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To: All Kansas Principals (Grades K-6)
From: Kelly Ingold, Public Education & Outreach Consultant
Date: September 22, 2016
Subject: 2016 Fire Safety Poster Contest

It is time to begin preparations for our annual Fire Safety Poster Contest! **Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15, 2016.** This year's theme for Fire Prevention Week from the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) is "Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years." Fire departments nationwide observe this week each year to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

It is crucial that our Kansas schools and fire departments use Fire Prevention Week to promote public awareness of fire prevention and fire safety, drawing special attention to the importance of working smoke alarms. Working smoke alarms save lives, cutting the risk of dying in a home fire in half. Smoke alarms should be installed and maintained in every home.

We encourage your school to initiate communication with your local fire department to help educate our Kansas children about fire safety. You can request they share a fire safety presentation with the students before the students participate in the poster contest. Enclosed you will find information on this year's Fire Safety Poster Contest including rules, deadlines and other information. We have included helpful links and videos on our website at <https://firemarshal.ks.gov> under the resources tab. If you have any questions about the contest, please contact Kelly Ingold at 785-291-3586 or kelly.ingold@ks.gov.

Posters will first be judged by local fire departments, and the winning local entries will then be submitted to the State Fire Marshal where **one** winner will be chosen for **each** category. However, if the school wants to simplify things, they can always send one winner per category to the fire departments, who can then choose one winner per category from their territory to send to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. All winners will be displayed in the State Capitol for a week in January. The statewide winners will be invited to meet the Governor and the State Fire Marshal and have their pictures taken in the Governor's office.

Thank you for all your cooperation in getting the fire safety messages out to your students and their families. We appreciate your support of our statewide programs. Keep up the great work!



Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office 2016 Poster Contest Guidelines

1. The poster contest is open to all students in **grades K-6th**. The contest will be divided into three categories: grades K-2, grades 3-4 and grades 5-6. We request the local fire department choose **one local winner per category** to submit to the OSFM (Office of the State Fire Marshal). First place local winners could win a ride to school in a fire truck if your department is willing to do so.
2. **Statewide winners** will get to meet the Governor and State Fire Marshal at the Capitol building. All winning posters will be displayed at the Capitol building for a week in January. The top 12 will be featured in the annual Kansas Fire Safety Calendar.
3. Posters must be original work of the students and must emphasize a fire safety message. All words should be spelled correctly and readable at a distance. Joint work is not allowed, all posters must be done by an individual.
4. Poster must be 11" WIDE by 8½" TALL (standard copy paper size), landscape orientation.
5. All entries **MUST** have the following attached on the back of the poster:
 - Student's name
 - Grade
 - School name
 - School address
 - Teacher name
 - Teacher email
 - Parent/Guardian email
 - Fire dept./contact person
 - Fire dept./contact email

To avoid disqualification for missing information, please feel free to copy, cut, and use the enclosed registration form on the back of the poster flyer or the included page of registration forms in this packet.

6. Fire departments must have their winning posters submitted to the State Fire Marshal's Office no later than **December 1, 2016**, to be considered for statewide judging. If a fire department has entries from multiple schools, the fire department will need to judge the posters locally to determine winners to advance to the state competition. The maximum number of posters a fire department can submit to the State Fire Marshal's Office is 3 (1 for each category).

Fire departments are welcome to use any timeline they choose, as long as final entries are submitted to the State Fire Marshal's Office by the December 1st deadline. Fire departments with entries from multiple schools will then need to judge the posters to determine **one** winner from each category to advance to the state competition.

Please submit copies of the poster entries electronically to the following email:
kelly.ingold@ks.gov

7. State winners per category will be announced by January 2, 2017.
8. If you have any questions, please visit our website at <http://firemarshal.ks.gov/postercontest> or email kelly.ingold@ks.gov or call her at 785-291-3586.

PS: October 15, 2016 marks the first-ever statewide **Home Fire Drill Day!** Please encourage students, families and everyone in your community to: 1) Test their smoke alarm, 2) Make a fire escape plan, and 3) Practice their plan (everyone out in less than 2 minutes!). I have included information on Home Fire Drill Day in this packet.



SHOW
what you know

about
FIRE SAFETY

POSTER CONTEST

Open to all
elementary students
all across Kansas!

Categories:

K-2nd * 3rd & 4th * 5th & 6th

Schools and local fire departments pick 1
winner from each category to submit to
the State Fire Marshal for final judging.

Statewide Winners...

- Meet the Governor and State Fire Marshal at the Capitol Building
- Winning posters and honorable mentions displayed at Capitol building for one week
- AND...the TOP 12 will be featured in the annual Kansas Fire Safety calendar!



Poster Contest Application



Contestant Name: _____

Grade: _____ School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Teacher Name & Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Fire Dept/Contact: _____

Fire Dept. Contact Email: _____

How to Enter:

- Following a fire safety presentation from your local fire department and/or school, design a poster that visually displays a key message of fire safety
- Complete the application and submit to be judged by school officials or the local fire department.
- Judges should select a single winner from each category (K-2, 3-4, 5-6)
- Winning posters should be scanned along with the application and sent in electronic format (.jpg or .pdf) to kelly.ingold@ks.gov.
- Statewide winners will be selected by the Office of the State Fire Marshal

Judging Criteria:

- Fire Safety Message
- Visual Appeal
- Originality

Deadline for Entries:

- Nov. 1: Posters submitted for local judging
- Dec. 1: Posters submitted to OSFM for final judging

Prizes:

- All winners and honorable mentions will be displayed for one week in the Capitol Rotunda
- Top 12 posters will be printed in the annual Kansas Fire Safety Calendar
- Winners in each category will meet the Governor and State Fire Marshal at the Capitol building



By submitting an entry to the Fire Safety Poster Contest, you give consent for the poster to be used for reproduction and you authorize the Office of the State Fire Marshal to use photos of the child and their poster for recognition and promotional purposes.

Request for Free Smoke Alarm Installation

The [your department name] Fire Department and the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office want every home to have working smoke alarms. Did you know that 82% of the fatal residential fires in our state last year happened in homes without a smoke alarm present or without a working smoke alarm?

The NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) recommends having smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside of each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Because sensing technology expires, all smoke alarms need to be replaced every 10 years. This includes alarms that are hard-wired into your home's electrical system.

If your home is in need of smoke alarms, please fill out the form below and return to your child's teacher. The [your department name] Fire Department will then contact you to set up a convenient time to install the free sealed 10-year lithium battery smoke alarm(s).

Student name: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Parent name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Number of levels in your home: _____ Number of sleeping rooms in the home: _____

Preferred time of day for installation: _____

October 15 HOME FIRE Drill Day

Get out your stopwatches, because it's time for a two-minute home fire drill. Home fires are more common than many parents realize, but only a fraction of families have an escape plan. Teach your kids what to do when a smoke alarm goes off in an emergency. Half of parents say their kids don't know what to do if their smoke alarm goes off, and even fewer families say they regularly practice a home fire drill.

October 15th is the day we take action and teach kids what to do when they hear a beeping smoke alarm.

First, **TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARM** by pressing the test button. Replace batteries if there is no alarm sounding. Then, **MAKE A PLAN** and **PRACTICE IT!**

MAKE A PLAN!

- Draw a floor plan for each floor of your home, including windows and doors. For each room, find two ways out, and label them on your plan.
- Designate one adult to help get babies, young children, or family members who need extra help out safely. Have a back-up plan in case the primary person is overcome by smoke, or is not home.
- Decide on a safe meeting place for your family. Make sure it is a safe distance away from the home.
- Teach your child to get low and crawl on the ground, where the air is less smoky.
- Show your child how to use the back of his hand to check doors for heat before opening. Teach them to use a different way out if the door is hot to the touch.
- Children can become scared and confused during emergencies, so teach them to never hide from firefighters.
- Teach children to NEVER go back inside a burning building. Once they are out, stay out!
- Explain that if they do catch fire, they need to stop, drop and roll.



Home Fire Escape Plan



Use the graph to draw your home's floor plan, and plot your home fire escape routes.

Tips for creating and practicing your escape plan:

- Everyone in your household should know *two ways* to escape from each room in your home.
- Decide where to meet once you get outside.
- If a fire starts, you may have just **two minutes** to get to safety. Time your fire drills and find out: what's your escape time?

- Smoke is dangerous. Practice crawling low to stay under the smoke.
- Teach household members what to do if their clothes catch fire: stop, drop and roll.

If a fire starts in your home, get out to safety, then dial 911. Or call your fire department's emergency phone number:

