Fire Prevention Essay
September 12, 2007
Andrew Mayfield

It's Fire Prevention Week: Practice Your Escape Plan!

This is Fire Prevention Week, and families should be thinking about their safety in case of a fire. If there was a fire in your home, would you know how to escape?

Each member of a family, no matter how old or young they are, should know the fastest and most direct route out of the house. Adults in the house should map out the quickest ways out of the home for everyone who lives there. It may even be helpful to draw a floor plan of the house, along with arrows showing the exits in case of an emergency. These floor plans can even be posted inside various rooms of the house because sometimes, during emergencies, people can get disoriented.

Once everyone in the family is familiar with the escape routes, a household fire drill is a great idea. Families can pretend that there is a true fire emergency, just like we do in school, and exit the house just like we do in the school building. Families should always have a special meeting spot outside where everyone gathers during the fire drill or a true emergency, so that they know everyone is safe. A good meeting location might be your mailbox, if it is a safe distance from your house.

Someone also needs to remember to call 911 as soon as possible so that the fire department will be on its way.

Families should practice their fire drills and review safety procedures regularly. They also should ensure that their home has the correct number of fire detectors, and that their batteries are changed twice annually. When we set our clocks back in the fall and forward in the spring for Daylight Savings Time, this is a good time to change your batteries in the home's fire detectors.

By following steps such as these, and practicing basic household fire safety, families will be on their way to positive fire prevention.