



# Multigenerational homes

Addressing fire-safety challenges

October 24, 2018 | Megan Fitzgerald-McGowan | Program Coordinator

# It's a Big World...



# The NFPA Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem

## Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem Individual elements or “cogs”

Learn more about each component and the roles necessary to help maintain and promote a system to protect people and property against evolving safety threats.



Maintaining an effective policy and regulatory environment, supporting fire, electrical, building, and life safety.



Using the latest codes and standards developed by experts from across the world.



Applying all standards referenced (PDF) within the primary fire, life safety, building and electrical codes and standards.



Prioritizing safety across the board.



Promoting the development of skilled professionals to apply the codes and standards.



Supporting effective code enforcement.



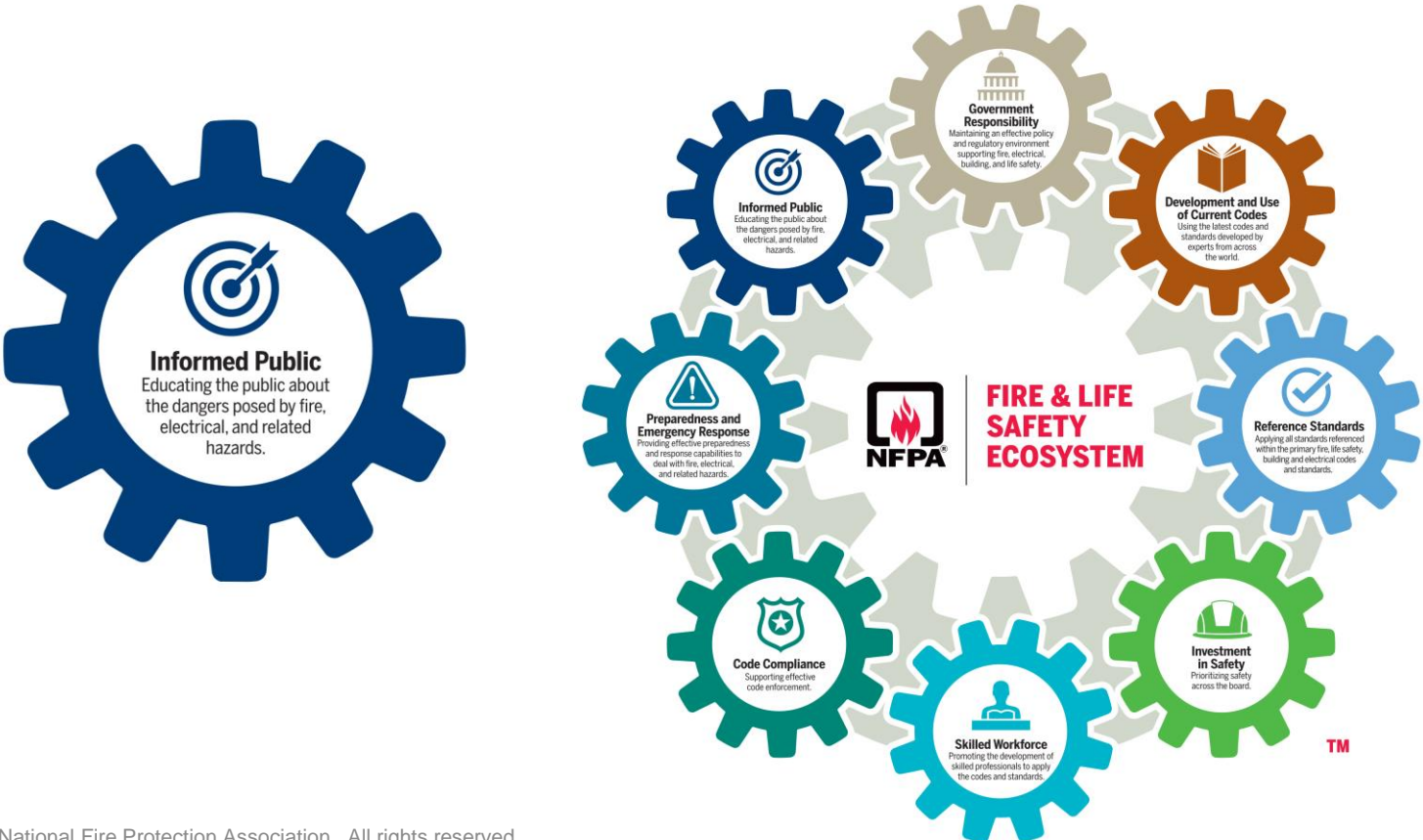
Providing effective preparedness and response capabilities to deal with fire, electrical, and related hazards.



Educating the public about the dangers posed by fire, electrical, and related hazards.



# The NFPA Fire & Life Safety Ecosystem



# Multigenerational homes

## Agenda

- The data
- The risks
- The resources



# Multigenerational homes



# Multigenerational homes

## Benefits

- Economics
- Shared responsibilities
- Support for care of family members



**NFPA Quick Facts on Fires and Falls in the Home**

MULTIGENERATIONAL HOUSEHOLDS are becoming more common. This living arrangement allows families of different generations to come together to face many challenges — raising children, caring for aging parents, and managing housing costs, job loss, and single parenting.

- There are about 4.2 million multigenerational households in the United States with children under 18, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This represents three percent of all U.S. households.<sup>1</sup>
- 65% of multigenerational homes include the head of household with a child and grandchild.
- 34% of multigenerational households include the head of household with a parent and child.

**Fires**

- There are roughly 360,000 home fires every year.
- Home fires kill roughly 2,500 people per year. In addition, nearly 13,000 fire injuries are reported each year.
- Seven people die in home fires every day.
- The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimates that three of every five home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years. They don't last forever.

**Falls**

- Unintentional falls are the leading cause of non-fatal injuries treated in hospital emergency departments for most age groups.
- More than 6 million adults age 25 and older and more than 1.5 million children under age 10 are treated in hospital emergency departments for unintentional fall injuries.
- Falls are the most common hazard leading to unintentional death for adults 65 and older, accounting for more than 20,000 deaths in a recent year.
- Many fall injuries to adults 65 and older are linked to stairs, ramps, landings or floors.

U.S. Census Multigenerational Households, 2007-2011. <http://www.census.gov/hhes/007002008/wh0801103.pdf>. Accessed August 5, 2016.

NFPA Home Structure Fires, September 2015. NFPA data includes intentional fires. <http://www.nfpa.org/research-and-reports/fire-statistics-and-reports/fire-statistics/home-structure-fires>. Accessed August 12, 2016.

NCDC Injury Prevention & Control Data & Statistics (WISQARS™) <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/>. Accessed August 12, 2016.

**— Fire Safety for Multigenerational Families Living Together —**  
NFPA • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169 • [www.nfpa.org/publication](http://www.nfpa.org/publication)



# Multigenerational homes

## Statistics

- Multi-family living situations are on the rise
- Doubled since 1980
- Increases the fire-safety challenge



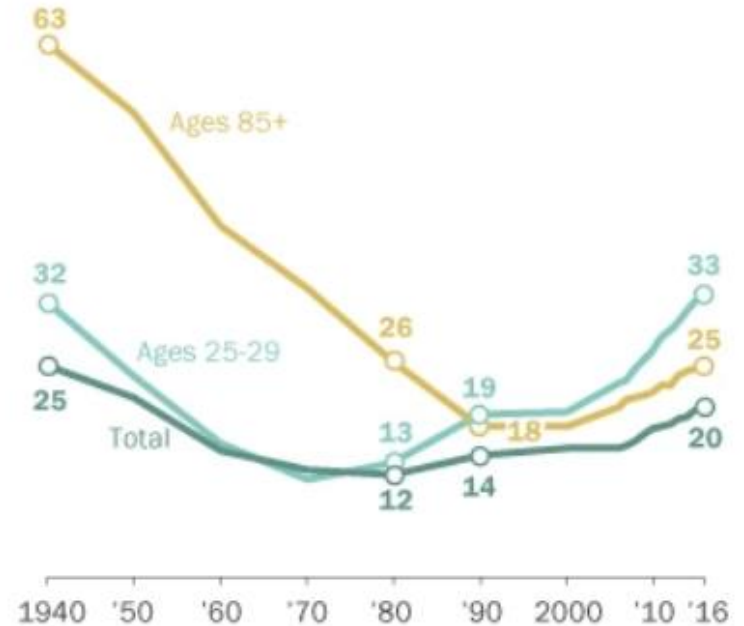
# Multigenerational homes

## Millennials



## Young adults most likely age group to live in a multigenerational household

*% of population in multigenerational households*



Note: Multigenerational households include at least two adult generations or grandparents and grandchildren younger than 25.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1940-2000 decennial censuses and 2006-2016 American Community Survey (IPUMS).



# Multigenerational homes

**Pinehurst** Single Story • 3,628 Sq. Ft. • 4 Bedrooms • 3.5 Bathrooms • 3-Bay Garage • Den/5th Bedroom



## Main Home

3,000 Square Feet  
3 Bedrooms  
2.5 Bathrooms  
2-Bay Garage

## Private Suite

628 Square Feet  
1 Bedrooms  
1 Bathrooms  
• Private Entrance  
• Kitchenette  
• Laundry  
• Living Area  
• 1-Bay Garage

Priced from the mid \$400s



# Multigenerational homes

## Snapshot

- Multigenerational homes may include:
  - older adults;
  - very young children;
  - people with disabilities.



# Multigenerational homes

## Risks

- Fires



- Falls



# Multigenerational homes

## Risks: fire

- There are 360,000 home fires every year leading to 2,500 deaths.
- Almost 13,000 fire injuries are reported each year.
- Seven people die in home fires every day.
- Three of five home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years. They don't last forever.



# Multigenerational homes

## Risks: falls

- Falls are the leading cause of non-fatal injuries treated in hospitals for most age groups.
- More than 6 million adults 25 and older, and more than 1.5 million children younger than 10, are treated in emergency departments for fall injuries. **EVERY YEAR?**
- Falls are the most common hazard leading to unintentional death for adults 65 and older.
- Many fall injuries are linked to stairs, ramps, landings or floors.



# Multigenerational homes

## Key messages

- Make sure your home has working smoke alarms on every level, inside each sleeping room, and outside each separate sleeping area. Interconnect the alarms so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Test alarms at least once a month by pressing each test button.
- Plan your home escape. Share the plan with family and guests.
- Smoke alarms may not wake up children. Older adults may not hear the alarm. Assign someone to help children, adults and people with disabilities escape.

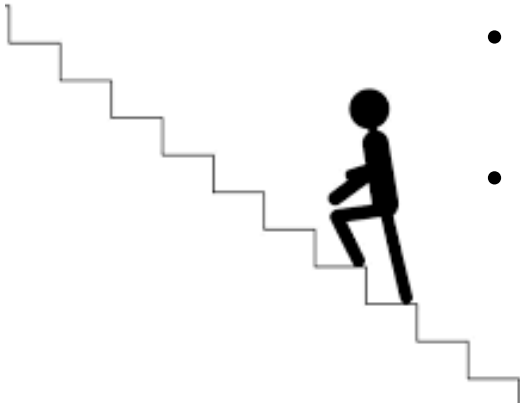




# Multigenerational homes

## Key messages

- Ensure your home has bright lighting in stairways to prevent falls.
- Remove clutter to prevent falls and allow for a quick escape.
- Install handrails along the full length of both sides of the stairs.
- The plan should include two ways out of every room, and an outside family meeting place.
- If there is a fire, get outside quickly and stay outside. Then call 9-1-1.



# RESOURCES

# Bring Awareness

## Who's at risk?

- Children under five and adults over 65 are vulnerable
- BUT . . .
- The risk of non-fatal injury from fire is highest for those between 20 and 49
- Therefore, fire-safety education is essential for everyone
- Additional risk factors: race; socio-economic status; education; location



# **FIRE SAFETY** MINUTE

## PLAN YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE!



**Kids**



# Community Toolkit

- Use the following resources from the NFPA and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to reach out to multigenerational families living together in your community.



# Program Components

## Talking about fire safety for multigenerational families living together

- Lesson plan – [10-minute lesson plan](#) (PDF) for adults living in a home with residents representing at least three generations.
- Fire safety for multigenerational families living together [safety tip sheet](#). (PDF)
- [Fast facts](#) (PDF) about fires and falls in the home.

# Customizable Media Resources

- Fill-in the blank news release: [\(TOWN/CITY\) Fire Department Encourages Multigenerational Households to Practice Fire Safety](#) (docx)
- Fill-in-the-blank Op/Ed: [Multigenerational housing](#) (docx)
- Fill-in-the-blank letters to the editor
  - [Multigenerational households becoming more common](#) (docx)
  - [Response to local multigenerational living fire incident](#) (docx)

# Multigenerational homes

## Infographics



### Fire Safety for Multigenerational Families



> There are about 4.3 million multigenerational households in the United States.  
 > Each year, there are about 360,000 home fires leading to roughly 2,500 deaths.\*  
 > Practice these simple steps to keep family members of all age groups safe. \*NFPA data

Create an escape plan.



Include everyone in the home in the plan.

Consider children, older adults and people with disabilities in the plan.



Practice your escape drill 2 times a year.

Have working smoke alarms.



Maintain bright lighting in the home.

Use alert devices to help family members who are deaf or hard of hearing.



Choose clear and safe exits. Keep pathways free from clutter.



### Seguridad Contra Incendios Para Familias Multigeneracionales



> Hay unos 4.3 millones de hogares multigeneracionales en Estados Unidos.  
 > Cada año, hay aproximadamente 360,000 incendios en viviendas que resultan en unas 2,500 muertes.\*  
 > Practique las sencillas medidas a continuación para mantener a familiares de todas las edades seguros. \*Fuente de datos

Prepare un plan de evacuación.



Incluya a todas las personas del hogar en el plan.

Considera a niños, ancianos y personas con discapacidad en el plan.



Practique el plan de evacuación 2 veces al año.

Have working smoke alarms.



Mantenga una buena iluminación en el hogar.

Use alert devices to help family members who are deaf or hard of hearing.





Choose clear and safe exits. Keep pathways free from clutter.



# Multigenerational homes

## 10 minute lesson plan



### Fire Safety for Multigenerational Families Living Together


## Lesson Plan

**Topic:** Escape Planning in the Multigenerational Home

**Audience:** Adults living in a home with residents representing at least three generations. Participants should have a basic understanding of home escape planning. If the content is new, consider teaching this lesson in a 30-minute block in order to cover foundational information about home escape planning.

**Lesson Objective:** By the end of the lesson, participants will be able to describe at least 5 considerations of an escape plan for a multi-generational home.

**Materials:** "Fire Safety for Multigenerational Families Living Together" tip sheet



**Step 1: Introduction (4 Minutes)**

Greet the participants and thank them for allowing you to speak for 10 minutes. Let them know you are happy to be there. Introduce yourself and share your connection to the community.

**HOOK:**


- Imagine that you have a chunk of free time and you want to plan the perfect night out with your loved one. Take a moment to think of what you would do on your perfect night out.
- Ask volunteers to share who they would spend the time with and what they would do.
- After a few volunteers have shared, let the group know they will be joined on their perfect night out by a 2-year old.
- Ask if their plans will change and if so, how? For example, would a quiet dinner at a swanky French restaurant still be a good fit?
- Now tell them an 80-year old relative will also join them on their perfect night out. Will the plans change further? How might a romantic walk on the beach with your toddler and elderly mother work out?
- Discuss participants' thoughts and ideas.
- Bring the discussion to a close with a statement about how having children or older adults along can bring us joy but still cause us to rethink our plans.
- The same thing should happen when we are planning for safety!

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### Escape Planning in the Multigenerational Home —

**Step 2: Body (5 minutes)**

- Briefly review home escape plan basics:
  - If the smoke alarm sounds, stop what you are doing and go outside.
  - Have two ways out of every room
  - Have an outside family meeting place
  - Practice the escape plan at least twice a year.
- Inform participants that it is very important to include everyone who lives in the home when creating the escape plan. They must consider everyone's needs — from the youngest to the oldest — when planning how to get out safely.
- Ask: What are some special considerations in a home escape plan if you have a young child or an older adult living with you?
- Discuss the responses and be sure the following points are covered:
  - Take action so everyone can escape quickly and safely:
    - Make sure your home has bright lighting in stairways to prevent falls.
    - Remove clutter to prevent trips and falls and a quick escape.
    - Install handrails along the full length of both sides of the stairs.
    - If you have escape ladders in the home, use them safely. Practice using the ladder from a first floor window. Make sure you can do it correctly and quickly. Children should only practice with an adult.
    - Practice the escape plan with everyone who lives in your home. Teach children how to escape on their own in case the adults cannot help them. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.
    - Smoke alarms may not wake up children. Older adults may not hear the smoke alarm. Assign someone to help children, older adults and people with disabilities escape.



**Step 3: Conclusion (1 minute)**

- Remind participants that it is important to make sure everyone's needs and abilities are considered when making an escape plan.
- Thank the participants for allowing you to speak to them for a short time.
- Hand out the "Fire Safety for Multigenerational Families Living Together" tip sheet for participants to take home.
- Share your contact information and encourage attendees to reach out with questions.

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# Multigenerational homes

## Fire safety tips

Smoke Alarms are Important

Practice your Fire Drill

Get Outside and Stay Outside

**Fire Safety for Multigenerational Families Living Together**

**Smoke Alarms are Important**

- Make sure your home has working smoke alarms. You need a smoke alarm on every level, inside each sleeping room, and outside each separate sleeping area. Interconnect the alarms so when one sounds, they all sound. Install both ionization and photoelectric alarms for best protection.
- Test your alarms at least once a month. Press each test button to make sure it is working.
- Be safe when testing alarms. Ask for help or stand on a sturdy stepstool or stepladder. Hold onto the handrail when reaching for the alarm to prevent falls.
- Everyone should know the sound of the smoke alarm. Make sure family members can hear the smoke alarm during the day and at night.

Install smoke alarms and alert devices to help family members who are deaf or hard of hearing. Alert devices, such as strobe lights, flash when the smoke alarm sounds. Pillow or bed shakers may be useful to wake a person who is sleeping. These shakers are triggered by the sound of the smoke alarm.

**Practice your Fire Drill**

- Plan your home escape. The plan should include two ways out of every room and an outside family meeting place.
- Make sure your home has bright lighting in stairways to prevent falls during a fire drill. Remove clutter to avoid trips and falls.
- Install handrails along the full length of both sides of the stairs.
- If you have escape ladders in the home, use them safely. Practice using the ladder from a first floor window. Make sure you can do it correctly and quickly. Children should only practice with an adult.
- Practice the escape plan with everyone who lives in your home. Teach children how to escape on their own in case the adults cannot help them. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire. Install interconnected smoke alarms in every sleeping room.
- Smoke alarms may not wake up children. Older adults may not hear the smoke alarm. Assign someone to help children, older adults and people with disabilities escape.

**Get Outside and Stay Outside**

If there is a fire, get outside quickly. Then call **9-1-1**.

If there is smoke, use your second way out. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke.

If you can't get to someone needing help, leave the home. Then call **9-1-1**. Tell the fire department where the person is located.

Teach children to wait for family members at the outside meeting place. Once outside, stay outside.

If you can't get outside call **9-1-1**. Let the fire department know you can't get outside. Wave a light-colored cloth or a flashlight from the window.

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# Multigenerational homes

## Media tools

- Campaign / outreach initiatives
  - Fill-in-the-blank news release
  - Fill-in-the-blank op-ed
  - Fill-in-the-blank letter to editor
- 1. [Multigenerational households becoming more common](#)
- 2. [Response to local multigenerational living fire incident](#)



# www.firepreventionweek.org



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## Teach Fire Safety

Introduce Fire Prevention Week to students and your community through fun, interactive lessons and activities for all ages.

**LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN.**  
Be aware.  
Fire can happen anywhere.

firepreventionweek.org

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

**Adult Mini-Lesson:**  
**LOOK**  
For places fire could happen and address the problems

**Audience:** Adults who would benefit from hands-on information about fire dangers.

**Lesson Objective:** By the end of the lesson, attendees will be able to identify places to look for fire dangers and ways to correct those dangers.

Adult Lesson: Look

**LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN.**  
Be aware.  
Fire can happen anywhere.

firepreventionweek.org

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

**Adult Mini-Lesson:**  
**LISTEN**  
Know the sound of the smoke alarm

**Audience:** Adults who would benefit from basic information about smoke alarms.

**Lesson Objective:** By the end of the lesson, attendees will be able to recognize the sound of a smoke alarm.

Adult Lesson: Listen

**LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN.**  
Be aware.  
Fire can happen anywhere.

firepreventionweek.org

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

**Adult Mini-Lesson:**  
**LEARN**  
Turn every exit of every room

**Audience:** Adults who would benefit from learning the importance of having fire escape out of every room.

**Lesson Objective:** By the end of the lesson, attendees will know the importance of having fire escapes out of every room.

Adult Lesson: Learn

**Look, listen and learn, with Sparky and Simon.**

Look for things people use and make the things that get hot in our world. The things that get hot can burn and hurt you.

Use energy smartly. Don't touch them.

Listen for the sound of a smoke alarm. A smoke alarm goes "BEEP BEEP."

Elementary School Lesson

**Mira, escucha y aprende con Sparky y Simon.**

Busca cosas dentro de casa que se calientan o que hacen calor. Las cosas calientes pueden quemarte y lastimarte.

Escucha el sonido del alarma de humo. El sonido que produce es un "BEEP BEEP."

Elementary School Lesson - Spanish

**LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN.**  
Be aware.  
Fire can happen anywhere.

firepreventionweek.org

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

**HOME FIRE SAFETY**  
Teach your safe preparing food for themselves and others in the home

**Audience:** 6th-8th graders.

**Lesson Objective:** By the end of the lesson, the audience will be able to:

- Recognize that cooking is the top cause for residential fire loss.
- Identify the safe order in the kitchen around hot appliances.

Middle School Lesson

**Find the Safety Words and Phrases**

C I E N T R E I T I L I X E  
A J N J P C R E S E R G E  
L I S T E N L X P S A E C  
L C T S P E L A C W T A  
9 O A I M S C N R A E L P  
I O L X R D T M K L R O S  
T K O E A E R S T Y L E W D  
G S O N L R I M T L T A E  
O A C O A A C R H W R N E  
O F I Z O M A A E O D D N  
L E F E C A L L F E W G S

Coloring Sheet

**How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan**

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Walk each room. Find the ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be far from your house. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your home has a building number that can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.

Escape Grid

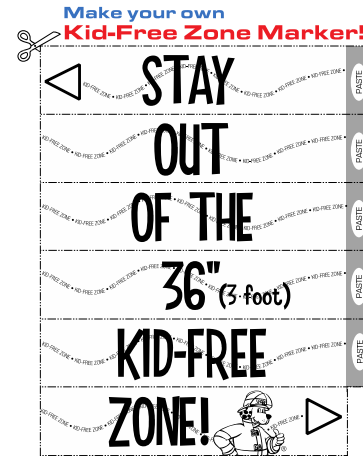
**Cómo realizar un plan de evacuación por incendio**

- Dibuja un mapa de tu hogar. Muestra todas las puertas y ventanas.
- Recorre cada habitación. Encuentra las salidas.
- Revisa las puertas y ventanas de cada una de las habitaciones. Deberían poder abrirse fácilmente.
- Asegúrate de que haya detectores de humo en tu hogar. Presiona el botón para asegurarte de que los detectores funcionan correctamente.
- Escoge un punto de encuentro en el exterior. Debería estar en un lugar donde sea fácil de ver desde el exterior.
- Asegúrate de que el número de su hogar se vea fácilmente desde la calle.
- Comparte el plan de evacuación con todos los integrantes de su hogar.
- Mantenga un número de emergencia de emergencia de emergencia.

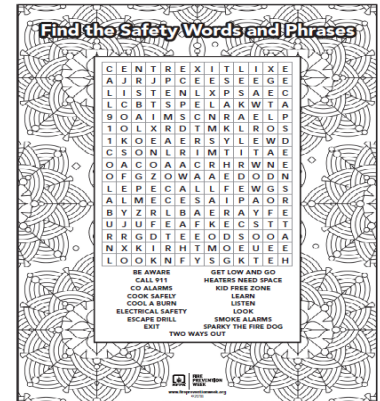
Escape Grid - Spanish

# Teach fire safety

- Elementary lesson plan - English and Spanish
- Escape grid – English and Spanish
- Adult lessons
- Middle-school lesson
- Coloring sheet with word search
- Kid-free zone activity



1. CUT ALONG ALL THE DASH-RED LINES (USE A GROWNUP FOR THIS STEP).  
2. USE GLUE TO PASTE THE RECTANGLES TOGETHER INTO A LINE.  
3. HAVE A GROWNUP HELP YOU MEASURE THE KID-FREE ZONE IN FRONT OF THE STOVE.



# Middle-school lesson

- Recognize that cooking is the No. 1 cause for residential home fires
- Identify fire safety risks in the kitchen around food preparation
- Determine which foods and snacks are less risky to prepare
- Brainstorm safe snacks



**HOME FIRE SAFETY**  
Teens who are preparing food for themselves and others in the home

**Audience:** Early adolescents

**Lesson Objective:** By the end of the lesson, the attendee will be able to:

- Recognize that cooking is the number one cause for residential home fires.
- Identify fire safety risks in the kitchen around food preparation.
- Determine which foods and snacks are less risky to prepare.

**Step 1: Introduction (5 minutes)**

- Introduce yourself, explain your connection to the community and your role with the fire department or agency.
- Establish the rules early to help connect with the young audience and manage the conversation.
- Let students know they should pay attention to the speaker at all times and be respectful during the lesson.
- Inform students that they can ask questions but they need to signal and be called on first.
- Let the classroom teacher know that you will need them to be present and assist as needed.

**HOOK:** Ask "How many of you are hungry when you get out of school at the end of the day?" Follow up with "Show me on your fingers on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being extremely hungry, how hungry you feel after school."

**Respond to the numbers you see and talk about the reasons adolescents feel so hungry after school (i.e., timeframe from lunch, busy schedules, growing bodies, etc.)**

**Step 2: Body (20 minutes)**

Ask students if they happen to know what the leading cause for residential home fires is. Share a few statistics and explain that many fires are caused from unattended cooking and poor judgement. (Review EMC Chapter on Cooking)

- Fire departments responded to an average of 466 home cooking fires per day.
- Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in these fires and in fire casualties.
- Ranges or cooktops accounted for the majority (63%) of home cooking fire incidents and an even larger share of deaths (87%) and injuries (80%).

Ask students if they can identify likely places in the kitchen where a fire may occur. List them on the board or flip paper. Explain that these fires can only be eliminated by eliminating the heat source.



**HOME FIRE SAFETY**  
Teens who are preparing food for themselves and others in the home (cont.)

Brainstorm safe snacks that could be prepared without using a heat source. List them on the board or flip chart. Share or exchange recipes or preparation of snacks that do not require using a heat source. Make suggestions on foods that will satisfy their hunger and taste good too.

Visit these websites for some suggestions:  
<https://www.superhealthykids.com/recipe-category/no-cook>  
<https://www.theorganicprepper.com/99-healthy-meals-and-snacks-for-people-who-cant-cook>

Be prepared to answer questions related to fires that may start with microwaves and other appliances. Consider addressing adolescents who have received safety training from a parent or babysitting certification.

**Step 3: Conclusion (3-5 minutes)**

- Review: Ask students to recall why the leading cause of home fires is cooking.
- Remind students that the only way to eliminate the chance of a cooking fire in the home, while they are home alone or in charge of other children, is to eliminate the heat source.
- Encourage students to practice and model safe behaviors for themselves and younger children.
- Thank students and teacher(s) for the time to come in and address this topic.

# Videos, games, and apps

- Videos for public education, and kids
- Free games and apps by age, reading level and device
- More about fire safety:

[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

[www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org)

[www.sparkyschoolhouse.org](http://www.sparkyschoolhouse.org)

Videos



[View All Videos](#)

Games & Apps



[View All Games & Apps](#)





# Tools for high-risk populations

- Older adults
- Rural fire safety
- People with disabilities
- Urban fire and life safety



## Free safety tip sheets



### Home safety for people with disabilities

There's no place like home. It is a place to relax, share laughs with family, and enjoy home cooked meals. But did you know that the majority of fire deaths occur in the home? Help everyone in the home stay safe from fire.

[Download the safety tip sheet.](#)



### Smoke alarms for people who are deaf or hard of hearing

Working smoke alarms save lives. However, people who are deaf or hard of hearing may not be able to depend on the traditional smoke alarm to alert them to a fire.

[Download the safety tip sheet.](#)



# Safety Tip Sheets





# Using NFPA's Content

## Materials available for copy & distribution:

- Safety tip sheets
- Community tool kits
- Education programs
- Lesson plans
- Educational Messages Desk Reference
- Home fire safety survey
- Teaching FPW
- Promoting FPW
- Sparky School House lesson plans

Materials used from the website must include the following attribution line  
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# QUESTIONS?



IT'S A BIG WORLD.  
LET'S PROTECT IT TOGETHER.

# THANK YOU!

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IT'S A BIG WORLD.  
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