

# FIRE SAFETY FACTS

## JASPER SCHOOL DISTRICT

### NUMBER OF FIRE DEATHS STILL TOO HIGH

March Newsletter

Have you watched the news lately? It seems as if every week there is another fire related death. Thousands of people die every year in residential fires, in nearly two-thirds of those fires there was no functioning smoke alarm in the home! Regardless of the cause of the fires, everyone needs to know how to respond in case of fire:

- Install a smoke alarm on every floor of your home. Check the batteries often and change them twice a year. Try Christmas and 4th of July or Time Changes as reminders.
- Keep fire extinguishers where they are most likely to be needed and remember they do have expiration dates. Know HOW to use one before you need it!!!
- Always keep space heaters away from curtains and other flammable materials like bedding or upholstery.
- Install fireboards or guards around fireplaces, radiators, pipes, and wood burning stoves.
- Keep matches away from children.
- Have at least two escape routes planned from all locations in your home or work area.
- PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE escape routes with your family. Try doing this on your knees, crawling, and with your eyes closed. Because that is what it will be like in a fire.
- Check door temperatures before opening them and make sure windows open so you can use them to

escape.

- Make sure that all exits are free of clutter and any obstructions.
- Have a place to meet up after getting out. Count heads make sure everyone is accounted for.
- Never go back in a burning home for personal belongings. You are not replaceable!!!

Take the time to make some or all of these preparations a reality. The life you save could be someone you love.

#### Current facts

- There are approximately 374,000 homefires each year.
- 2,600 annual deaths and 12,975 fire related injuries.
- Causes for home fires:

56% cooking

16% heating

9% electrical malfunction

8% carelessness

5% open flames eg. Cigarettes and candles

5% intentional/arson

