



Fire Safety is for Everyone

Fires happen -- anywhere and at anytime. Anyone can be involved in a fire. Would you and every member of your family, regardless of age, know what to do?

Riley Hospital for Children's Burn Care Unit is Indiana's only pediatric burn care center. Children who are severely burned are referred to Riley Hospital for Children for intensive care and rehabilitation. "Many of the children on our unit on a regular basis are under the age of five," says Kathy McGregor, RN, Clinical Manager for Riley Hospital's Burn Care Unit.

Fire Safety tips to get you started:

- Use a large piece of plain paper and draw your fire escape plan, so that it is easy for children to understand. Use drawings to show familiar items and rooms in your house.
- Draw each room of your house on the paper, including each level and rooms like the garage, laundry room, and basement.
- Involve your child. Have your child mark two exits (a door and a window) from each room. In a fire, one exit may be blocked so your child needs to know other options for escape.
- Identify a meeting place outside (and away from the structure) of your home for all family members to meet and mark this meeting place on your family's fire escape plan. Take a picture of your family's meeting place and tape it somewhere where your child will see the picture frequently. Stress to your child that once they get to the meeting place, they remain there until all family members have escaped. Take the time to talk to your child about not returning into the fire to retrieve a beloved toy or family pet.
- Have your child draw a path from each exit to the family meeting place. Practice crawling low in

smoke so that your child learns to remain low in smoke filled rooms to not breathe in poisonous fumes or gases. Urge your children to not hide under beds, in closets, or in bathtubs.

- Write the emergency phone number for your community on your fire escape plan.
- Identify a location for making an emergency phone call after all family members are at your meeting place.
- Post your family fire escape plan in a visible place.

Contact the Community Education Department at Riley Hospital for Children at 317-274-2964 (ph) or at 317-278-3221 (fax) for more information about fire safety planning for children with special health care needs or disabilities and for a single copy of a planning grid for making your family fire escape plan. For more information about children's health, wellness, and safety, check out www.rileyhospital.org and www.rileyforkids.org.