

TITLE OPERATIONS MANUAL	STANDARD INSTRUCTION 13		DEPARTMENT FIRE
SUBJECT COMMUNITY EDUCATION / PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER: TRAINING: SCHOOL VISITATIONS	SECTION 02	PAGE 1 of 5	EFFECTIVE DATE 07/01/01

XI. GRADE SCHOOL VISITATION PROGRAM

San Diego Fire & Life Safety Services has adopted a standardized approach for school visitations. This program will enable personnel to provide a consistent fire prevention message to students Kindergarten through Sixth Grade.

Requests from elementary schools for visits by engine companies are received by the Public Information Office. The request is then sent to the appropriate Deputy Chief for approval. After the approval has been returned, a Public Information Officer will fax the request to an engine company's Battalion Chief, who will sign the request and fax it to the engine company. Captains should schedule visits so as not to interfere with company operations. It is the responsibility of the Captain to confirm the visit with the requesting party after receiving the request.

Review the speaking points prior to each school visit. For detailed lesson plans and outlines contact the Public Information Office.

A. Level of Instruction: Kindergarten Through 2nd Grade

The attention span of this age group is two to three minutes. In a large class it may even be less. When possible, divide the class into smaller groups with each firefighter instructing the smaller groups about the main fire messages. When the individual group instruction is complete, reunite the class for the equipment demonstration. Make the equipment demonstration fun and fast moving without delay between pieces of equipment. Use the teacher and students for demonstration but do not place helmet on students head because of the weight. After equipment demonstration review key safety messages.

1. Key safety messages
 - a. Don't play with matches
 - 1) Discuss why students should never play with matches/lighters and how matches/lighters should only be used by adults (Tools vs Toys).
 - 2) Discuss what to do with matches found at home or school (don't touch, tell an adult).
 - b. Stop, Drop & Roll

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- 1) Discuss when and how to Stop, Drop & Roll. Demonstrate or have a student demonstrate the technique. Make sure they practice covering their faces as they practice Stop, Drop and Roll.

c. Crawl Low Under Smoke

- 1) Discuss or demonstrate if possible sound of smoke detector/alarm and what it means.
- 2) Discuss how smoke can be highly poisonous and how when the head is lower to the ground, the air is cooler and fresher.
- 3) Demonstrate or have the students demonstrate the crawl low under smoke technique. Technique: When there is smoke in the room, crawl on hands and knees to get below smoke. Whenever possible, crawl along the wall so you will not get lost or confused. Move away from the smoke and fire to a safe place outside.

d. Exit Drills

- 1) Stress the importance of making and practicing Exit Drills In the Home (EDITH) and at school.
- 2) Equipment demonstration (10 - 12 minutes)
 - a) Discuss how firefighters may look and sound different wearing their equipment.
 - b) Discuss how firefighters are helpers. Emphasize they should never hide under a bed or in the closet.
 - c) Don coat, helmet and breathing apparatus. At this point children may try on coat but not helmet because the weight on their necks has proven to cause injury.
 - d) Other equipment may be shown at your discretion and as time allows.
- 3) Review main points

B. Level of Instruction: 3rd Through 5th Grade

At this age group maintain the group as a whole. Give the fire safety lesson first, then proceed to equipment demonstration.

1. Review the fire safety messages from prior level:
 - a. Correct use of matches and lighters (Tools not toys)
 - b. Stop, Drop & Roll

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- c. Crawl low under smoke
2. Report an emergency using 9-1-1 system
 - a. What is an emergency?
 - b. Things to know
 - 1) address
 - 2) street at the corner (closest cross street)
 - 3) what is happening (fire or medical emergency)
 - 4) phone number
 - c. Prearrival instructions. Do not hang up until dispatcher gives you information on what to do before the units get there. The dispatcher will tell you when to hang up.
 - d. Remind students in case of fire to call 9-1-1 when safely out of the house.
3. Escape from a fire at school
 - a. Discuss the importance of an escape plan at school
 - b. Review school escape plan/fire drills etc.
 - c. Emphasize taking every fire alarm seriously.
4. Escape from fire at home
 - a. Discuss the importance of a making and practicing, at least twice a year, a home fire escape plan.
 - b. Discuss important elements of a home fire escape plan:
 - 1) Place smoke detectors on each level outside sleeping areas.
 - 2) Two ways out of each room.
 - 3) Pre-arranged meeting place outside home.
 - c. What to do if there is a fire in the home.
 - 1) Recognize sound of smoke detectors.
 - 2) Feel doors for heat.
 - 3) Crawl low under smoke away from fire to a safe meeting place outside. (See technique above.)
 - 4) Call 9-1-1 when outside of house.
 - 5) Never reenter a burning building.
5. Equipment Demonstration
6. Job of a Firefighter

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- a. What a firefighter does each day.
- b. Preparation to become a firefighter.

C. Level of Instruction: 6th Through 8th Grade

Students at this age should already know basic fire safety. Review key safety messages emphasizing age appropriate significance: Stop, Drop & Roll (not just for kids); Crawl low under smoke; School fire drills; home escape plans; using the 9-1-1 system to report an emergency.

1. Home Fire and Burn Hazards

- a. Smoking
 - 1) Smokers should use large deep ashtrays to extinguish smoking materials.
 - 2) Never smoke in bed or when drowsy.
 - 3) Matches and lighters should be kept up high out of sight and reach of children.
- b. Electrical hazards
 - 1) Do not overload electrical outlets
 - 2) Do not use frayed or cracked electrical cords
 - 3) Electrical cords should not run under carpets or across heavy traffic areas.
 - 4) Unplug portable heating devices after each use.
 - 5) Keep all combustible materials three feet away from portable heaters.
- c. Kitchen fire safety
 - 1) Keep things that burn away from heat on stove such as towels and pot holders.
 - 2) Do not leave food cooking on the stove unattended.
 - 3) Turn handles of pots and pans toward back of stove so they will not be knocked over by smaller children.
 - 4) If a small grease fire starts in a pan: turn off burner, slide lid over pan.
 - 5) Never throw water on grease or electrical fire.
 - 6) Do not pick up burning pan and place it in sink.
 - 7) Call 9-1-1 even if it's a small fire.
- d. Heating safety

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- 1) Keep combustibles, small children, and pets three feet away from portable heating devices.
 - 2) Do not place anything on top of or near floor furnace.
 - 3) Use a screen in front of fireplace.
2. Review key fire safety messages
 3. Discuss career opportunities in the fire service
 - a. Job of a firefighter
 - b. Preparation needed to become a firefighter
 - c. Cadet program