

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 your students 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.

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 share these materials with other teachers in your school, and please let us know your opinion of the program visiting 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.

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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 foster a community approach to fire safety by forging partnerships among students, families, educators, firefighters, and life safety educators

Program Components

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

- This teacher's guide with:
 - Implementation suggestions for teachers (pages 2-3)
 - Three reproducible student activity sheets (pages 4-6)
 - Simplified activity sheets for use when reading level is lower (pages 7-11)
 - A Fire Service Presenter's Guide for fire service professionals implementing the activities (page 12)
- Three online videos to supplement each of the program's three classroom activities
- Printable/fillable PDFs of the activity sheets in English and Spanish
- A classroom 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 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)

How to Use This Program

- Display the poster in your classroom and review the messages with students.
- Choose the set of activity sheets that is appropriate for your students' reading level. Make copies for each student and follow the suggestions on page 3 to guide students through the three activities, videos, and storybook. Display the activity sheets on your whiteboard/screen share if possible.
- If possible, invite a member of your local fire department or home fire safety team to help you present the program to your class. If the fire service professional will be doing the activities with your students during the visit, provide them with the Fire Service Presenter's Guide on page 12. The guide provides fire service professionals with tips for using the simplified activities with students.

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 (Standard)



SOUND OFF WITH THE HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL

If possible, begin this activity by showing the *Safety Sounds* video available at ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-teachers.

Note: some students may be sensitive to the loud sound of a smoke alarm. 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. Also 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.

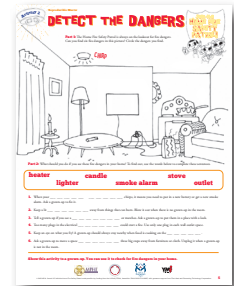
Activity 2 (Standard)

DETECT THE DANGERS

If possible, begin this activity by showing the *Home Fire Dangers* video available at ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-teachers. 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 (Standard)



YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE MAP

If possible, begin this activity by showing the *Home Fire Escape Map* video available at ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-teachers. 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/soundoff-teachers
- **Center for National Prevention Initiatives at MPH**, mph.org/center/cnpi

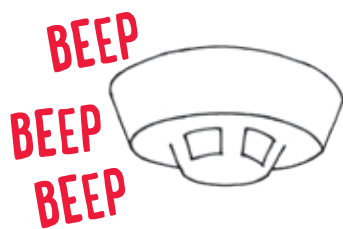
Teachers are very special. Thank you for sharing Sound Off with your students and families to help them stay safe from fire.

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. 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 _____

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Your child is participating in a home fire safety program at school. Thank you for taking the time to reinforce these lessons by testing the smoke alarms in your home. Remember: Smoke alarms do not last forever. Replace your smoke alarms with new ones every 10 years.



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

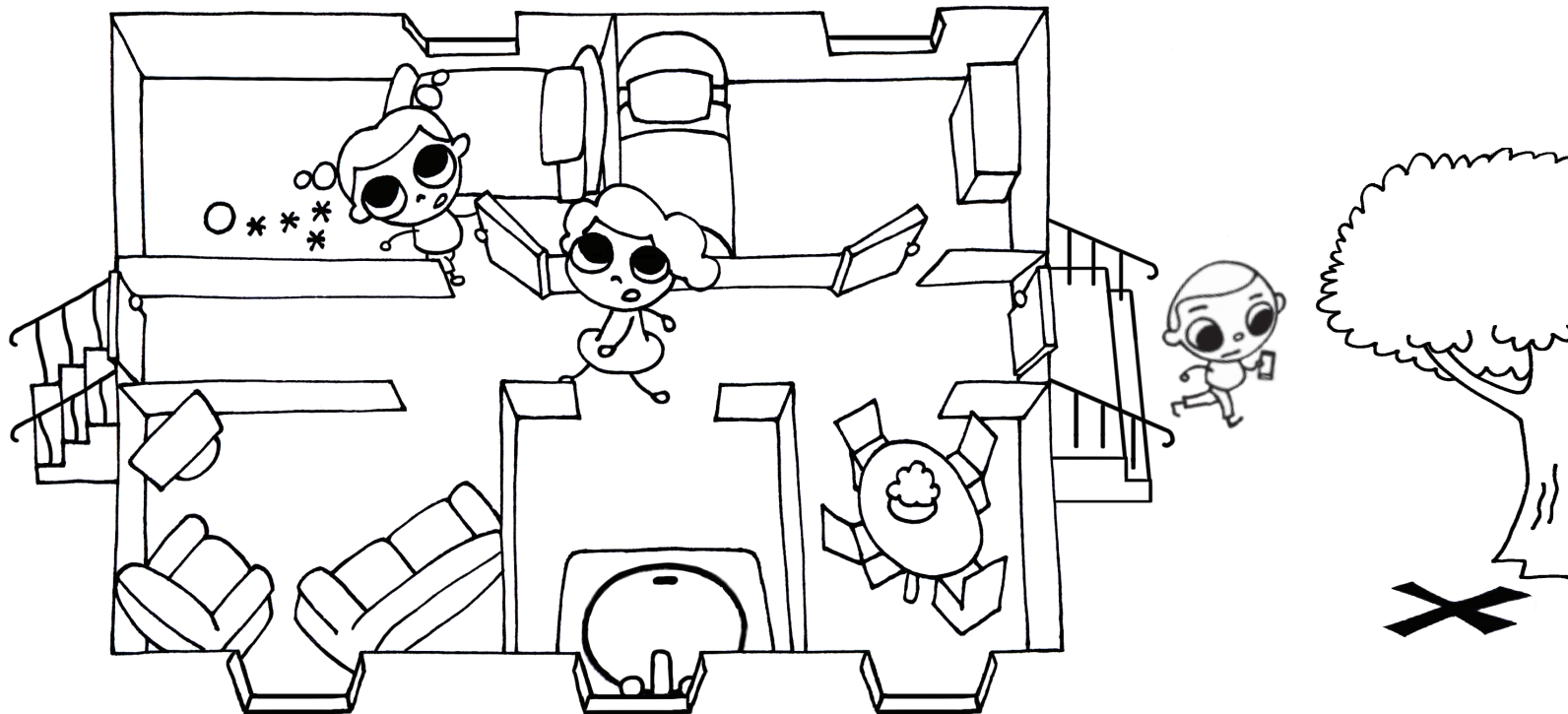
1. When your _____ chirps, it means you need to put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm. Ask a grown-up to fix it.
2. Keep a lit _____ away from things that can burn. Blow it out when there is no grown-up in the room.
3. Tell a grown-up if you see a _____ or matches. Ask a grown-up to put them 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,

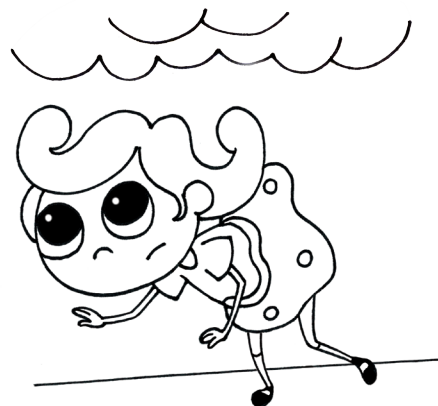
Many times children do not wake up when a smoke alarm sounds. Make a plan for an adult to wake up each child and help him or her get out if there is a real fire. Practice the plan. Pretend to call 9-1-1 from your meeting place, and give the address where you live.

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!

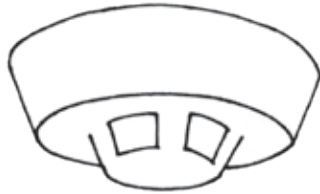


Sound Off!

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...
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.



**JOIN THE
HOME FIRE
SAFETY
PATROL**



**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.



Safety Patrol

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. Then bring the chart back to class.

JOIN THE
HOME FIRE
SAFETY
PATROL



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 _____

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

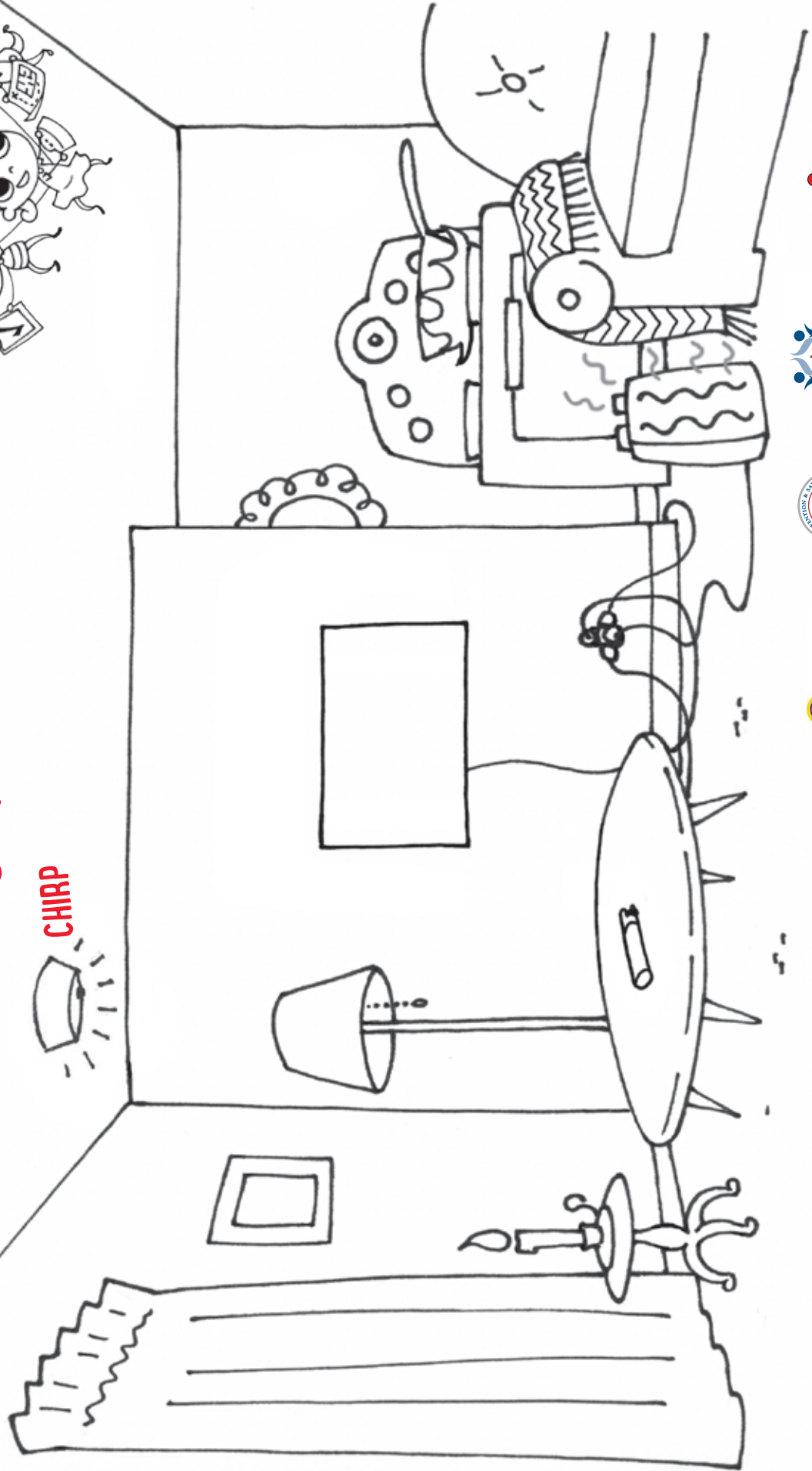
Your child is taking part in a home fire safety program. Thank you for taking the time to reinforce these lessons by testing the smoke alarms in your home. Remember: Smoke alarms do not last forever. Replace your smoke alarms every 10 years.



Detect the Dangers

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.



Home Fire Escape Map

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.

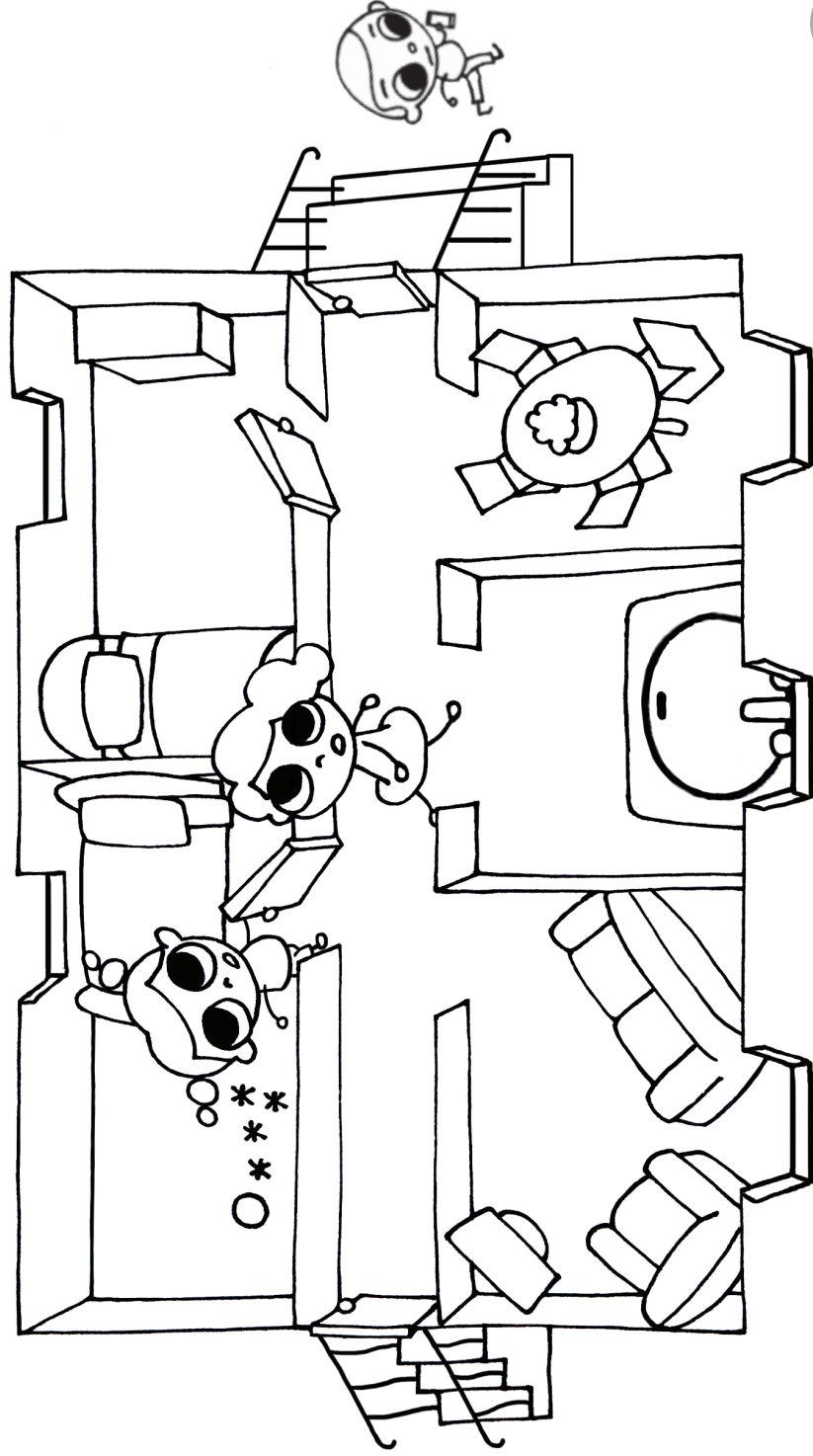
In some cases, this might be

through a window. Then circle the

meeting place outside their home

where everyone will go to call

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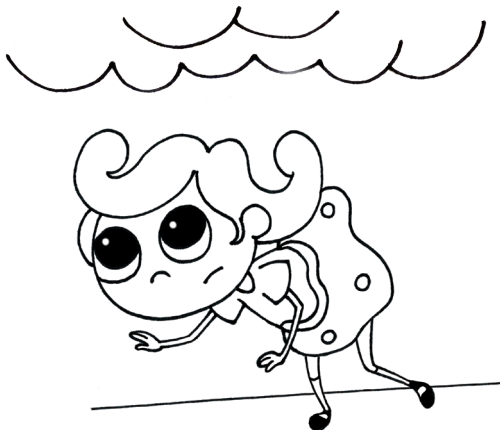
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Home Fire Escape Rules

Make sure everyone in your home knows the rules for getting out fast when there's 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. Tell them the street address where you live.
- Stay outside — **NEVER** go back into a burning building.

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.



Fire Service Presenter's Guide

Following are suggestions for using the Sound Off activity sheets. If possible, start by showing students the videos that correspond with each activity topic. Plan to use the simplified versions of the activities in this guide, which can be adapted to almost any setting. Students can work through the activities individually if they have pencils and a writing surface, or you can take them through each activity orally as a group. Plan to present all the activities during your classroom visit(s), but note that students must complete the "Safety Patrol" activity at home. Families collect information about smoke alarms in their homes and students bring this information back to class.

Visit ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-teachers for the videos and additional resources, including a colorful home fire safety storybook in PDF and audio flipbook format, and ideas for presenting Sound Off lessons through group activities that get students up and moving.

Simplified Activity Sheets



1A: Sound Off! (page 7)

This activity introduces students to the sounds a smoke alarm can make and what the sounds mean. If possible, begin this activity by showing the *Safety Sounds* video available at ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-teachers. Then, read each section of the activity sheet aloud. Bring along a smoke alarm to demonstrate the sound of a smoke alarm being tested. Allow students to take turns pushing the test button (unless any students are too sensitive to loud

noises). For the CHIRP and repeated BEEP sounds, you can play the audio files available at ymiclassroom.com/so-audio-files on your cellphone. Have students make the BEEP-BEEP-BEEP and CHIRP sounds, then play a Simon Says-style game in which students make the appropriate sound as you call out "Fire!" or "I need a new battery!" 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 when they go on a home fire safety patrol.



1B: Safety Patrol (page 8)

This activity encourages families to check the smoke alarms in their homes. Explain the importance of the activity, and review the three questions on the activity sheet. Ask students to name the different levels of a home (basement, main or first floor, etc.) to be sure they understand the concepts of "level" and "floor." Ask them to name sleeping areas that are not in a bedroom — for example, a sofa, cot, or air mattress in the living room or basement. Ask them what sound a smoke alarm should make when they test it.



2: Detect the Dangers (page 9)

If possible, begin this activity by showing the *Home Fire Dangers* video available at ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-teachers. Then, use this activity sheet to review six common home fire hazards or dangers shown in the picture: (1) smoke alarm that needs new battery or to be replaced; (2) candle unattended and too close to flammable objects; (3) lighter not locked out of sight and reach of children; (4) too many items plugged into an outlet; (5) space heater too close to furniture; (6) unattended food cooking on the stove.

You can have students complete the activity individually by circling the fire dangers in the picture, or you can complete the activity as a group, having students name the fire dangers. You can also turn the activity into an I Spy game by giving clues for each danger until the students identify it.

Prompt students to explain each fire danger by asking, for example, How could the candle start a fire? How could the heater start a fire? Then reinforce the safe practice for each danger (e.g., keep candles away from anything that could catch on fire, and burn them only when a grown-up is in the room; keep space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that could catch on fire; etc.). Conclude by encouraging students to color the picture.



3A: Home Fire Escape Map (page 10)

This activity helps students understand the importance of a home fire escape plan and the need to identify two escape paths from every room in their home. If possible, begin this activity by showing the Home Fire Escape Map video available at ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-teachers. Students can complete the activity on their own by drawing two paths from each room in the picture using two different colors. Or you can guide them through the activity by calling on students to describe the different escape paths from each room. Remind students that they should close all doors behind them as they exit to slow the spread of the fire. To emphasize the importance of an outside meeting place, have each student describe their family's meeting place or what could become the family meeting place. Have each child practice saying their street address.



3B: Home Fire Escape Rules (page 11)

Use this activity sheet to review the basic rules for escaping a home fire. Have students practice the rules by designating a meeting place to which the students rush when you make the BEEP-BEEP-BEEP sound of a smoke alarm. When they all reach the meeting place, have them pretend to call 9-1-1 from a cell phone and give their street address. Repeat this activity but this time have students "Get Low and Go" as they exit their home to get to their outside meeting place. Encourage students to take this activity sheet home to review the home fire escape rules with their family and have a family fire drill.



Smoke Alarm Smarts

(ymiclassroom.com/smoke-alarm-smarts)

If you have access to an Internet-connected digital whiteboard or computer, you may want to use this interactive game to reinforce what students have learned about smoke

alarms. The game includes three sections which focus on (1) smoke alarm testing, (2) where smoke alarms should be located in a home, and (3) the different sounds smoke alarms make. Note: The game includes loud noises that may not be appropriate for some students. Ask the teacher for guidance.



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