

Dear Fire Chief,

Reaching out to the community is one of your goals as a firefighter. While you may have some special service programs in place, you're probably always on the lookout for new opportunities and new materials to encourage fire prevention as well as the visibility of firefighters in neighborhoods. The manufacturer of the First Alert® brand of products, a leader in the development of home safety products, is pleased to bring you this special outreach resource, *Be a Fire Danger Ranger™*, to achieve these goals.

In an effort to educate children and families on the important topic of safety, the First Alert® team has joined with Youth Media International (YMI) to create this unique learning guide for children in grades 2 to 4. It covers the areas of fire, smoke and carbon monoxide safety. This guide has been mailed to many elementary school teachers throughout the country to supplement their curriculum's safety instruction. While the program has been developed for classroom use, this letter provides helpful ideas on how you may use it to enhance your own community relations and education programs.



Please share this information with the firefighter in charge of education programs for your station. He or she also will want to share it with your local elementary school in case they have not received a copy. The First Alert® team and YMI are confident that this guide will help you work together with educators in your community to better inform children about fire, smoke and carbon monoxide safety at school and at home.

Sincerely,

Roberta Yustin

Roberta Nusim, Publisher

How to Use the

Be A Fire Danger Ranger Kit:

- Use the activity ideas suggested in this letter in any order or combination.
- Review the Teacher's Resource Guide. There are five activity sheets and one poster. Be sure to make copies of the activity sheets for everyone in the classroom you visit.
- Use the activity sheets and the ideas in this letter to supplement the teacher's lessons in the guide whether or not the teacher has a *Be A Fire Danger Ranger* kit available.
- Prepare to tell students about the dangers of fire, smoke and carbon monoxide.
- If possible, have a smoke alarm carbon monoxide alarm, and fire extinguisher available to show students.

A Firefighter's Guide to Be a Fire Danger Ranger™



Activity 1:

Fire Puzzlers

Ask for two volunteers to act out a mystery fire-safety puzzle for the rest of the class. Whisper the "Stop, Drop and Roll" technique to the actors. Wait a few moments, and then ask the rest of the class to name the safety procedure. If the teacher does not have the kit, read a few of the puzzle clues aloud and challenge students to provide the answer orally. Tell them you are leaving an activity sheet full of more safety puzzlers that their teacher will help them complete. (Be sure to give the teacher the answers to the puzzle!)



Ask the children to share some of the fire puzzlers they created. Students can bring the puzzlers with them if they are coming to the station house. If you are visiting students, they can share their puzzlers as well as their posters with you at school.

Activity 2: Taking Inventory

and Activity 4: Check Out the Fire Danger Ranger Checklist



Show smoke and carbon monoxide alarms as well as a fire extinguisher. If students come to visit you, point out the locations of these devices in the fire station. Explain how these products work and why everyone should have them in the proper places in their homes. Tell students about the activity sheet they will take home. Let children know that by completing it with their family, they will help prepare their home for a safety emergency. Challenge them to keep count of the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms they see as they tour the station house.

For students using the kit in class, tell them that you know they have been taking inventory of and completing checklists on smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in their homes. Remind them how these products can help them in the event of a safety emergency.

Activity 3: Be a Household Hero



Ask students if they know some of the common causes of home fires. Next, ask children what to do if they hear the alarm on their home smoke or carbon monoxide alarms. Ask if anyone has an escape plan for his or her home and explain the importance of such a plan. For students who do not have a kit available, tell them you will leave an activity sheet with their teacher that they can complete with their family at home. It will help them create a home-escape plan in the event of a safety emergency.

Write “911” on the board or on a large piece of paper, asking students what this number means. (If your community has a different emergency-response number, please use it instead.) Make sure children know that this is the number to call to get the fire department to come to their home or school if they have a safety emergency. Finally, remind students to complete a fire-escape plan for their house and to practice a family fire drill using this plan.

Activity 5: You're an Official Fire Danger Ranger

After you have given your presentation, reward children for being good listeners who learned about safety at home and at school. For students not using the kit, show them the activity

master, pointing out the certificate they will receive. Be sure to sign the photocopied certificates beforehand, and pass them out to the students at the end of your visit. Tell students to share the important home-safety information provided at the bottom of the certificate with adult family members.



Poster:

Fire Danger Rangers are Heroes!

Show students the poster. Call on different children to read aloud the tips listed for each month as well as what the different characters are saying in the pictures. Then leave students with a challenge to write and illustrate a safety tip they learned during your presentation. Suggest to the teacher that these tips be used for a classroom or hallway bulletin-board display.

At the fire station, display the program poster where students will see it if they are coming to visit. Point out the safety-device battery-check reminders on the calendar. Then demonstrate how to check the batteries in a smoke or carbon monoxide alarm.

Additional Activity

If you are visiting students in the classroom, ask the teacher beforehand to have children create a special safety poster that you can take back to the fire station for display. You might also use the student poster for display at community events where you set up a booth.



How to Use Be A Fire Danger Ranger for a Community Fair or Neighborhood Event

- Display the wall poster and activity sheets on a board to pique children's attention. Have copies of each activity sheet available for children to take with them.
- Have paper and crayons available for children to write or draw a picture about safety.
- Display any student posters that were contributed by classes you visited.

If your local school or fire department would like to order additional copies of the *Be a Fire Danger Ranger* teaching kit, contact the First Alert® team at 1-800-323-9005. A limited quantity is available.