

SOUND OFF
with the
HOME FIRE
SAFETY
PATROL



Dear Educator:

More than 3,000 people die in home fires each year in the United States. Most of these victims were in homes without working smoke alarms. Simply put, working smoke alarms save lives.

You can help ensure that families have working smoke alarms in their homes with this free educational program from the Center for National Prevention Initiatives at the Michigan Public Health Institute.

The Sound Off curriculum was developed by specialists at Young Minds Inspired and national fire safety experts. It includes three standards-based classroom activities that get students and families involved in testing their home smoke alarms, checking for potential fire dangers in the home, and planning how to escape in the event of a home fire. The program also provides **FREE** long-life smoke alarms* to families in your area that need them. We need your help to find out where smoke alarms are needed.

The program begins with a take-home activity that has students work with an adult family member to collect information about the smoke alarms in their home, and then bring this information back to class. Your state's Sound Off Team is counting on you to provide them with this information so they can make arrangements to install free smoke alarms where they are needed. You can also help by encouraging families that may be reluctant to participate in the activity to welcome this opportunity to have smoke alarms installed in their homes at no cost.

This program is made possible through a grant to the Michigan Public Health Institute from DHS/FEMA's Grant Program Directorate and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program – Fire Prevention and Safety Grants.

We thank you in advance for helping to make this life-saving program a success in your community. Please let us know your opinion of the program by returning the enclosed reply card, or respond online at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-sound-off.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired

For questions, contact YMI toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or by email at feedback@ymiclassroom.com.

* Available while supplies last.

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Target Audience

Second- and third-graders and their families

Program Objectives

- To educate children and their families about smoke alarms, including the sounds they make, the need for monthly testing, and the importance of doing home fire drills
- To connect families that need working smoke alarms in their homes with local firefighters who can install smoke alarms at no cost*
- To foster a community approach to fire safety by forging partnerships among students, families, educators, firefighters, and life safety educators

Program Components

Print resources

- A two-page teacher's guide
- Three reproducible student activity sheets
- A classroom wall poster
- A Sound Off Storybook
- A reply card for your comments, or respond online at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-sound-off

Digital resources available at ymiclassroom.com/sound-off

- Three online videos to supplement each of the program's three classroom activities
- Simplified activity sheets for use when reading level is lower
- Printable/fillable PDFs of the activity sheets in English and Spanish
- Online audio flipbook versions of the storybook in English and Spanish
- Audio files for smoke and CO alarm sounds including beeps and chirps
- *Smoke Alarm Smarts*, a three-part digital whiteboard activity on smoke alarm testing, placement, and safety sounds
- The *Sound Off Safety App*, with home fire safety games for children and families (for Apple and Android mobile devices)
- Group activity ideas to get students physically engaged in learning

- Common Core Math and English Language Arts Standards alignment chart for grades 2-3
- Printable PDF take-home handouts on smoke alarms and CO alarms (in English and Spanish)
- Contact information for state Sound Off Teams

How to Use This Program

1. Contact your state Sound Off Team to let them know you will be sharing information about families that need free smoke alarms* (see Activity 1).
2. You can present the program yourself or ask your state Sound Off Team to schedule a classroom visit by a local fire safety expert.
3. Review the simplified activity sheets online to determine if they would be more appropriate for your students.
4. Display the Sound Off poster in your classroom to build anticipation for the program.
5. If you have scheduled a classroom visit with your state Sound Off Team, a local fire safety expert may present the program using the videos or an interactive PowerPoint presentation. After the visit, guide students through the videos and/or storybook and the three activities following the suggestions on the next page.
6. If you are presenting the program on your own, follow the suggestions on the next page to guide students through the storybook and the three activities. You can display the activity sheets on your whiteboard/screen share or distribute copies to your class.
7. Gather all completed copies of Activity 1 (or "Safety Patrol" if using the simplified version) and contact your state Sound Off Team for directions on how to share this information with firefighters in your community, so they can make arrangements to install free smoke alarms* for families that need them.

Classroom Teacher's Guide



Storybook JOIN THE HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL

To introduce the program, read the storybook to students and discuss the key messages, including the different smoke alarm sounds and their meanings, as well as the importance of having working smoke alarms on every level of the home, testing them, and planning and practicing a home fire drill. Use the activities below to reinforce these important safety messages.



Activity 1 SOUND OFF WITH THE HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL

If possible, begin this activity by showing the *Safety Sounds* video available at ymiclassroom.com/sound-off. Have students imitate the sounds in the video, then play a Simon Says-style game in which they make the appropriate sound

as you call out “Fire!” or “I need a new battery!” or “Time to test me!” You can also find audio files of the smoke alarm sounds at ymiclassroom.com/so-audio-files to play on a cellphone. See the group activity suggestions online.

Next, review the importance of testing smoke alarms every month. Ask students if their families test their smoke alarms every month. Then explain that they will be testing their family’s smoke alarms with a grown-up.

Remind students that they are now members of the Home Fire Safety Patrol. Define “patrol” as a group that watches over an area to make sure everything is safe. Explain that they will use the chart on this activity sheet to patrol their homes with a grown-up, looking for smoke alarms and testing them to find out if they work. Review the chart so that students understand how to answer each question. Have them name the levels in a home — basement, main or first floor, second floor, etc. — to be sure they understand the concepts of “level” and “floor.” Finally, point out where they and a parent or caregiver should sign the chart to show that they have completed their home fire safety patrol.

The next day, compile the information that students have collected, and use it to reinforce math skills by having students create picture or bar graphs that compare how many smoke alarms work and don’t work, how many homes have smoke alarms on every level and in all bedrooms and sleeping areas, and how many need more smoke alarms. **Collect all the completed activity sheets, and pass them along to your local Sound Off Team so they can use the information your students have gathered to contact families that need smoke alarms and schedule a home safety visit to install free smoke alarms* where needed.**



Activity 2 DETECT THE DANGERS

If possible, begin this activity by showing the *Home Fire Dangers* video available at ymiclassroom.com/sound-off. Then have students complete Part 1 of the activity as a class, calling on students to identify the six home fire dangers shown in the picture. Have them complete

Part 2 individually by filling in the names of these six dangers to complete the sentences. Review the sentences as a class, then encourage students to use the activity sheet to patrol their homes with a grown-up, looking for fire dangers. The next day, have students report on any dangers they found and how their family plans to make their home safer. **Answers:** 1-smoke alarm; 2-candle; 3-lighter (lighters and matches should be locked away up high to help prevent a fire set by a child); 4-outlet; 5-stove; 6-heater.



Activity 3 YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE MAP

If possible, begin this activity by showing the *Home Fire Escape Map* video available at ymiclassroom.com/sound-off. Have students complete Part 1 of the activity in small groups, using two different colors to draw two paths from each room, through the windows and doors, to the outside

meeting place. Then provide time for students to draw escape plan maps for their homes on the back of the sheet. Encourage them to take their maps home and go on patrol with a grown-up to make sure the plan works. They should then have a family fire drill to practice the plan and how to get low to avoid breathing smoke as they exit their home to get to their outside meeting place. Follow up by inviting students to report on what happened when their families practiced their home fire escape plans with a family fire drill.



Digital Whiteboard Activity SMOKE ALARM SMARTS

Use this interactive game to reinforce what students have

learned about smoke alarms — the need to test them, where they should be located in a home, and the sounds they make. Be aware that the loud sounds used in this game may not be appropriate for some students. If you do not have a digital whiteboard in your classroom, students can play the game on a school computer, or visit ymiclassroom.com/smoke-alarm-smarts to play at home.

RESOURCES

- Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol, ymiclassroom.com/sound-off
- Center for National Prevention Initiatives at MPH, mph.org/center/cnpi

Teachers are very special. Thank you for sharing Sound Off with your students and families to help them stay safe from fire.

* Available while supplies last.

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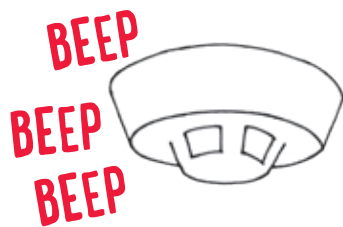
SOUND OFF WITH THE HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL

Join the
**HOME FIRE
SAFETY
PATROL!**



Smoke alarms are important. They warn you when there is a fire.

Do you know your smoke alarm sounds?



BEEP-BEEP-BEEP...

BEEP-BEEP-BEEP

That sound means there is a fire in your home.

You need to get out fast!



CHIRP

Sometimes a smoke alarm makes a sound like a cricket or a chirping bird.

That means the battery is not working well, or the smoke alarm is getting old.

You need to put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm.

Test your smoke alarms every month to make sure they work.

Push the test button. If you hear BEEP-BEEP-BEEP, that means the smoke alarm is working. If you don't hear that sound, put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm. Smoke alarms do not last forever. Replace your old smoke alarms with new ones every 10 years.

Go on a fire safety patrol in your home.

Use this chart to test the smoke alarms in your home. Ask a grown-up to help. Circle Yes or No for each question. When you finish your patrol, write your names, address, and phone number in the spaces provided. Then bring the chart back to class.

Do you have a smoke alarm on each level of your home?

Yes

No

Do you have a smoke alarm in or near every bedroom and sleeping area?

Yes

No

Do all of your smoke alarms work when you test them?

Yes

No

Student _____ Parent/Caregiver _____

Address _____ Phone number _____

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Your child is participating in a home fire safety program at school. As part of this program, we are providing **free smoke alarms*** to families that need them. Please contact your child's teacher or your local fire department for further information. Remember: Smoke alarms do not last forever. Replace your smoke alarms with new ones every 10 years.

* Available while supplies last.



DETECT THE DANGERS

Join the
**HOME FIRE
SAFETY
PATROL!**



Part 1: The Home Fire Safety Patrol is always on the lookout for fire dangers. Can you find six fire dangers in this picture? Circle the dangers you find.



Part 2: What should you do if you see these fire dangers in your home? To find out, use the words below to complete these sentences.

heater candle stove
lighter smoke alarm outlet

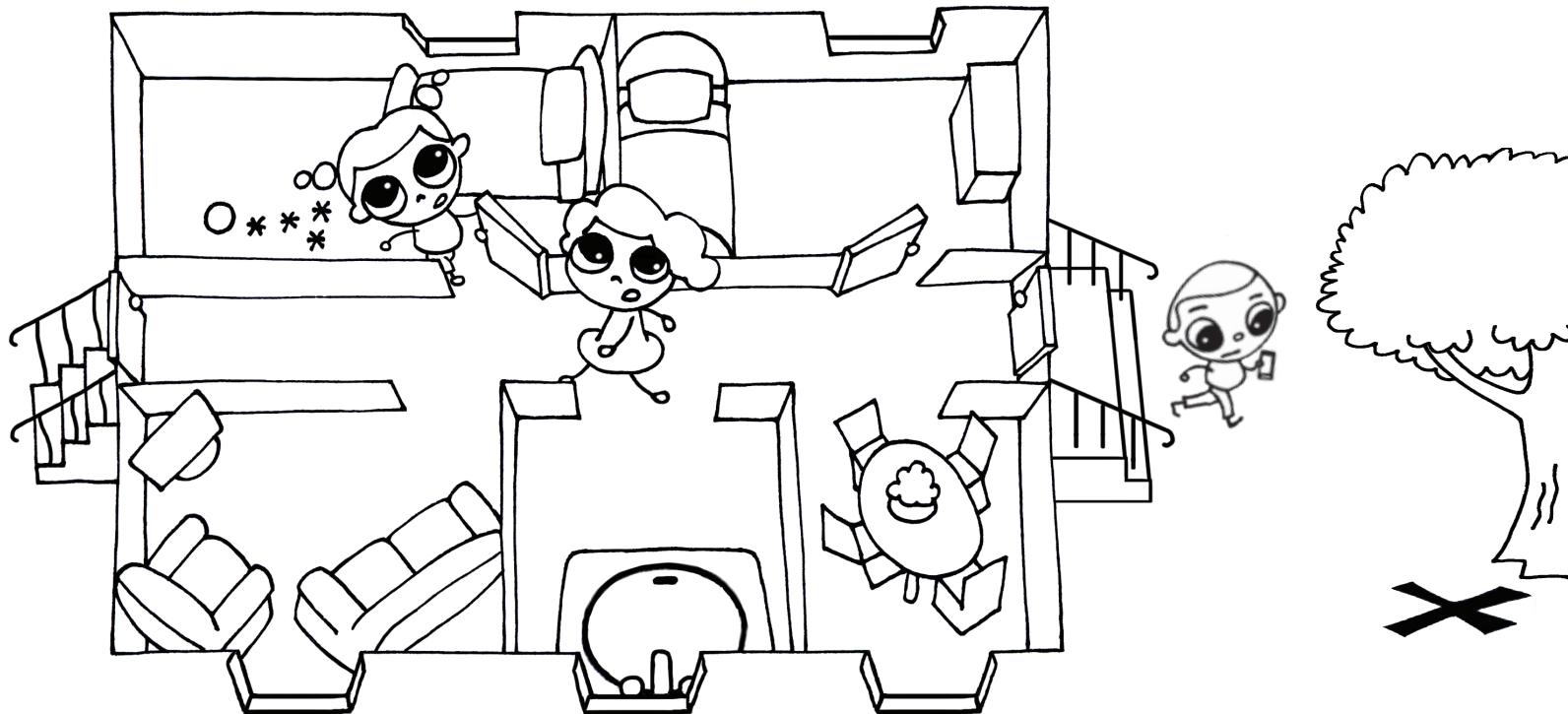
1. When your _____ chirps, it means you need to put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm. Ask a grown-up to fix it.
2. Keep a lit _____ away from things that can burn. Blow it out when there is no grown-up in the room.
3. Tell a grown-up if you see a _____ or matches. Ask a grown-up to put them in a place with a lock.
4. Too many plugs in the electrical _____ could start a fire. Use only one plug in each wall outlet space.
5. Keep an eye on what you fry! A grown-up should always stay nearby when food is cooking on the _____.
6. Ask a grown-up to move a space _____ three big steps away from furniture or cloth. Unplug it when a grown-up is not in the room.

Show this activity to a grown-up. You can use it to check for fire dangers in your home.



YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE MAP

Part 1: Help these kids plan how to get out fast if there is a fire in their home. Draw two paths to the outside from every room. Show one path that leads through doorways. Show a second path the kids could take if fire or smoke is blocking a doorway. In some cases, this might be through a window. Then circle the meeting place outside their home where everyone will go to call 9-1-1 and report the fire.



Part 2: Now use the back of this sheet to make a home fire escape plan for your home. Draw a map that shows two paths out of every room. Take your map home and show it to a grown-up. You can use your map for a family fire drill. See if everyone can get outside in less than 3 minutes! Pretend to call 9-1-1 on your cell phone and tell them the street address where you live.

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Many times children do not wake up when a smoke alarm sounds. Make a plan for an adult to wake up each child and help him or her get out if there is a real fire. Practice the plan. Pretend to call 9-1-1 from your meeting place and give the address where you live.

HOME FIRE ESCAPE RULES

Make sure everyone in your home knows the rules for getting out fast when there is a home fire:

- If you hear a smoke alarm or see smoke, get outside as fast as you can!
- Don't take anything with you.
- **Get Low and Go:** Smoke rises toward the ceiling. If you see smoke, you should stay near the floor. Get low so you don't breathe in the dangerous smoke. Close the doors behind you. Go to your exit.
- Go to your outside meeting place and call 9-1-1. Give them your street address.
- Stay outside — **NEVER** go back into a burning building.

Get Low and Go!

