

# Survive Alive House

## FIRE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

Your child was at the Survive Alive House today on a field trip. During the field trip your student learned about fire safety and how to safely escape from a burning building. In addition to having working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors, we recommend owning a fire escape ladder for anyone who lives or sleeps above the first floor of a building.

### SMOKE DETECTORS

Smoke detectors can alert you of a fire in your home 24 hours a day. Every home should have at least one smoke detector on each level.

Smoke detectors are devices that can provide early warning of possible fires at a reasonable cost.

Smoke detectors should be tested once a month to make sure the batteries and circuits are in good operating condition.

Smoke detectors can only warn you of a possible fire if they are properly installed and have a working battery.

If you need a smoke detector and cannot afford one please call:

Milwaukee Fire Department

Smoke Detector Hotline

(414)286-8980

### CO DETECTORS

#### **WHAT IS CO?**

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that can be fatal with inhaled. CO inhibits the bloods capacity to carry oxygen.

#### **POSSIBLE SOURCES:**

CO can be produced when burning any fossil fuel. It can be produced by any fuel burning appliance that is malfunctioning, improperly installed, or not vented correctly.

Possible sources of CO include furnaces, gas ranges-stoves, gas clothes dryers, water heaters, portable fuel burning space heaters, fire places, wood burning stoves and certain swimming pool heaters. Blocked chimneys, back drafting, changes in air pressure, corroded or disconnected vent pipes, and a loose or cracked furnace exchanger can also cause CO. Vehicles and other combustion engines running in an attached garage or near a house or the use of a charcoal or gas grill in an enclosed area are also sources of CO.

CO detectors are small in size, can be powered by battery or plugged into the wall, depending on the style and manufacturer. CO detectors can be purchased from most local retail and hardware stores.

### FIRE ESCAPE LADDERS

Fire escape ladders are portable ladders that can be used in an emergency to escape a building if you live or sleep above the first floor.

Fire escape ladders are usually kept folded up in a box in your bedroom. Some models mount to the wall underneath the window. When you need to use the ladder, you hook the top of the ladder over the window sill and drop the rest out the window. They can be somewhat awkward to use, but they can save your life.

After purchasing the ladder, make sure it fits the specific window for which the ladder is intended. If the ladder is for a child's room, have the child practice putting the ladder out of the window. Then have them *practice* climbing out from a first floor window as part of a family fire drill.

