

# SOUND OFF with the HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL



## Dear Parents & Caregivers:

**N**early 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 us toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or by email at [feedback@ymiclassroom.com](mailto: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
- Spanish translations of the activity sheets
- A mini-poster
- A home fire safety storybook in PDF and audio flipbook formats (in English and Spanish)
- Short videos to support each activity
- An interactive online smoke alarm safety game
- Sound Off mobile app for family phones or tablets, with Sound Off activities for kids
- Printable PDF handouts on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms (in English and Spanish)

### Program Components

The following resources are available at [ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-families](http://ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-families):

- This guide with:
  - Suggestions for using the program at home
  - Three reproducible 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



Begin this activity by demonstrating the sounds a smoke alarm can make and what those sounds mean. You can use the test button on an actual smoke alarm to make the BEEP sound, or get both the BEEP and the CHIRP sounds by downloading the Sound Off mobile app to your phone or tablet. (See [ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-families](http://ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-families) for app details.) Note: some children

may be sensitive to the loud sound of a smoke alarm. Have your child make the sounds, 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!”

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, first floor, second floor, etc. — to be sure they understand this concept.

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. In Part 1, 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.

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](http://ymiclassroom.com/smoke-alarm-smarts) to play at home.

## RESOURCES

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

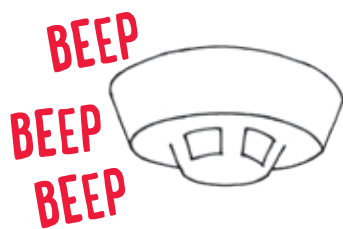


# SOUND OFF WITH THE HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL

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**

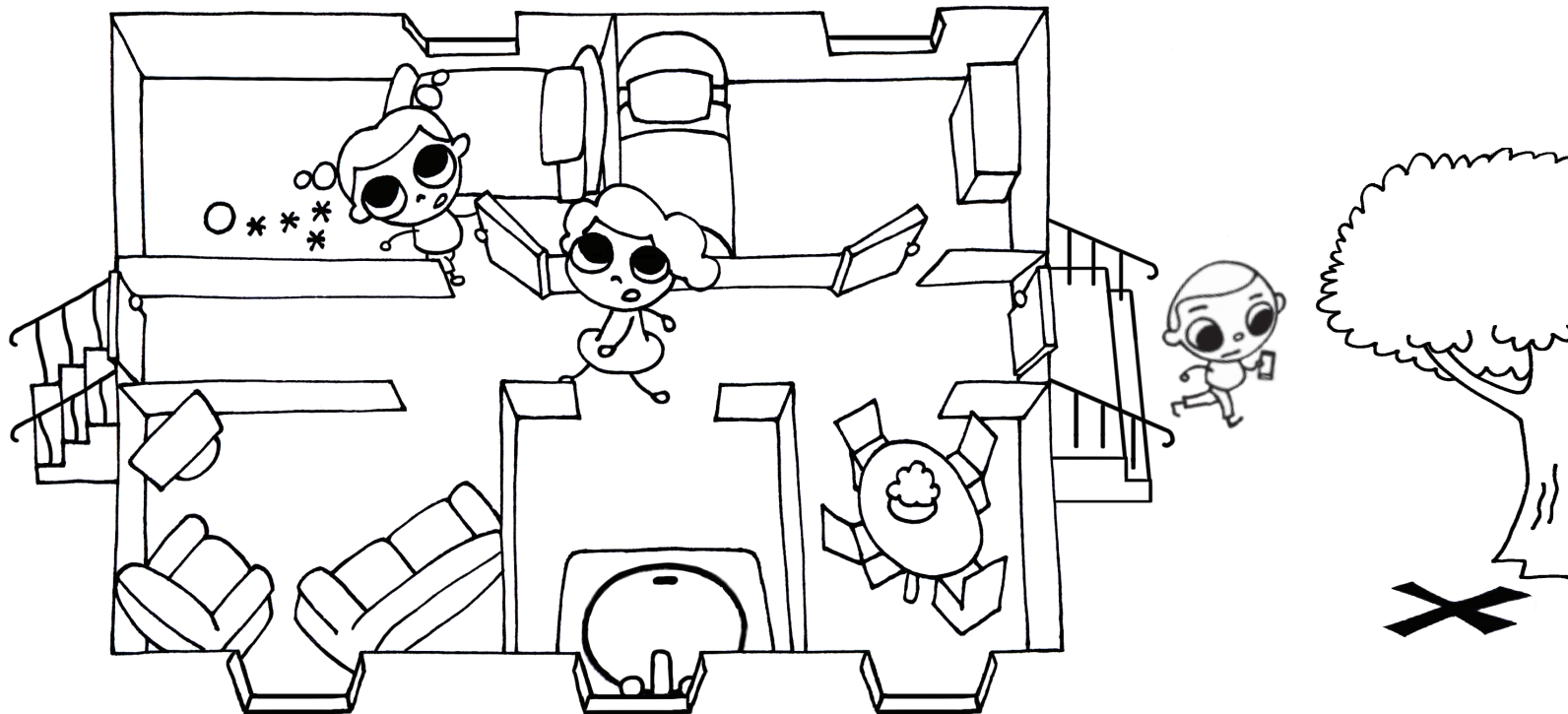
**outlet**

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!

