



Washington State Patrol

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

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*****For Immediate Release*****

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Government and Media Relations

State Fire Marshal's Office
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Youth Fire Safety

Olympia – As the new school year starts, the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) urges educators and parents to teach children about fire safety and their responsibilities during a fire. It is vital for kids to recognize the hazards of fire and know how to react in an emergency. Last year in Washington State, nearly 8% of fire-related deaths involved children under age 10.

The SFMO suggests teaching children the following fire safety tips:

- Teach children not to play with items that can cause fires such as matches, lighters, candles, and cooking equipment.
- Establish a three-foot kid-free zone where fire and safety risks are present in the home such as in the kitchen, near a fireplace, and around space heaters.
- Let them hear the sound a smoke alarm makes and teach them to leave the building quickly and safely when they hear it.
- Discuss when to call 911 and what information to provide.
- Practice a fire escape plan twice a year with at least two exit pathways.
- Teach children that if there is a fire, they should go outside to the designated family meeting spot and stay outside.
- Let them know that hiding during a fire is not safe.
- Teach children that if there is smoke, they need to get low and crawl to the nearest exit.
- For children in the first grade and beyond, demonstrate to how to stop, drop, and roll and the importance of doing so if their clothes catch on fire.
- Inform children what to do during a fire drill at school, and to follow their teachers' instructions.

For more information, please contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3929.

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The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State. These services include public education, licensing and certification of the fire sprinkler, fireworks, and cigarette industries, data collection and analysis, fire and life safety inspections for state facilities, plan review of school construction projects, all-risk mobilization of statewide fire service resources, hazardous materials training, and the training and certification of firefighters.

www.wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office/