

Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol

Intro Unit: Storybook & Poster



INTRODUCTION

The Sound Off Storybook, *Join the Home Fire Safety Patrol*, is a flexible resource with 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 set the stage for Lesson 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.

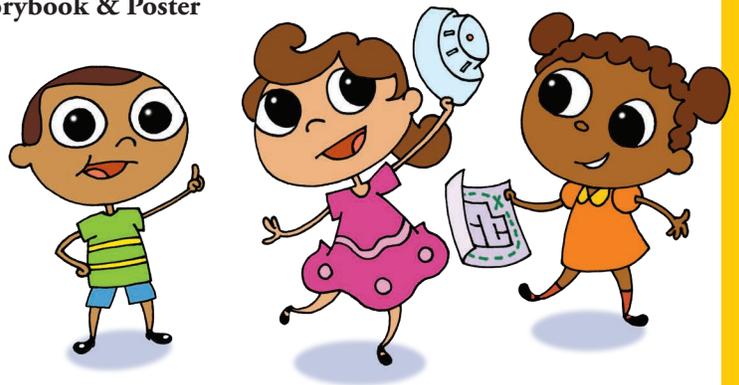
GOAL FOR THE PRESENTER

The most important outcome of this Lesson is to make sure students are motivated and excited to become members of the Sound Off Home Fire Safety Patrol by learning more about home fire safety. (**NOTE:** If you are conducting pre/post assessment tests, have students complete the pre-test before presenting the Storybook or any other activity.)

WHAT YOU WILL NEED FOR YOUR PRESENTATION

The following resources are available on the **Intro Lesson: Storybook & Poster** page at ymiclassroom.com/sound-off-teams.

- This **Presentation Guide**
- The **Classroom Poster**
- The Sound Off **Storybook** (available in English and Spanish). Discuss with the teachers the best format to use in the classroom AND the best format to share with students and families at home. Formats include:
 1. Printed book (in English only; supplies limited)
 2. PDF of the full-size book, designed to print one-sided on twelve sheets of 8.5" × 11" paper
 3. PDF of a mini-size book, designed to print double-sided on two 8.5" × 11" sheets of paper, then trim, fold, and staple to form a booklet
 4. Online narrated flipbook with buttons to play smoke alarm sounds (perfect to share with families via email)
 5. Press-ready PDF to print at a copy shop and provide students/families with their own copies of the Storybook



Important Messaging Note for Family Fire Drills: EMAC guidelines 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 minutes or less messaging.

OPENING

1. Introduce yourself and the name of your fire department.
2. Tell students that you want them to meet 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.

STORYBOOK PRESENTATION

1. Show the Storybook cover and point out the members of the Home Fire Safety Patrol: (left to right) Pablo, Sofia, and Ana. Tell students they will soon learn how the items the three characters are holding can help keep families safe from a home fire.
2. Share the Sound Off Storybook with the class using your preferred format. Follow these tips for reading aloud:*

Preparation

- Before your classroom visit, practice reading the Storybook aloud.
- You can use the narrated online version of the Storybook as a model for rhythm and tempo. The narration also demonstrates how to change voices to suit the different characters and situations.
- You can also use a mirror to practice reading aloud with the book held open facing the students. Or you can practice holding each page up to show them after you read it.



Presentation

- Check that all the students have a clear view of the pictures as you hold up the pages. Before you turn the page, show the pictures again by slowly moving the open book from side to side in front of the students.
- Read slowly, not at a “normal” tempo.
- Read with expression. Change the tone and loudness of your voice as you move through the story. Create a sense of excitement with your voice to spark interest and excitement in your audience.
- Be dramatic. Use character voices if you can, or funny voices (always a hit with kids), and don't be afraid to ham it up — kids will love watching you act silly.
- Involve the students in telling the story. For example, when a smoke alarm beeps, have them make the BEEP-BEEP-BEEP sound. Ask questions to build engagement. For example, on page 4 you could ask:

Q: Why is Marco's mom on a ladder?

A: Because the smoke alarm is on the ceiling.

Q: Why is Pablo holding his ears?

A: Because the BEEP-BEEP-BEEP sound is loud.

3. Use the following questions to reinforce the story and its safety messages:

Q: Whose home is the Sound Off Home Fire Safety Patrol visiting today?

A: Marco's home.

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

A: Marco's mom.

Q: Who could 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 near other places where people sleep.



* 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.

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

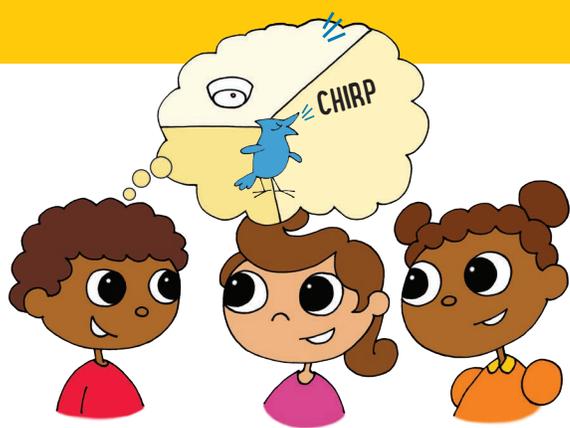
A: CHIRP (long pause) CHIRP.

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

A: BEEP-BEEP-BEEP! [pause] BEEP-BEEP-BEEP! (just two sets of BEEPs).

Q: Why does the Home Fire Safety Patrol help Marco draw a map of his home?

A: The map is part of making a home fire escape plan. It shows two ways to get outside from every room. Marco, Ana, Sofia, and Pablo use the map to 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!

4. Wrap Up

- Display the Sound Off Poster and review the messages with the students.
- Ask the students if they want to be members of a Sound Off Home Fire Safety Patrol (they'll say YES!) and explain that they will learn more home fire safety rules as official members of the Home Fire Safety Patrol.
- Ask students if they have any questions about the Storybook or Poster. Respond to questions, then thank the students and the teacher for inviting you to visit their class.

FOLLOW-UP

- If possible, use the press-ready PDF of the Storybook to print copies of it at a copy shop and share them with students/classes as individual handouts.
- Ask the teacher to reread 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 let families know that there is a free Sound Off Safety App for Apple and Android smartphones that includes the narrated flipbook version of the Storybook in English or Spanish as well as videos and home fire safety games. Families can download the App at ymiclassroom.com/soundoffathome.
- Urge other members of your department to read the Sound Off Storybook during station visits, community events, library hour, and lunch and learns at local elementary schools.



CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THIS LETTER AS A WORD DOCUMENT.



**Will you and your family be able to survive a fire in your home?
Your chances will be a lot better if you have *working* smoke alarms!**

[insert date]

Dear Families,

Your child is part of an exciting fire safety program at school. It is called *Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol*. With help from local firefighters, the children will learn about smoke alarms and how to stay safe from a fire at home. For homework, they will ask you to help them find all the smoke alarms in your home and push the test buttons to see if they work.

- Smoke alarms are working if they go BEEP-BEEP-BEEP when you push the button.
- If the alarms CHIRP or don't make a sound, you need to put in a new battery or get a new smoke alarm right away.

To help keep your family safe:

- You need at least 1 working smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- You need a smoke alarm in every bedroom and near any other sleeping areas.

Firefighters from the [insert the name of your fire department] **would like to visit your home to install FREE smoke alarms if you need some.** They will also show you other ways to help keep your family safe from a home fire.

To schedule a firefighter visit, complete the form below and return it to your child's teacher. The fire department will call you to set up a time for a Sound Off safety team to visit your home.

Thank you for being part of the Sound Off Home Fire Safety Patrol!

Sincerely,

Teacher

Fire Department

Student Name _____

School _____

Parent/Caregiver Name _____

Parent/Caregiver Phone Number _____

Parent/Caregiver Address _____

For FREE Sound Off games, Videos, a Storybook, and an App for smartphones/tablets to teach your family about fire safety, visit
ymiclassroom.com/soundoffathome.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO DOWNLOAD THIS LETTER AS A WORD DOCUMENT.



**¿Podrán usted y su familia sobrevivir a un incendio en su hogar?
¡Sus posibilidades serán mucho mayores si tienen detectores de humo en funcionamiento!**

[insert date]

Queridas familias:

Su hijo/a forma parte de un programa de seguridad contra incendios en el hogar en la escuela. Se llama **Da la señal de alerta con la patrulla de seguridad contra incendios en el hogar**. Con la ayuda de los bomberos locales, los niños aprenderán sobre los detectores de humo y cómo mantenerse a salvo de un incendio en el hogar. Para hacer los deberes, les pedirán que les ayuden a encontrar todos los detectores de humo de su hogar y que pulsen los botones de prueba para ver si funcionan.

- Los detectores de humo están funcionando si hacen BIP-BIP-BIP cuando se presiona el botón.
- Si las alarmas hacen CRICRÍ o no emiten ningún un sonido, deben colocar una pila nueva o comprar un detector de humo nuevo de inmediato.

Para mantener a su familia segura, debe asegurarse de lo siguiente:

- Debe tener al menos un detector de humo en funcionamiento en cada nivel de su hogar.
- También necesita un detector de humo en cada dormitorio y cerca de cualquier otra zona de descanso.

A los bomberos de [\[insert the name of your fire department\]](#) **les gustaría visitar su hogar para instalar detectores de humo GRATIS si los necesitan**. También les mostrarán otras maneras de mantener a su familia a salvo de un incendio en el hogar.

Para programar una visita de un bombero, complete el siguiente formulario y devuélvalo al maestro de su hijo. Recibirán una llamada del departamento de bomberos para programar la visita de un equipo de Sound Off Safety a su hogar.

¡Gracias por formar parte de la Patrulla de seguridad contra incendios en el hogar!

Atentamente,

Maestro

Departamento de bomberos

Nombre del alumno _____

Escuela _____

Nombre del padre/madre/cuidador _____

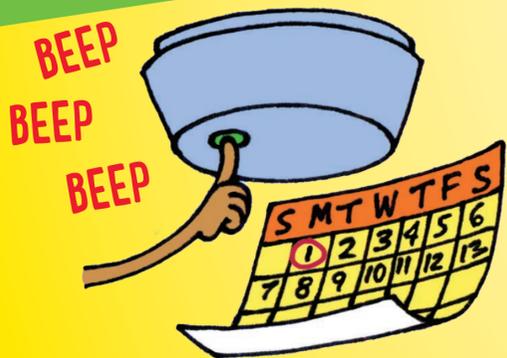
Número de teléfono del padre/madre/cuidador _____

Dirección del padre/madre/cuidador _____

Para acceder GRATIS a juegos, videos, un libro de cuentos y una aplicación para teléfonos o tabletas de Sound Off que enseñan a su familia sobre seguridad contra incendios, visite ymiclassroom.com/soundoffathome.

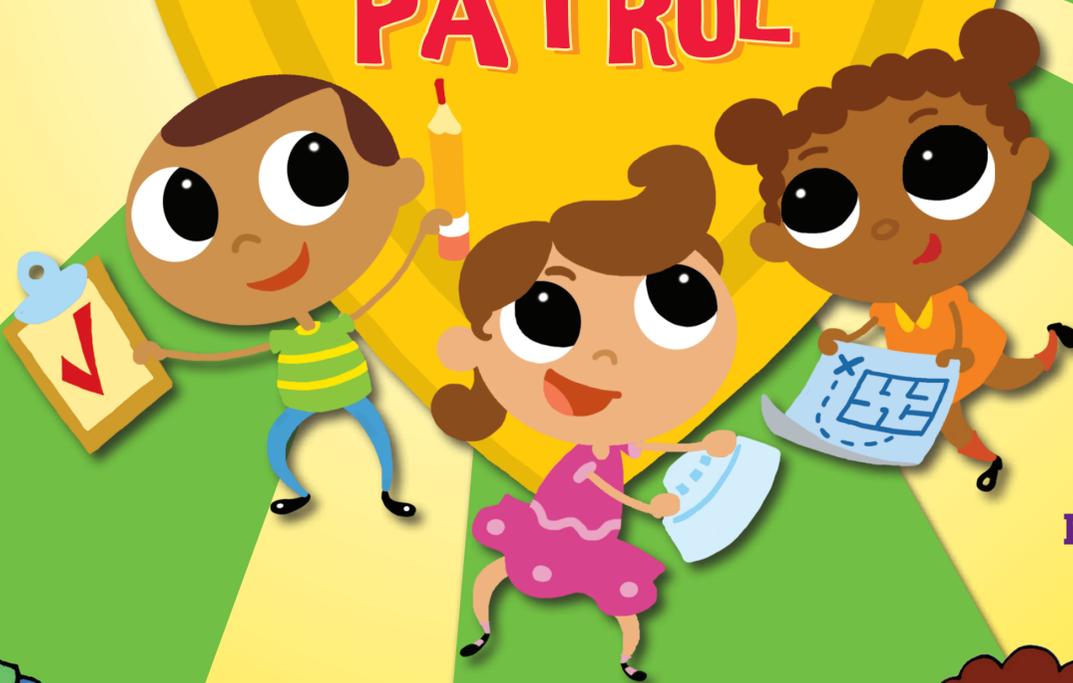
Here's What We Do!

Test our smoke alarms every month.



WE'RE PART of the HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL

Get new smoke alarms every 10 years.



Make a home escape plan and a map. Practice a fire drill with everyone who lives with us.

If the smoke alarm "chirps," change the battery or get a new smoke alarm.



Here's What We Know!

1. If a smoke alarm goes BEEP-BEEP-BEEP!... BEEP-BEEP-BEEP! it means there's smoke in your home and you need to get out fast!



2. Remember to GET LOW and GO if you have to escape near smoke!



3. Go to your outside meeting place right away! Don't stop to get anything—not even your favorite toy.



4. Call 9-1-1 or the fire department from outside your home. Never go back into a burning building!