LLOYD AYERS
FIRE COMMISSIONER

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
FIRE DEPARTMENT

240 SPRING GARDEN STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19123-2991

(215) 686-1300
FAX: (215) 922-3952

September 29, 2008

Dear Fellow Philadelphian:

In 2007, forty-seven (47) of our neighbors died in fires in Philadelphia. An analysis of the data shows that the two (2) leading causes of accidental fire deaths last year were attributed to electrical causes and careless smoking.

Nothing is more important to the Philadelphia Fire Department than the safety of the citizens we are sworn to protect from the ravages of fire. I urge you to help the Philadelphia Fire Department put a stop to fires that are truly preventable by simply following a few easy suggestions. The Fire Department distributes a specially designed *"Home Fire Safety Check List"* based on the many things that you can do to make your home safer. We urge you to utilize this checklist. Each YES means you are helping to prevent a fire and possibly save a life.

Next you should plan and practice a home escape plan so you and your family can safely exit your home in the event of fire. Most importantly, every home should have *working smoke alarms on every level of the home* thereby providing you and your loved ones the early warning to implement your escape plan.

I encourage all Philadelphians to participate in the City Wide Home Fire Drill which will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 7:30 PM. Fire apparatus sirens throughout the city will sound in all neighborhoods indicating the start of the drill.

Please join us on Tuesday night in the fire drill and leave your home in a safe, expedient manner. Remember that working smoke alarms along with planning and practicing your home escape plan may mean the difference between life and death!

Sincerely,

Lloyd Ayers
Fire Commissioner

THE PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT'S

KIDZONE

www.pfdkidzone.com

Introduce your kids to Gentry, a real-life firefighter dog who helps the Philadelphia Fire Department in their fight against fires! Gentry and the KidZone crew teach kids about fire safety and prevention, helping them to create fire escape plans, check their homes for fire hazards, and more. There are tons of fun and cool games on the site that kids can play, including coloring pages, puzzles, action games, printouts, and more. Kids can even take a test to be a Junior Firefighter! There are educational resources and quizzes that teachers and parents can use to teach kids about fire safety in an interesting manner.

Philadelphia Fire Department
Home Fire Safety Checklist

PLAN TO GET OUT ALIVE	YES	NO
• Does your family have a "Home Fire Escape Plan" with a pre-determined location to meet outside?	☐	☐
• Do you have at least one smoke alarm on each floor of your home?	☐	☐
• Do you test your 9-volt operated smoke alarms weekly and replace the battery yearly?	☐	☐
• Do you test your 10-year lithium battery operated smoke alarms monthly?	☐	☐
PLAN TO BE FIRE SAFE		
• Do you always make sure that matches and smoking materials are out before disposing of them?	☐	☐
• Have you made "Take Smoking Outside the Home" a safety rule for your family?	☐	☐
Do you read the warning labels on all aerosol cans? + Some propellants are highly flammable	☐	☐
• If you have a family member in your home using oxygen is that person forbidden from smoking in the same room with oxygen equipment?	☐	☐
ELECTRICAL HAZARDS		
• Are there enough electrical outlets in each room to avoid the need for multiple attachment plugs and long extension cords?	☐	☐
• Do you have special circuits for heavy-duty appliances such as air conditioners?	☐	☐
• Do you frequently check extension cords & appliance cords for wear?	☐	☐
• Do you avoid draping extension cords & wire over pipes or nails?	☐	☐
HOUSEKEEPING HAZARDS		
• Do you keep your basement, closets & attic cleared of combustible materials?	☐	☐
• Do you keep paint, varnish & other metal containers tightly closed?	☐	☐
• Do you properly dispose of unwanted hazardous materials such as paint & varnish?	☐	☐
• Does everyone in your family know never to use gasoline or other flammable fluids for indoor cleaning?	☐	☐
HEATING & COOKING HAZARDS		
• Do you always turn off portable heaters when you go to bed?	☐	☐
• Do you always refill the fuel tank of your portable heaters outdoors?	☐	☐
• Do you make sure that every portable heater is a safe distance away from curtains, bedding & furniture?	☐	☐
• Are your kitchen stove, oven & boiler kept clean of grease?	☐	☐
• Are curtains near kitchen ranges and heating equipment arranged so that curtains do not blow over or near the stove?	☐	☐
• Do you make sure food is not left on the stove unattended?	☐	☐
• Do you turn pot handles inward from the edge of the stove?	☐	☐
SPECIAL FOR PARENTS		
• Do you keep matches & cigarette lighters out of children's reach?	☐	☐
• Do you leave a responsible person with your children when you go out (even for a short period of time)?	☐	☐
• Does your babysitter know what to do in case of a fire or medical emergency?	☐	☐
• Do you keep burning candles away from children & other combustibles?	☐	☐

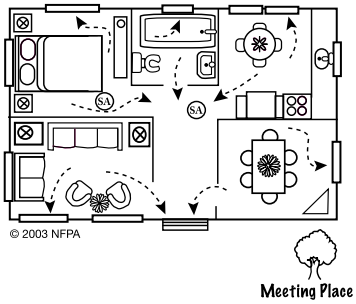
FOR FIRE OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY, DIAL 9-1-1
FOR SMOKE ALARMS - CALL: SMOKE ALARM HOTLINE 215-686-1176
FIRE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE: www.phila.gov/fire

Rev. 8-2008

Home Fire Escape Plan

Memorize your **fire department's emergency phone number** and write it here: _____

Use the space below to create your home fire escape plan.



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- Draw a floor plan or a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Mark two ways out of each room.
- Mark all of the smoke alarms with SA. Smoke alarms should be in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- Pick a family meeting place outside where everyone can meet.
- Remember, practice your plan at least twice a year!

Check out **www.sparky.org** for fire safety games and activities.

Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA.

Grown-ups: Children don't always awake when the smoke alarm sounds. Know what your child will do before a fire occurs. Get more information on smoke alarms and escape planning at **www.nfpa.org/factsheets.**