

When you think of a fire, especially at this time of year, we think of cozy, warm and useful. That is exactly what it is when in control, but when out of control it is extremely dangerous and spreads quickly.

Safe Kids Davis County and North Davis Fire District have come together to remind families to take active measures to prevent fires in the home. Approximately 80 percent of all fire-related deaths and injuries occur in the home, and young children are at a particularly high risk because they don't perceive danger as readily and can lack the ability to escape a life-threatening fire situation.

"As part of this initiative, upon request and qualification families that live in the North Davis Fire District, which includes Clearfield and West Point, can receive a smoke/CO detector and have firefighters help install it in their home," reported Chris Tremea, Captain with the N. Davis Fire District. "We will also be out in the schools reminding students about fire safety including what to do in a fire and how to escape." For smoke/CO detector qualification information contact Captain Tremea at 801-525-2850.

There are a variety of precautions you can take to prevent injuries from a fire. "Having a working smoke alarm reduces a person's chances of dying in a fire by nearly half," said Teresa Smith Safe Kids Davis County Coordinator. "We recommend that all parents and caregivers make sure they have working smoke alarms in the home and that kids know what to do when they hear the alarm. Installing these important safety devices could save the life of a loved one in case of an emergency."

Some important fire and burn safety tips for parents include:

- Keep matches, gasoline, lighters and all other flammable materials locked away, out of children's reach.
- Keep children three giant steps away from cooking and heating appliances, and never leave the kitchen while you are cooking. Use back burners and turn pot handles to the back of the stove when cooking.
- Have a fire escape plan. Make sure children understand the plan and what to do when they hear the smoke alarm.
- Place space heaters at least 3 feet from curtains, papers, furniture and other flammable materials. Always turn space heaters and other appliances off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of the home, outside every sleeping area and in each bedroom. Test alarms every month and change the batteries once a year, even if they are hard-wired. Smoke alarms are also available with 10-year lithium batteries.
- Consider a home sprinkler system. The combination of smoke alarms and sprinklers can reduce your chances of dying in a fire by 82 percent.

The Davis County Health Department is the proud lead agency of Safe Kids Davis County and is happy to support community partnerships like this with N. Davis Fire," said Lewis Garrett, Director of the Davis County Health Department.