

SOUND OFF with the HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL



Dear Parents & Caregivers:

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 your family has working smoke alarms in your home with this free educational program from the Center for National Prevention Initiatives at the Michigan Public Health Institute.

The Sound Off program was developed by specialists at Young Minds Inspired and national fire safety experts for classroom use. This version has been adapted for parents and caregivers to use at home. It includes activities that will help you speak with your child about fire safety and gets the family 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 with a family fire drill.

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 hope your family enjoys these activities and thank you in advance for helping to make this life-saving program a success in your community.

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.

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Caregivers



Grade Level

Designed for second- and third-graders and their families

What Your Child Will Learn

- What smoke alarms are and why families need them
- The sounds smoke alarms make and what they mean
- Where smoke alarms should be placed in a home
- The need to test smoke alarms every month
- How to recognize and correct home fire dangers
- How to create a home fire escape map and conduct a family fire drill
- A mini-poster
- A home fire safety storybook in PDF and audio flipbook formats (in English and Spanish)
- Audio files for smoke and CO alarm sounds including beeps and chirps
- *Smoke Alarm Smarts*, a three-part digital activity on smoke alarm testing, placement, and safety sounds
- The *Sound Off Safety App*, a mobile app for family phones or tablets with home fire safety games for kids (for Apple and Android mobile devices)
- Handouts on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms (in English and Spanish)

Program Components

The following resources are available at ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-families:

- This guide with:
 - Suggestions for using the program at home
 - Three activity sheets
- Three online videos to supplement each of the program's three activities
- Spanish translations of the activity sheets

How to Use This Program

- Print out the mini-poster or view it online, and use it to introduce the main topics of the program.
- Print out the activity sheets and the storybook, then follow the suggestions on the next page to guide your child through the story and the three activities.

Storybook

JOIN THE HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL



To start, read the storybook with your child 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/soundoff-families. Note: some children may be sensitive to the loud sound of a smoke alarm. Have your child imitate the sounds in the video, then play a Simon Says-style game in which they make the appropriate BEEP-BEEP-BEEP or CHIRP 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 your cellphone.

Next, review the importance of testing smoke alarms every month to be sure they are working. Explain that you and your child will be testing your family’s smoke alarms together.

Remind your child 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 you will use the chart on this activity sheet to patrol your home together, looking for smoke alarms and testing them to find out if they work. Have your child 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.”

After you complete your patrol, sign the activity sheet with your child in the spaces provide. Obtain and install new smoke alarms anywhere you need them. Replace batteries or non-functioning smoke alarms as necessary.

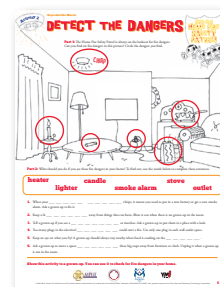
Activity 2

DETECT THE DANGERS

This activity alerts children to several common risk factors that may cause a home fire. Complete Part 1 of the activity by challenging your child to find and circle the dangers “hidden” in the picture. Then complete Part 2 together by filling in the names of these six dangers to complete the sentences. Use the activity sheet to patrol for these fire dangers with your child. Correct any dangers you find.

Answers: 1-chirping smoke alarm needs replacement or a new battery; 2-candle too close to flammable curtains and should be

blown out when there is no grown-up in the room; 3-lighter (and matches) should be stored up high, in a locked cabinet or container to help prevent a fire set by a child; 4-outlet is overloaded; 5-stove burners should be turned off when a grown-up is not in the kitchen; 6-heater too close to flammable sofa and should be unplugged when there is no grown-up in the room.



Activity 3

YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE MAP



This activity teaches children how to make a home fire escape map and best practices for escaping a home fire. If possible, begin this activity by showing the *Home Fire Escape Map* video available at ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-families. Then, in Part 1 of the activity sheet, have your child use two different color crayons or markers to draw two paths from each room — using one color for paths through windows and another color for paths through doors — to get to the outside meeting place marked with an “X”. Explain that you should only go through the window if the door entrance is not safe.

For Part 2, have your child draw an escape plan map of your home on the back of the sheet or separate paper. Review the plan together to make sure it works. Then read the Home Fire Escape Rules on the activity sheet. Next, have a family fire drill with everyone in your home to practice the plan and how to get low to avoid breathing smoke as you exit your home to get to your outside meeting place.

Practice your home fire escape plan with a family fire drill at least two times a year. Choose the dates and times for your fire drills and post them on the refrigerator as a reminder.

Online Game

SMOKE ALARM SMARTS



Use this interactive game to reinforce what your child has 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 children. Visit ymiclassroom.com/smoke-alarm-smarts to play at home.

RESOURCES

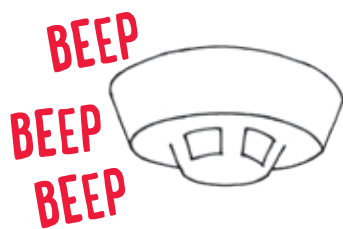
- **Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol**, ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-families
- **Center for National Prevention Initiatives at MPHI**, mph.org/center/cnpi

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 in the spaces provided.

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 _____



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

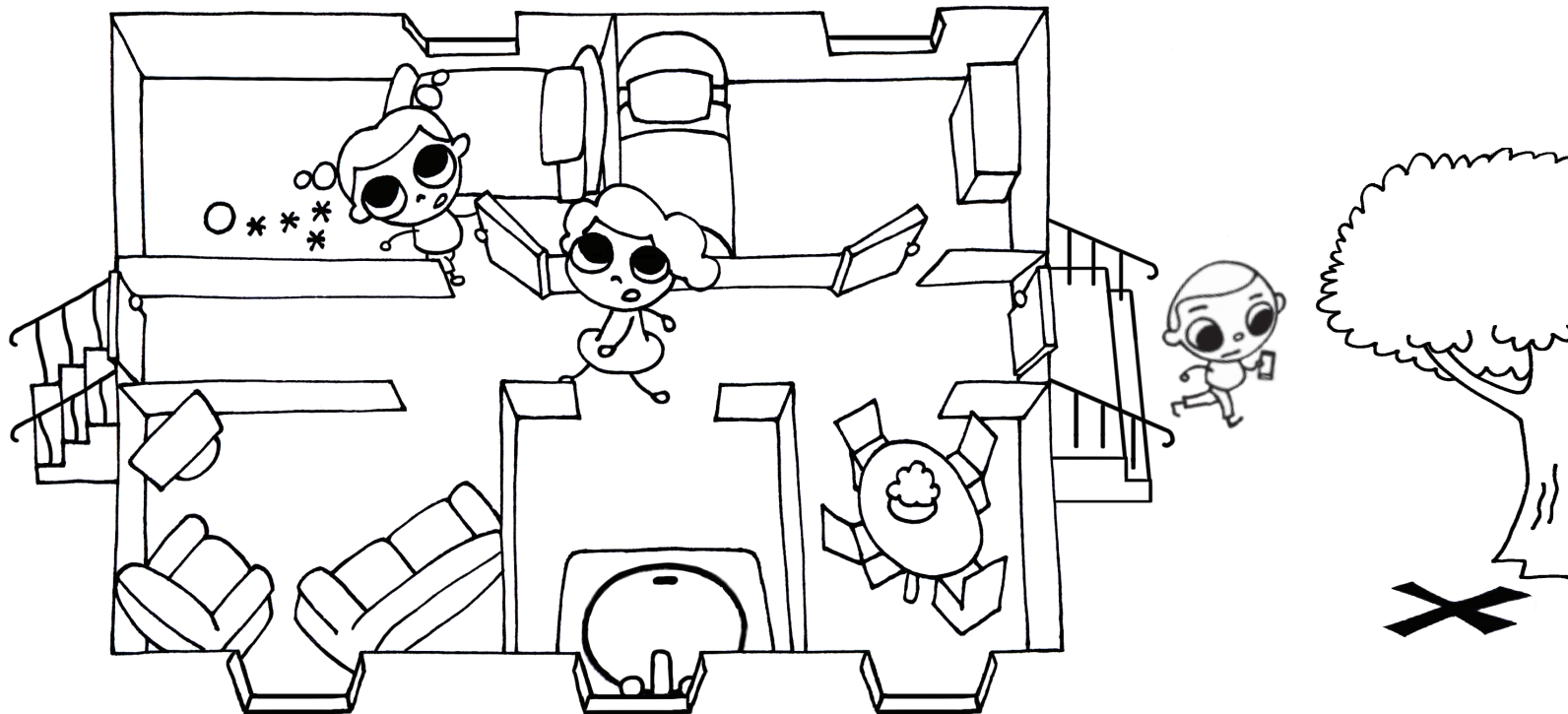
outlet

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.



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 make a home fire escape plan for your home. Draw a map that shows two paths out of every room. 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!

