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Dear Parent/ Guardian (s),

October is Fire Prevention Month. This year our focus is on Home Escape Planning. Unless we plan and practice Exit Drills, our concern is your child may not know how to react if there is an emergency in your home. We were able to secure use of a Fire Safety Trailer from the Honesdale Fire Department to assist us in ensuring that your child had the opportunity to practice an escape drill in a supervised situation.

You child was taught to:

- Recognize the sound of an activated smoke detector
- How to evacuate a smoke filled residence
- The importance of a safe meeting place
- The dangers of playing with matches/ lighters
- How to Dial 911 and report an Emergency
- Stop, Drop, and Roll

Smoke Detectors save lives, so it is important to recognize the need for working smoke detectors. Make sure the smoke detectors are operating by checking them once every month and changing the batteries twice every year, when you change your clocks. Without working smoke detectors you may not know when an evacuation of your home is needed. If you do not have working smoke detectors, Please contact your local fire department. They may be able to provide one to you.

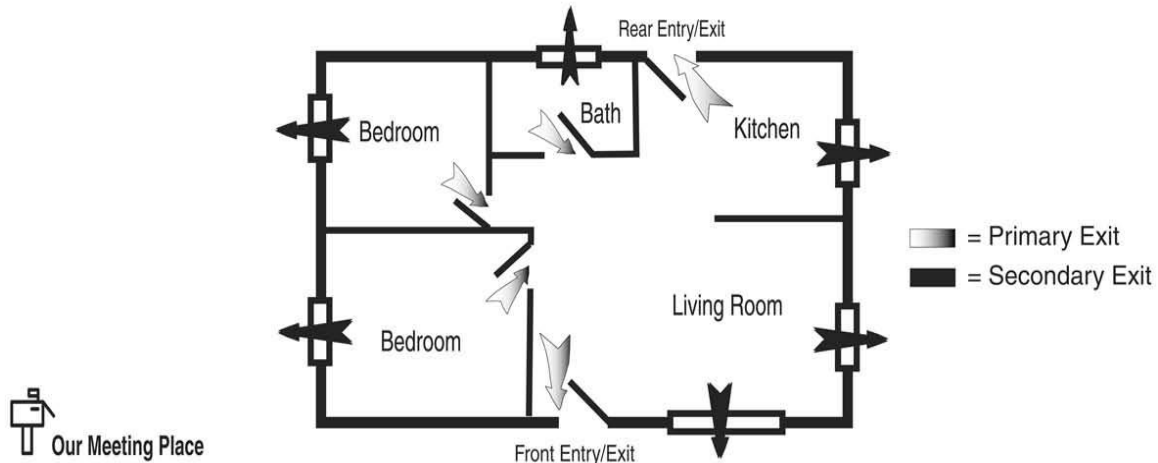
We sent your child home with some activities for you and child to work on. One of them is an escape plan for your home. Please take the time to make a home escape plan with your child. Each plan should have two ways for your child to exit your home and a safe meeting place where they can go and make sure that everyone is out of the house.

Thank you for your time and help,

*The Firefighters of the Carbondale Fire Department  
And the IAFF Local 1095*



## Home Fire Escape Worksheet



### PLAN

#### 1. Test Your Smoke Alarm Monthly!

Place smoke alarms on every level of your home, in bedrooms, and outside any other sleeping areas. Test your alarms as a family so every family member is familiar with the sound.

#### 2. Plan Two Ways Out of Every Room

Can you open windows easily? Can you reach the ground or do you need an escape ladder?

#### 3. Smoke Kills, So Crawl Low & Go!

Deadly smoke rises, so good air is usually 12 to 24 inches from the floor, therefore, it's important to stay low as you crawl out of the house.

#### 4. Plan to Call 9-1-1 from a Neighbor's House!

Plan to call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house. Make sure your children know the neighbor and feel comfortable going to them in the case of an emergency.

#### 5. Identify an Outside Meeting Place

Identify a fixed object outside your home (mailbox, tree, neighbor's driveway, etc.) as a meeting place where all family members agree to wait once they have escaped.

### PRACTICE

#### 1. Push the Test Button & Begin the Drill!

Place family members in rooms with doors closed, turn on the radio or TV to simulate real living conditions. Consider testing your alarm after children have been asleep for a few hours to see if they wake up!

#### 2. Use Both Ways Out of Every Room!

Practice both exit plans - primary and secondary. If a ladder is needed for escaping second floors, now is the time to practice using it - not during a real emergency!

#### 3. Get on your Knees and Start Crawling!

In a real fire, you may not be able to see well, so turn off the lights to really test your crawl low and go exiting skills! Did family members crawl low and find their way out?

#### 4. Simulate Calling 9-1-1 from the Neighbor's!

Did someone remember to go to the neighbor's house to simulate calling 9-1-1? Did they report back that they placed the call?

#### 5. Meet at the Meeting Place

Did everyone meet at the designated meeting place? If so, celebrate with a special family treat! If not, discuss what went wrong and how you can improve.