



State of New Hampshire
Office of the State Fire Marshal



SAFETY EDUCATOR

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Window Safety in Your Home



From the moment our babies start to crawl, the world is a magical place filled with new adventures and discoveries. As parents we want to create an environment where kids have the freedom to explore, discover and have fun. That means taking a few precautions around the house to minimize the risk of serious injuries.

The National Safety Council designated the first week in April as Window Safety Week. As the great spring weather here in New Hampshire arrives we tend to have our windows open more frequently. Take this as the perfect opportunity to check your window situation. Here are few things to think about so those expeditions around the house continue to be fun and safe.

♥ **Install Window Guards and Stops.** Screens are meant to keep bugs out, not children in. Properly installed window guards prevent unintentional window falls. For windows above the first floor, include an emergency release device in case of fire. Window stops are also a great idea. They allow fresh air and a cross breeze and still ensure windows can't open wide enough for kids to fall out.

♥ **Open Windows from the Top and Close After Use.** If you have windows that can open from both top and bottom, make a habit of opening just the top to prevent accidental falls. Keep in mind that as kids grow, they may have enough strength, dexterity and curiosity to open the bottom so try to keep windows locked and closed when they are not being used.

♥ **Keep Kids From Climbing Near Windows.** For your crawlers and climbers, move chairs, cribs and other furniture away from windows to help prevent window falls. Never move a child who appears to be seriously injured after a fall — call 911 and let trained medical personnel move the child with proper precautions.



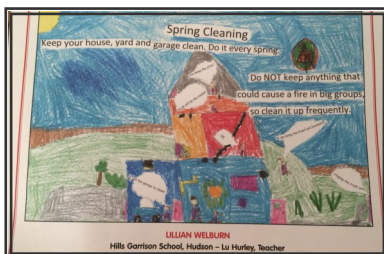
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►► Learn More: [* SafeKids.Org](http://SafeKids.Org)

[* National Safety Council](http://NationalSafetyCouncil.org)

April: Spring Cleaning: Yard, House & Garage ~Lillian Welburn



Lillian Welburn of Hills Garrison School in Hudson, NH would like to remind everyone about the importance of how to keep safe while we start our Spring Cleaning:

1. Keep your house, yard and garage clean. Do it every Spring.
2. In the yard, do not keep anything that could cause fire in big groups. Clean it up frequently.

Excellent reminders **Lillian**, we thank you very much for helping us spread these important safety rules!



A **PLACE OF ASSEMBLY** is a structure built for people to gather together for civic, social, or religious functions. These include: theaters, dance halls, nightclubs, restaurants, exhibition halls, and places of worship.



Safety in Places of Assembly

With Spring comes the excitement of getting together at social events including Dance Recitals, Theatrical Productions and Graduations to name a few. Unfortunately every so often the unexpected happens: an earthquake, a fire, a chemical spill, an act of terrorism or some other disaster. We all should have our "Emergency Plans" established for the home; however these do not work when we are away from home. As we enter any public assembly building we need to take a minute to prepare ourselves, our family and friends in case of an emergency.

BEFORE YOU ENTER:

***Take a good look.** Does the building appear to be in a condition that makes you feel comfortable? Is the main entrance wide and does it open outward to allow easy exit? Is the outside area clear of materials stored against the building or blocking exits?

***Have a communication plan.** Identify a relative or friend to contact in case of an emergency and you are separated from family or friends.

***Plan a meeting place.** Pick a meeting place outside to meet family or friends with whom you are attending the function. If there is an emergency, be sure to meet them there.

WHEN YOU ENTER:

***Take a good look around.** Whenever you enter a building you should look for all available exits. Exits may be in front and in back of you. Be prepared by sharing this with others with you so that you all use the closest exit as you may not be able to use the main exit you entered from.

***Check for clear exit paths.** Make sure the aisles are wide enough and not obstructed by chairs or furniture. Check to make sure your exit door is not blocked or chained. If there are not at least two exits or exit paths clear report this violation to the management and leave the building if this is not immediately addressed. Contact your local fire department should you continue to have concerns.

***Do you feel Safe?** Does the building appear to be overcrowded? Are there fire sources such as candles burning, pyrotechnics, or other heat sources that may make you feel unsafe? Are there safety systems in place like alternative exits, sprinklers, and smoke alarms? Ask the management for clarification on your concerns. If you do not feel safe, leave the building.

ACTIVITY: Involve young children in creating an Exit Strategy whenever you are away from home. Begin by asking children to point to the way you entered the building. Now play "I Spy" by having them 'spy out' other ways to Exit the building should a door not be available. During this time, be sure to create a meeting spot that is safe and away from the building.

SHOULD AN EMERGENCY OCCUR:

React Immediately. If an alarm sounds, you see smoke or fire, or some other unusual disturbance immediately exit the building in an orderly fashion.

Get out Stay out! Just like at home, once you get out, stay out of. Under no circumstances should anyone ever go back into a burning building. Let trained firefighters conduct the rescue operations.

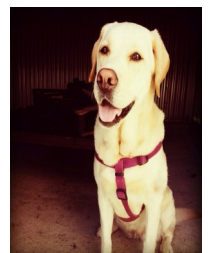
►► [Watch this VIDEO and Learn More](#)



SAFE KIDS 500 at the NH Speedway Wednesday, May 6, 2015 5:30-7:30

Join **Safe Kids NH** for free bike and helmet safety checks and ride your bike on the same track used by some of your favorite NASCAR stars! This year there will also be a demonstration on the use of Accelerant Detection Canines by the NH State Fire Marshal's Office and Manchester Fire Department. We look forward to seeing you there!

For More information: call (877) 783-0432 or email: IPC@Dartmouth.edu



K9 Molly



Clean Your Dryer to Prevent Fire



Did you know that the leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them? Follow these few tips to prevent a dryer fire from happening in your home.

Clothes Dryer Do's:

- Have your clothes dryer installed by a professional.
- Clean the lint filter before and after each load of laundry. Don't forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up.
- Clean lint out of the vent pipe every three months.
- Inspect the venting system behind the dryer to ensure it is not damaged or restricted.
- Put a covering on outside wall dampers to keep out rain, snow and dirt.
- Make sure the outdoor vent covering opens when the dryer is on.
- Have your dryer cleaned regularly by a professional, especially if it is taking longer than normal for clothes to dry.
- Have gas-powered dryers inspected every year by a professional to ensure that the gas line and connection are together and free of leaks.
- Check regularly to make sure nests of small animals and insects are not blocking the outside vent.
- Keep the area around the clothes dryer free of items that can burn.
- If you will be away from home for an extended time, unplug or disconnect the dryer.

Clothes Dryer Don'ts:

- Don't overload the dryer.
- Don't dry anything containing foam, rubber or plastic. Ex: A bathroom rug with a rubber backing.
- Don't dry items that have come into contact with anything flammable like alcohol, cooking oils or gasoline. Dry them outdoors or in a well-ventilated room, away from heat.

►► LEARN MORE



Microwave Safety



Spring is here and so is the busy family schedule as we run here and there with all the fun outdoor activities. With busy lives, families rely on the microwave oven as a quick way to heat up a meal, warm up a drink or defrost dinner. While the convenience of the microwave oven is something we take for granted, safety should not be. By following a few simple safety tips you can prevent painful burns and possible fires.

- PURCHASE a microwave oven that has the label of an independent testing laboratory. Make sure to complete and return the product registration card. This way the manufacturer can reach you if there is a recall on the product.
- PLUG the microwave oven directly into the wall outlet — never use an extension cord.
- MAKE sure the microwave oven is at a safe height, within easy reach of all users.
- OPEN food slowly, away from the face. Hot steam or the food itself can cause burns.
- FOOD heats unevenly in microwave ovens. Stir and test before eating or giving to children.
- NEVER heat a baby bottle in the microwave. Since a microwave oven heats unevenly, it can create hot pockets, leading to burns. Warm a bottle in a bowl of warm — not hot or boiling.
- Always supervise older children when they are using a microwave oven.
- Avoid letting young children use the microwave oven.
- Use only microwave-safe food containers or dishes. Never use aluminum foil or metal in a microwave oven.
- If you have a fire in the microwave, leave the door closed, turn the oven off and unplug it from the wall. If the fire does not go out, get outside and call the fire department.

►►► Learn More

Learn More Information on how to keep your Home Safe as you Spring Clean:

► Garage Safety



► Electrical Safety



► Chemical Safety in the Home



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Safety Educator

As we begin to enjoy the arrival of Spring it is important that we take the time to ensure that our home and family is kept safe. This edition of the Safety Educator contains a variety of very important topics including:

- Window Safety
- Emergency Awareness and Preparedness in Places of Assembly
- Spring clean your dryer vents
- Microwave safety.

Please take a moment to read over these important safety messages. Share them with members of your household and see what you can do to increase your fire and life safety skills and habits. **Please have your escape plan made with at least two ways out and practice it as your life depends on it!** Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the NH State Fire Marshal's Office. Enjoy the arrival of Spring!

J. William Degnan
NH State Fire Marshal

We're on the Web!
www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/



Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:

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Kids Can Be Firefighters Too!

April 2015 Safety Educator Website Special Feature:

Celebrate the month of April with Firefighter Dayna and her dog Molly. Together they love keeping kids and their caregivers safe!



Click on photo or link below to visit other Kid Friendly and Parent/Educator Approved websites:



DangerRangers.com



Smokeybear.com/kids



sparky.org



firefighterdayna.com



ready.gov/kids