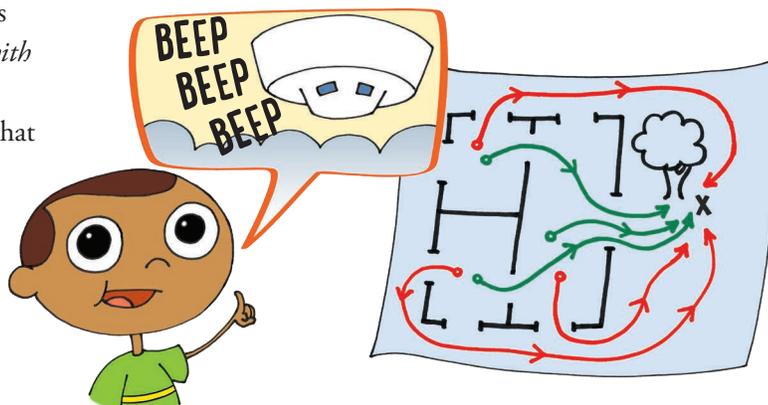


# SOUND OFF with the HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL



## Dear Sound Off Team Member,

Education is one of the most effective strategies for keeping your community safe. *Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol* is a research-based Community Risk Reduction (CRR) program that combines classroom learning for young children with home safety visits (HSV) to install free smoke alarms and educate caregivers, plus home fire drill practice, in a way no other program does.



- Pre/post-test evaluations of Sound Off students nationally have documented a 45% increase in fire safety knowledge on average.
- Thousands of free smoke alarms installed in Sound Off student homes have reduced the risk of fire injury to vulnerable populations across the U.S., notably those in at-risk households.
- As of 2025, Sound Off has helped save 17 lives in documented accounts. Here is one example:

*In 2023, a Sound Off Team from the Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office and local firefighters visited 7-year-old Ronan's class. They taught a lesson on the importance of smoke alarms and the sounds they make. They assigned the students homework: to count and test the alarms in their homes with a grown-up, record the information on an activity sheet, and return it to their teacher to share with their local fire department. That night, Ronan INSISTED his mother Julia help with the homework. The result? Not one working smoke alarm in the home. Firefighters visited Ronan's home, installed free smoke alarms, and watched Ronan's family do a fire drill. Just 11 days later, Julia and her baby daughter were napping when the alarms sounded. They escaped and called 911, and the fire department was able to contain the fire to the room of origin. Ronan received a special certificate from the Fire Marshal's Office at a school assembly.*

Click on Home Safety Visits & Outreach Tools at [ymiclassroom.com/sound-off-teams](https://ymiclassroom.com/sound-off-teams) to see a video of Ronan's award ceremony.

We thank you in advance for helping to make this life-saving program a success in your community!

Sincerely,

Meri-K Appy

National Program Manager

Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol

202-412-5387

# What is Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol?

Sound Off is made possible through a grant to the Center for National Prevention Initiatives at the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) from DHS/FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety Grants. It unites the fire service, elementary schools, caregivers, and community partners to protect young children and their families from fire through:

1. Classroom lessons for 2nd and 3rd graders about smoke alarms, reducing home fire dangers, home fire escape maps, and home fire drills
2. Home safety visits and installation of free smoke alarms as needed in homes of students who participate in Sound Off



The Sound Off lessons were developed by national fire safety experts and curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired. The lessons feature resources for fire departments and educators, including lesson plans, activities, videos, a storybook, games, and handouts. These tools are designed to help fire departments educate students, parents, and caregivers about home fire safety and allow multiple options for working with schools. The following pages walk you through how to use the Sound Off tools.

## How to Participate in Sound Off

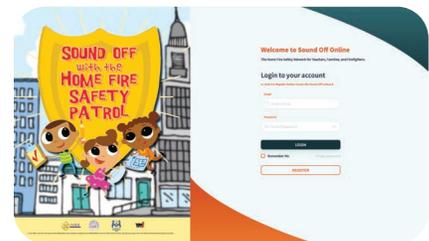
### Step 1

Enroll in and complete the FREE self-paced *Sound Off for Firefighters: Get Ready to Teach* eLearning course to learn how to teach Sound Off. The course is hosted by the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) on ResourceOne (see [moodle.ifsta.org](https://moodle.ifsta.org), or search for ResourceOne IFSTA). Also accessible at [ymiclassroom.com/sound-off-teams](https://ymiclassroom.com/sound-off-teams).



### Step 2

Request an invitation to sign up for Sound Off Online (SOO), the program's management platform. You can request an invitation from State Team members, your Local Team Leader, or by email to [soundoff@ymiclassroom.com](mailto:soundoff@ymiclassroom.com).



### Step 3

Get familiar with all the FREE Sound Off tools and resources available at [ymiclassroom.com/sound-off-teams](https://ymiclassroom.com/sound-off-teams). Reach out to your Sound Off State Team Leader with any questions.





# Step-by-Step Tips to Launch Sound Off in Your Community

## 1. Educate Yourself

- Complete the *Sound Off for Firefighters* eLearning course
- Review program materials and resources sent to your Team and at [ymiclassroom.com/sound-off-teams](http://ymiclassroom.com/sound-off-teams)

## 2. Secure Leadership Support

- Get buy-in from Chief Fire Officers and department staff

• **Resource:** Background for Chiefs

## 3. Introduce Program to Schools

- Meet with administrators and staff, especially teacher(s) whose class(es) will participate in Sound Off
- Share overview and scheduling details

• **Resource:** Tips for Recruiting Schools

## 4. Identify & Orient Community Partners as Necessary

- Engage schools, nonprofits, and local organizations

• **Resource:** Caregiver/Community presentation

## 5. Plan with Sound Off Classroom Teachers

- Coordinate lesson dates, permissions, and logistics
- Have teacher register for Sound Off Online

• **Resource:** Classroom Visit Planner

## 6. Prepare Classroom Presentation

- Review teaching materials and practice delivery

• **Resources:** Intro Lesson and Lessons 1, 2, 3, 4 with Videos and Activity Sheets



## 7. Share Sound Off Videos

- Have Sound Off teacher(s) show all four videos to their class(es) before the Lessons (available to teachers on Sound Off Online)

## 8. Deliver Lessons to Students

- Present Lessons using the Presentation Guides
- Collect homework Activity Sheets
- Distribute Firefighter Letter to Families with Free Smoke Alarm Offer and collect family requests for Home Safety Visits/smoke alarm installs

• **Resource:** Firefighter Letter to Families with Smoke Alarm Offer

## 9. Conduct Home Safety Visits / Fire Drills

- Install free smoke alarms and educate families
- Observe families as they practice a fire drill

• **Resource:** Home Safety Visit Resources

## 10. Wrap Up & Report Back

- Submit pre/post test results if applicable and other Sound Off evaluation data and success stories to your State Team

• **Resource:** Pre/Post Test How-To, Forms, and Tabulator

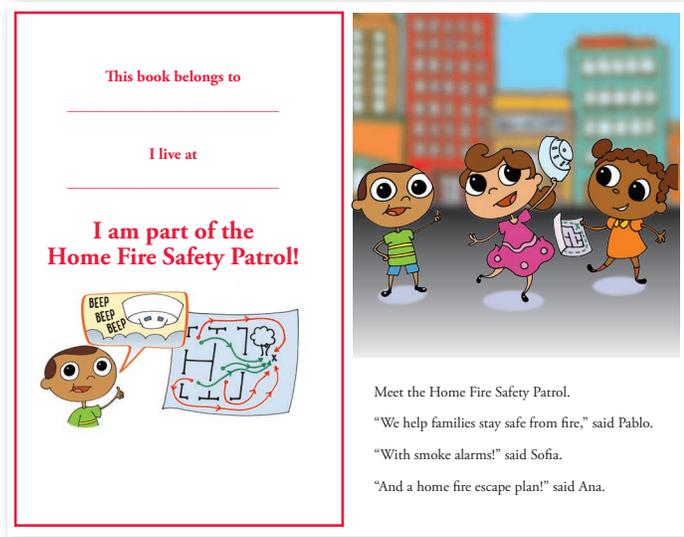
## 11. Celebrate with participating teachers, students, and caregivers

- If possible, host an event with food, fun, and Certificates

• **Resource:** Student Certificate of Completion (contained in Lesson 4)

## 12. Expand the Program

- Plan for growth, sustainability, and additional partners



# Tips for Planning What to Present in the Classroom

Use the Classroom Visit Planner to coordinate what you will present to the students and when. Sound Off has proven most effective when firefighters make three classroom visits, one for each of the first three activities and to introduce Activity 4, the family fire drill activity, at the end.

- **If you can make 3 classroom visits:**

- **Present all Lessons:**

Use the Lessons and Presentation Guides to present all four videos and Activity Sheets.

This may not be feasible for you, so there are other presentation options:

- **If you can make 2 classroom visits:**

- **Present 2 Lessons:**

Use the Lessons and Presentation Guides to present Lessons 1 and 3 (including introducing Activity 4), and arrange for the teacher to present the rest of the program using the Poster Teaching Guide or Sound Off Online.

- **If you can make 1 classroom visit, the following are options for your presentation:**

- **Storybook & Poster Presentation:**

Read the Storybook to students and share the Poster, then ask the teacher to present the rest of the program using the Poster Teaching Guide or Sound Off Online.

- **Present 1 or 2 Lessons:**

Do Lessons 1 and 3 with students, or at least Lesson 1, and arrange for the teacher to present the rest of the program using the Poster Teaching Guide or Sound Off Online.

- **Present the Student Certificates:**

Schedule a student certificate award ceremony. Ask teachers to show the four Sound Off Videos to

students prior to the ceremony and to send home the four Activity Sheets, which include the link to the Videos for family viewing. At the ceremony, “deputize” students as members of the Sound Off Home Fire Safety Patrol and hand out the Student Certificate of Completion. If possible, enhance the ceremony with a special reward, such as a fire safety trailer visit or a “Safety Squad” event featuring fire safety learning stations that reinforce the Sound Off Lessons.

- **Quick Start Option:**

- **Students preview videos:**

Have the teacher show students the Videos before your arrival. Then use the Poster Teaching Guide or Sound Off Storybook to introduce Sound Off and share all or some of the Activity Sheets with students. Ask the teacher to present the Activities that you don't get to finish.

**Remember:** Remote visits are also an option for reading the Storybook or presenting the Activity Sheets.

### Important Messaging Note for Family Fire Drills

Current EMAC guidelines now indicate it is safest for families to get out of their homes in **2 minutes or less**. While we are updating materials to align with this messaging, some Sound Off resources may still reference 3 minutes. Please reinforce the 2-minute or less messaging.



**Sound Off for Families:**  
[ymiclassroom.com/soundoffathome](http://ymiclassroom.com/soundoffathome)

Share this link with families and/or encourage teachers to share it with parents and caregivers. This page features the Sound Off Videos, Storybook, Activity Sheets, online game, the Sound Off App, and handouts for grown-ups.

