

# SOUND OFF with the HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL



## Dear Educator:

**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 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](http://ymiclassroom.com/feedback-sound-off).

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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### 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 their life-saving importance
- 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](http://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)
- Fillable PDF versions of the activity sheets
- Spanish translations of the activity sheets in fillable/printable PDF
- A classroom wall poster
- A home fire safety storybook in PDF and audio flipbook formats (in English and Spanish)

- Short videos to support each activity
- A digital whiteboard activity on smoke alarm safety
- Sound Off mobile app for family phones or tablets, with Sound Off activities kids can play
- Group activity suggestions to get students up and moving
- A Common Core standards alignment chart for Math and English Language Arts
- Printable PDF take-home handouts on smoke alarms and carbon monoxide 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 storybook and the three activities. 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



Begin this activity by demonstrating the sounds a smoke alarm can make and what those sounds mean. You can bring in 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/sound-off](http://ymiclassroom.com/sound-off) for app details.) Note: some students may be sensitive to the loud sound of

a smoke alarm. Have students make the sounds, 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!” 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, first floor, second floor, etc. — to be sure they understand this concept. Finally, point out where they and a parent or caregiver should sign the activity sheet 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

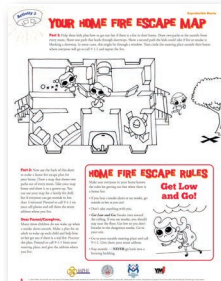
This activity alerts students to several common risk factors that may cause a home fire. Complete Part 1 of the activity as a class, calling on students to identify the six home fire dangers

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 needs replacement or a new battery; 2-candle (burn only when a grown-up is in the room); 3-lighter (lighters 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 (turn off burners when a grown-up is not there); 6-heater (unplug when a grown-up is not there).



### Activity 3 (Standard) YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE MAP



This activity teaches students how to make a home fire escape map and best practices for escaping a home fire. Have students work in small groups to complete Part 1. Using two different colors, have students 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 with everyone in their home to practice the plan and how to get low to avoid breathing smoke. 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](http://ymiclassroom.com/smoke-alarm-smarts) to play at home.

### RESOURCES

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

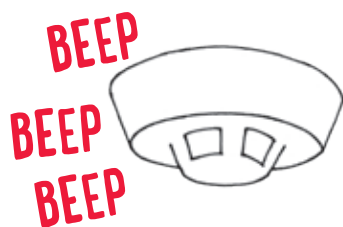


# SOUND OFF WITH THE HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL

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!

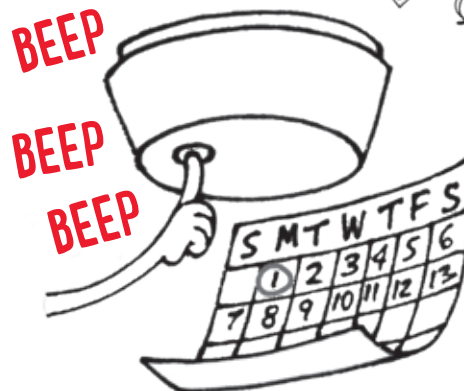


Chirp

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. 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**

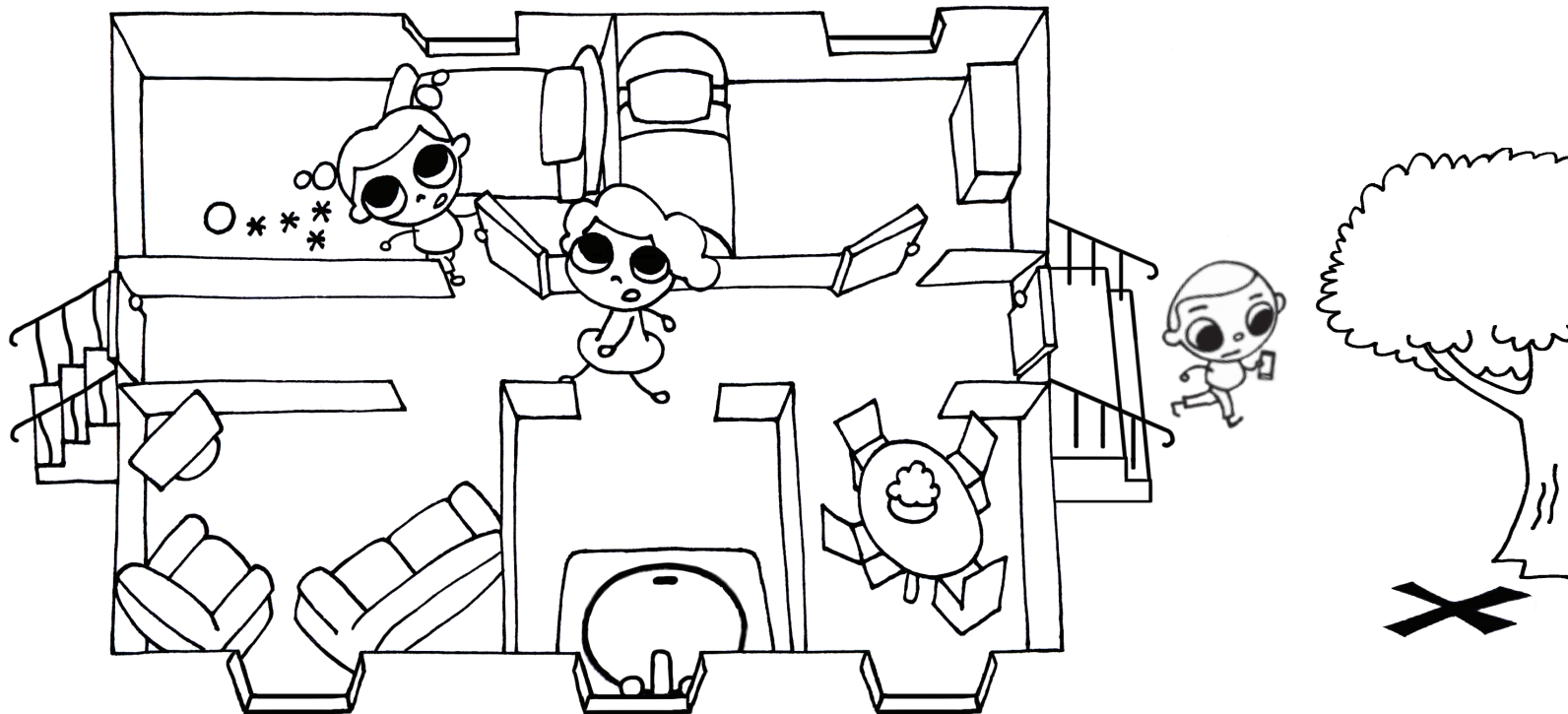
1. When your \_\_\_\_\_ chirps, it means you need to put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm. Ask a grown-up to fix it.
2. Keep a lit \_\_\_\_\_ away from things that can burn. Blow it out when there is no grown-up in the room.
3. Tell a grown-up if you see a \_\_\_\_\_ or matches. Ask a grown-up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

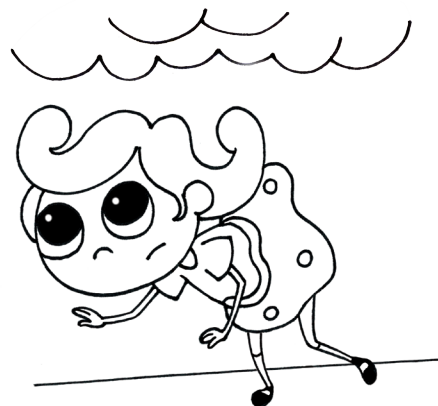
Many times children do not wake up when a smoke alarm sounds. Make a plan for an adult to wake up each child and help him or her get out if there is a real fire. Practice the plan. Pretend to call 9-1-1 from your meeting place, and give the address where you live.

## 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!

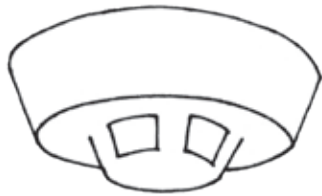


# Sound Off!

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!

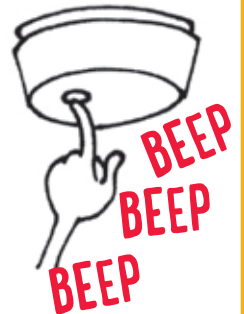
**CHIRP** Sometimes a smoke alarm makes a sound like a cricket or a chirping bird. That means the battery is not working well or the smoke alarm is getting old. You need to put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm.



**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.

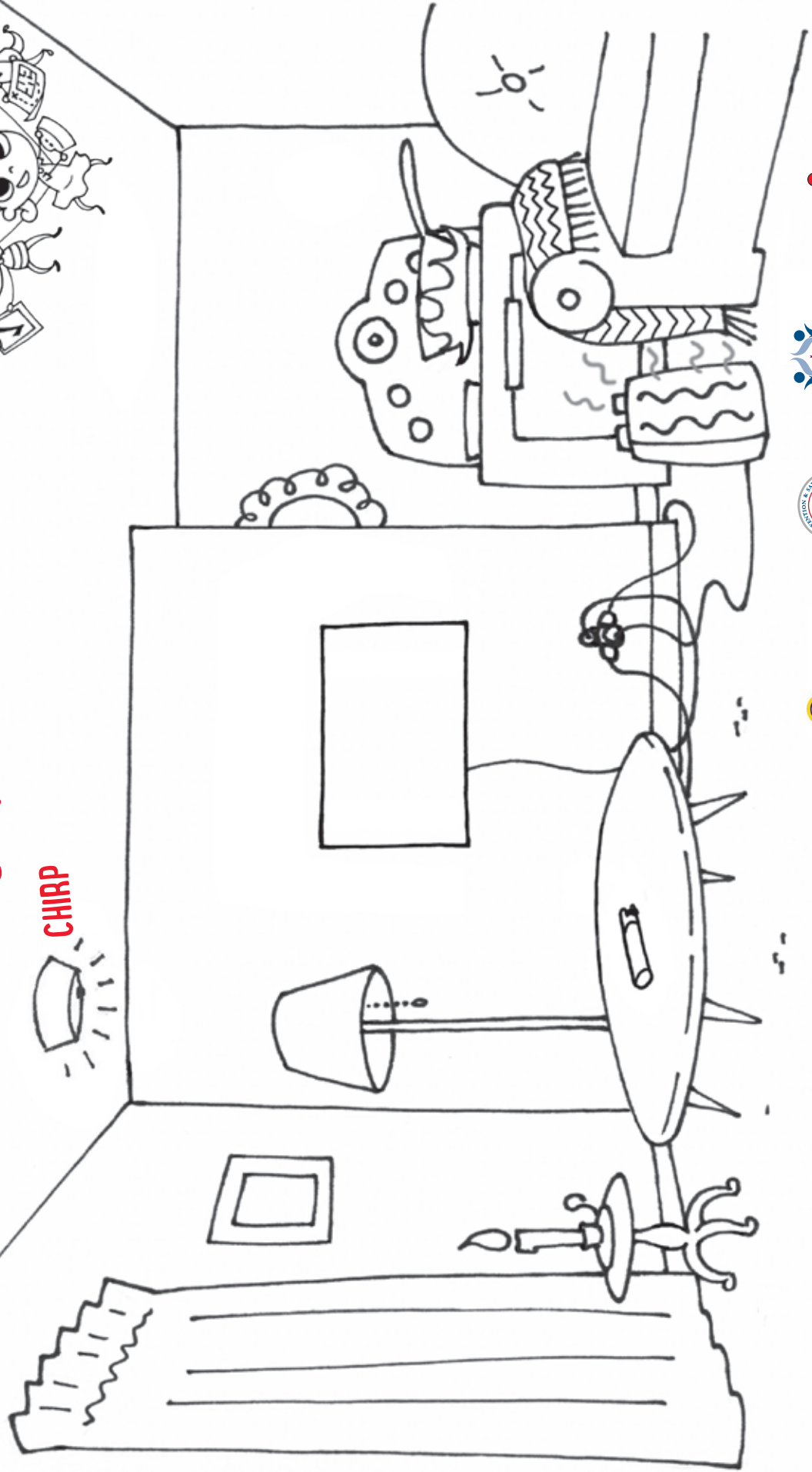




# Detect the Dangers

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.

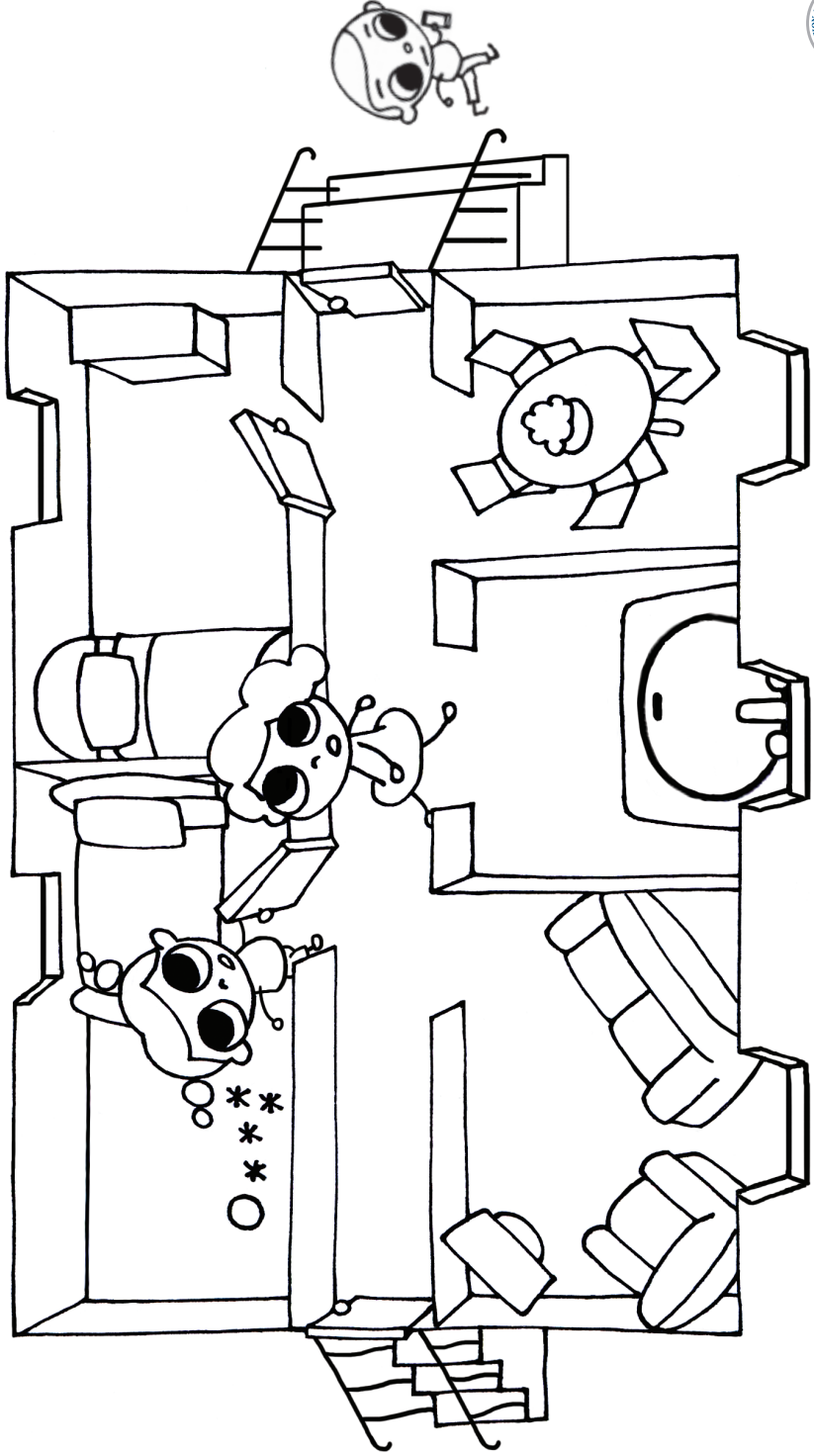
In some cases, this might be

through a window. Then circle the

meeting place outside their home

where everyone will go to call

9-1-1 and report the fire.



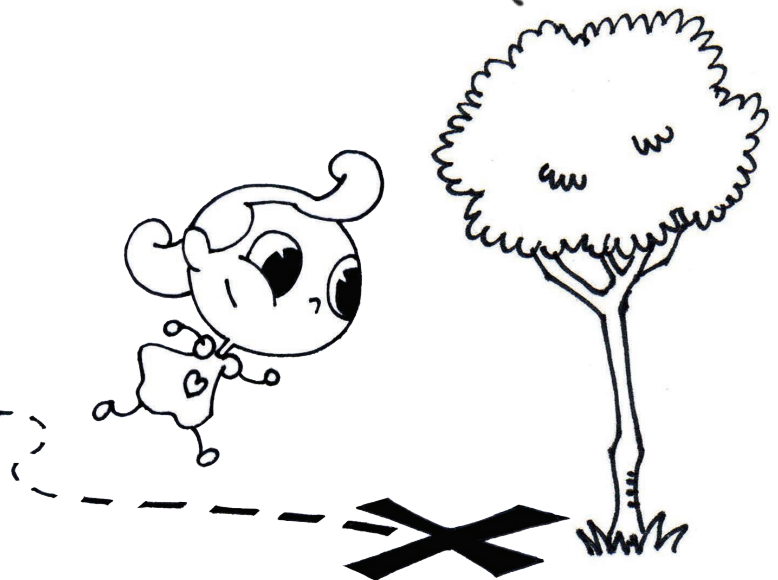
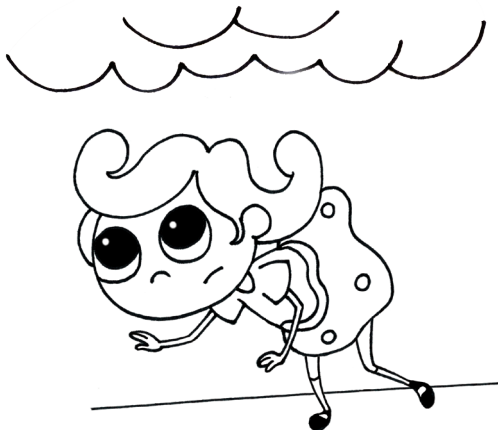
JOIN THE  
HOME FIRE  
SAFETY  
PATROL



# 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

Presenters are encouraged 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, 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.

For further guidance, visit [ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-teachers](http://ymiclassroom.com/soundoff-teachers), where you will find 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



### Sound Off!

Use this activity sheet to introduce students to the sounds a smoke alarm can make and what the sounds mean. Read each section of the activity sheet aloud. Bring along a smoke alarm to demonstrate the sounds of a smoke alarm being tested. Allow students to take turns pushing the test button (unless any students are too sensitive to loud noises). To demonstrate the

BEEP and CHIRP sounds, you can download the Sound Off mobile app to a mobile phone or tablet. (See [ymiclassroom.com/sound-off](http://ymiclassroom.com/sound-off) for app details.) 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.



### Safety Patrol

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, first floor, etc.) to

be sure they understand this concept. 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.

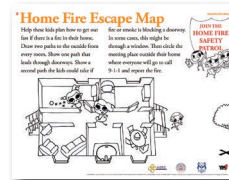


### Detect the Dangers

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 pan 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, 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.



### Home Fire Escape Map

Use this activity sheet to help students understand the importance of a home fire escape plan and the need to identify two escape paths from every room in their home. Students can complete the activity individually by drawing map with two paths from each room in the picture using two different colors, or you can walk them through the activity by calling on students to describe the different escape paths from each room. 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.



### Home Fire Escape Rules

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 head for the 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](http://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) the need to test smoke alarms, (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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