



The Mini Page

Next Week:
Girlhood

Issue 40, 2021

Founded by Betty Debnam

Listen to Sparky!



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 "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety."



This is how Sparky looked in 1951.

Sparky is a registered trademark of NFPA; used with permission.

Sparky the Fire Dog turns 70 years old this year! This friendly Dalmatian is the mascot of the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA). He has been teaching kids and adults about being safe since his beginning in 1951.

Why a Dalmatian?

Dalmatian dogs have shared barns and hunting courses with horses for centuries. Many years ago, when fire departments used horse-drawn fire wagons, Dalmatians helped direct the horses, keep them company, and guard the firehouse.

When there was a fire, some Dalmatians stayed behind at the fire station, while others rode on the firetruck.

Firehouse dogs were often called "Sparky," so this seemed a perfect name for NFPA's fire prevention mascot.

Fires can be deadly

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!

The sounds of fire safety

- A continued set of three loud beeps — beep, beep, beep — means smoke or fire. Get out, call 9-1-1, and stay out.
- A single "chirp" every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.



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

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

Fire facts

- Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fire injuries, followed by heating equipment.
- When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected or dead.
- About 1,900 people died in household fires in 2019.

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Spread the word

You can help spread good habits during Fire Prevention Week.

- Visit an elderly neighbor or relative. Share what you've learned about fire safety. Help test smoke alarms and make an escape plan.

- Stop in to say hello and thanks to your neighborhood firefighters. Stations may host special events during Fire Prevention Week. You can check your fire department's website to find out more.

- Write a poem about Fire Prevention Week. Share it with your family.

Holiday fires

Some of our favorite holidays are coming up. This is a good time to be aware of fire prevention. Here are some ideas:

- **Halloween:** While you're wearing a costume, 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.

Resources



On the Web:

- sparkyschoolhouse.org
- sparky.org

At the library:

- "Sparky the Fire Dog" by Don Hoffman
- "Doggy Defenders: Dolley the Fire Dog" by Lisa M. Gerry

Try 'n' Find

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

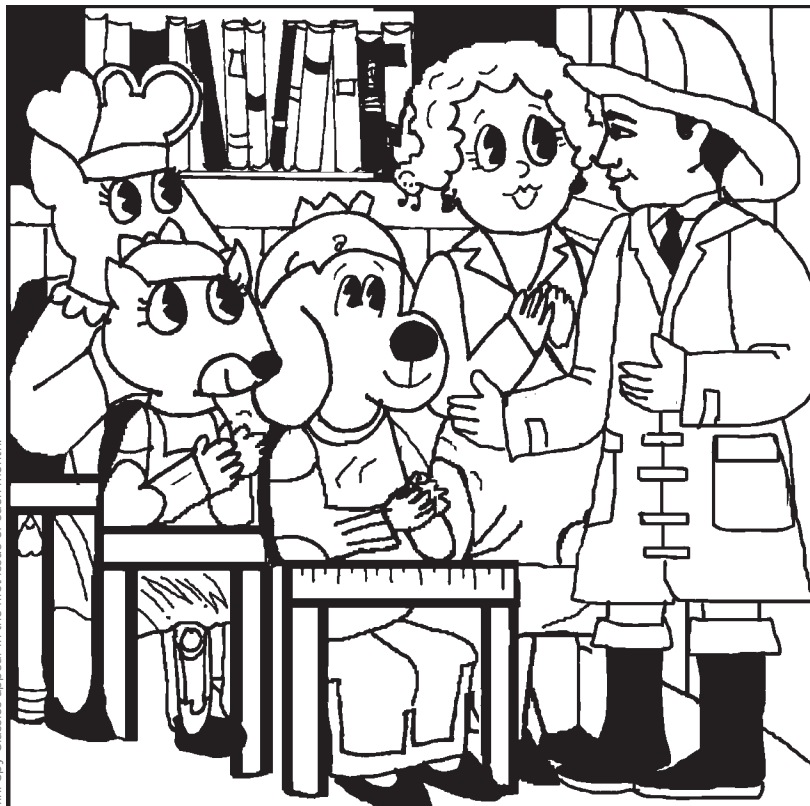


- ALARM, BATTERY, BIRTHDAY, BEDROOMS, BEEP, COOKING, DALMATIAN, DROP, ESCAPE, FIREFIGHTER, HABITS, HOLIDAYS, HOME, PREVENTION, ROLL, SAFETY, SMOKE, SPARKY, STOP, TEST.

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

Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and her classmates listen to a firefighter speak to them about fire safety. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



Mini Spy Classics appear in the first issue of each month.

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- ruler
- two hearts
- pencil
- man in the moon
- safety pin
- caterpillar
- sock
- number 3
- word MINI
- letter E

Mini Jokes



Frank: What did one flea say to another?

Fiona: "Do you want to hop or take the dog?"

Eco Note



The second heat wave to blow across Greenland so far this summer caused rain to fall at the highest point of the country's ice sheet for the first time in recorded history. The instruments at Greenland's Summit Station, established in 1950, recorded temperatures above freezing for more than nine hours on Aug. 15, with rain falling off and on for 13 hours. But since there are no rain gauges at the typically frigid location, the research staff were unable to say how much rain actually fell.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for items about National Fire Prevention Week.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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