



## Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol

### Storybook Lesson Plan *Join the Home Fire Safety Patrol!*

#### INTRODUCTION

The Sound Off Storybook, *Join the Home Fire Safety Patrol*, is a flexible resource available in several formats in English and Spanish. The Storybook can be presented by the teacher before the first firefighter classroom visit or by the firefighter at the beginning of the first visit to kick off Activity 1. The Storybook introduces key Sound Off safety messages about smoke alarm sounds, smoke alarm placement, smoke alarm testing, and home fire drill planning and practice. The Storybook can also be shared with parents and caregivers to deliver Sound Off messages where they are needed most: the students' homes.

**NOTE:** If you intend to pre- and post-test students, the pre-test should be given before any activity, including reading the Storybook.

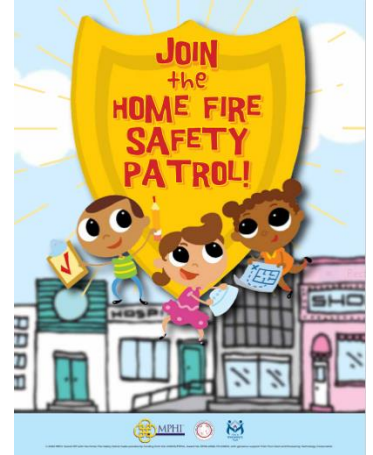
#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This Lesson will help students:

- Recognize the Sound Off Home Fire Safety Patrol characters Ana, Sofia, and Pablo
- Understand the word “patrol” – a group of people that watches over an area to make sure everything is safe
- Identify the two smoke alarm sounds and what they mean
  - BEEP-BEEP-BEEP – means fire or smoke – get out fast
  - CHIRP – means a smoke alarm needs a new battery or needs to be replaced

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED FOR YOUR PRESENTATION

- Copy of this Storybook Lesson Plan
- Your preferred format of the Storybook in the language appropriate for your student group (Spanish or English). Talk with the teacher beforehand about the best format to share with students in the classroom AND the best format to share with students and families at home. Choose any of the following formats:
  1. Full-size printed booklet in English only (included in the Training Kit mailed to schools in the white envelope)
  2. Printable PDF of the full-size booklet in English or Spanish, designed for print out one-sided on twelve sheets of 8.5" x 11" paper
  3. Printable PDF of a mini-size booklet in English or Spanish, designed for print out double-sided on three sheets of 8.5" x 11" paper, which can be trimmed, folded, and stapled to form a booklet
  4. PowerPoint Presentation Storybook in English only – includes an interactive quiz at the end to review smoke alarm sounds
  5. Online Storybook (flipbook) narrated in English – includes buttons to play smoke alarm sounds (perfect to share with families via email)



You can find all digital formats (2-5 above) at [ymiclassroom.com/sound-off-storybooks](https://ymiclassroom.com/sound-off-storybooks). In addition, Sound Off Teams can produce full-size or mini-size printed Storybooks in English or Spanish with the press-ready PDF files available on the Virtual Thumb Drive: [https://ymiclassroom.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/so22\\_thumbdrive.zip](https://ymiclassroom.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/so22_thumbdrive.zip)

**NOTE:** There are multiple benefits to providing each student with a copy of the Storybook

- Students learn through repetition and having their own copy of the Storybook allows them to read it multiple times.
- Sending the Storybook home with students is another way to reach families.
- The Storybook can also serve as a prompt, reminding adults to test smoke alarms and practice a home fire drill.

## STORYBOOK PRESENTATION

1. Tell students that you want to introduce them to the Sound Off Home Fire Safety Patrol. Explain that a “patrol” is a group of people that watches over an area to make sure everything is safe.
2. Share the Sound Off Storybook with the class using your preferred version. (See tips below for reading aloud.)
3. Use the following questions to reinforce the story and its safety messages:

Q. Whose home is the Sound Off Safety Patrol visiting today?

A. Marco's home

Q. Who is testing the alarms in Marco's home?

A. Marco's mom

Q. Who can test the smoke alarms in your home?

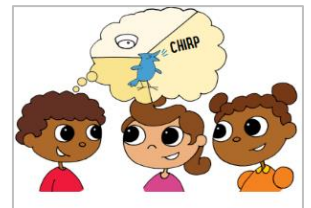
A. Answers may vary: emphasize that only a grown-up can test smoke alarms.

Q. Where were the smoke alarms in Marco's home?

A. On every level of the home and in every bedroom and other rooms where people sleep.

Q. What sound does a smoke alarm make when it needs a new battery or needs to be replaced with a new alarm?

A. CHIRP..... CHIRP



Q. What sound did the smoke alarm make when Marco's mom pushed the test button?

A. BEEP-BEEP-BEEP!



Q. Why does the Home Fire Safety Patrol help Marco draw a map of Marco's home?

A. The map is part of making a home fire escape plan. It shows two ways to get outside from every room. Marco's family will follow the map when they practice a home fire drill.

Q. When you hear the smoke alarm go BEEP-BEEP-BEEP, do you get out slow or get out fast?

A. Fast!

## **BEST-PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS ON READING ALOUD TO CHILDREN\***

### **PREPARE & PRACTICE TIPS**

- Read the story silently to yourself several times and practice reading it out loud before you read the Storybook to a group of children.
- Visit your local library and watch a story hour to get ideas for reading aloud to young children.
- Practice reading while you hold the book open out to the side facing the children. It takes practice to learn to hold the book up for the audience and still read the words! Practice reading aloud with your own children (or fellow firefighters).
- If you need an example of how to read aloud, listen to the narrated Online Storybook (flipbook). Then, when you read the story aloud to the students, you will have an idea of the rhythm and tempo of the text and even how to change voices for each character in the story.

### **CAN EVERYONE SEE?**

- Hold the book so that the children can see the pictures while you are reading. Make sure all the kids in the class have a clear view of the pictures as you turn the pages.
- Hold the book out to the side as you read it.
- Before you turn the page, slowly show the pictures again by moving the open book from side to side in front of the children. Make sure all have seen the pictures.

### **READ SLOWLY**

- Don't rush through the book. Read slowly.

### **VARY YOUR VOICE**

- Vary your voice volume and tone throughout the story. Read with expression. Children will hear the genuine excitement in your voice, and that excitement is most often contagious!
- Use character voices if you are comfortable doing so. Be dramatic.
- Funny voices are always a hit with young children and make a story come alive. And really act excited when a story takes a turn for the better.

### **INVOLVE THE CHILDREN**

- Look for ways to involve the children in the story. For example, when the smoke alarm beeps when Marco's mom pushes the test button, have the students make the BEEP-BEEP-BEEP sound. Don't be afraid to ham it up. Young children will love watching you act silly.

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\* Adapted from Fire Safety for Young Children, An Early Childhood Education Curriculum from OSU Center for Early Childhood Teaching and Learning in cooperation with Fire Protection Publications at Oklahoma State University, 2009.

- Children also become part of the story experience when you ask questions along the way. For example, on the page shown here, you could point to the woman on the ladder and ask, "Does anyone know who this is?" (Marco's mom). "And what is she doing on a ladder?" (Testing the smoke alarm) "Do you remember what sound the smoke alarm makes when she pushes the test button?" (BEEP-BEEP-BEEP) "And what does that sound mean?" (The smoke alarm is working!) "What does a smoke alarm sound like when the battery is old?" (like a bird: CHIRP... CHIRP)



### **REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT**

- If you have time, read or present the Sound Off Storybook again and again. It is likely that children will want to hear it repeatedly.
- Ask the teacher to read the Storybook to the students before your next visit.
- If the teacher has received a printed copy of the Storybook, ask them to loan it to families to read at home and return to class.
- Ask the teacher to share instructions for downloading the free Sound Off Safety App so families can access the narrated flipbook version of the Storybook in English or Spanish. Let them know that internet is not needed to use the App on a smartphone. See <https://ymiclassroom.com/lesson-plans/sound-off-app>.
- Coach other members of your department to read the Sound Off Storybook during station visits, library hour, lunch and learns at local elementary schools, and community events.
- If possible, use the press-ready PDF of the Storybook on the downloadable Virtual Thumb Drive to produce printed copies of the Storybook at a copy shop or printer to share as individual handouts. Children learn through repetition!

### **MOST OF ALL - HAVE FUN!**