky?

Sparky the Fire Dog is the official mascot of the National Fire Protection Association. Every year during Fire Prevention Week, Sparky reaches millions of children as the spokesdog for fire safety.

### Holiday fires

Some of our favorite holidays are coming up in the next several months. This is a good time to be extra-careful. Here are some ideas:

• **Halloween:** While you're wearing a costume, be careful to stay away from candles or fireplaces. If your costume catches fire, remember to stop, drop and roll.



• **Thanksgiving:** Keep an eye on food cooking on top of the stove. Children should stay at least 3 feet away from a hot stove.

• **Christmas and Hanukkah:** Replace Christmas lights that have worn cords. Choose decorations that are flame-resistant. Keep lighted candles away from other things that can burn.



### Share your knowledge

Visit an elderly neighbor or relative. Share what you've learned about fire safety and smoke alarms. Help test smoke alarms and install new batteries.

## Resources



### On the Web:

- [sparkyschoolhouse.org](http://sparkyschoolhouse.org)
- [sparky.org/parentpage/fpwkids.htm](http://sparky.org/parentpage/fpwkids.htm)
- [youtu.be/4xed\\_ZvcUe](http://youtu.be/4xed_ZvcUe)

### At the library:

- "Rescue Dogs, Firefighting Heroes and Science Facts" — Stories by Susy Flory and other authors (e-book)

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of fire prevention are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



ALARM, BATTERY,  
BEDROOMS, BEEP,  
CHICAGO, DEATH,  
DROP, ESCAPE,  
FIRE, FIREFIGHTER,  
HOLIDAYS, HOME,  
PREVENTION, ROLL,  
SAFETY, SMOKE,  
SPARKY, STOP, TEST.

Q R N O I T N E V E R P B W M  
H O L P E E B Z H O M E V S O  
S L K C P O R D X B D T Y N Y  
M L F A Q S J S D R E A G K R  
O V C H I C A G O S D L R Y E  
K S C E G F U O T I H A N E T  
E V H S E W M J L L P R X R T  
D E A T H S T O P S L M D I A  
B R Y R E T H G I F E R I F B

## Cook's Corner

### Quick and Easy Baked Beans

#### You'll need:

- 1 (16-ounce) can baked beans
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

#### What to do:

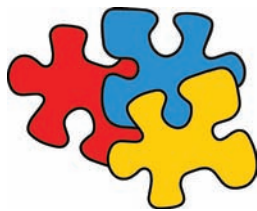
1. Mix all ingredients in a medium-sized glass baking dish.
2. Microwave on high for 3 minutes.
3. Stir well to mix flavors. Makes 4 servings.



\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## Puzzling

Unscramble the words below that remind us of fire safety.



malra \_\_\_\_\_  
efsaty \_\_\_\_\_  
taybert \_\_\_\_\_  
obomedr \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: alarm, safety, battery, bedroom.

## Mini Jokes



**Leslie:** What player on a baseball team pours lemonade for his teammates?  
**Len:** The pitcher!

**Larry:** What is a chauffeur's favorite beverage?

**Lisa:** Limo-nade!

## Eco Note



We open our refrigerator doors almost 22 times a day! That's a lot of cold air escaping and energy being wasted. Don't open your refrigerator unless you have to. Think about what you want before you open the door. Quickly get what you want and close the door.

adapted with permission from "The New 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth" by The Earthworks Group, Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com)

## For later:

Visit your neighborhood fire department and thank the firefighters for their service.

## Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching\\_guides.html](http://bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html)

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