

SPARK AWARENESS

GET DOWN LOW AND GO! GO! GO! STOP, DROP AND ROLL!

By Briar Jensen

conclude their indoor presentation by teaching various safety techniques, which the children have great fun practising.

The firefighters then take the children outside to look over the fire truck and equipment it carries. The children are allowed to become 'firefighters' themselves, wearing real

firefighter's clothes, and holding and starting the fire hose while the supervising firefighter try valiantly to ensure onlookers are not doused!

The visit ends with the handing out of 'Fire Safety Activity Books' to the children and information pamphlets to their parents. Those children who remember their newly learnt fire safety skills receive a small reward from 'Bernie Cinders'. Squeals of delight are usually heard from the children as the fire truck turns on its siren in farewell.

Even if your children do not have the benefit of a personal visit from the Fire

Brigade, it is very important that fire and its hazards are discussed with children in the home. Even very small children can learn simple procedures that can save their lives.

The NSW Fire Brigades recommend the following safety tips:

Pre-planning

- Get your family together and discuss how everyone can get outside the home safely in the event of a fire
- Plan two or more escape routes from every room
- Decide on a meeting place outside the home
- Install smoke alarms. Ensure that everyone knows what they sound like

In the event of a fire

- If you see flames or smoke, yell loudly 'FIRE' to warn everybody
- If the room is smoky, GET DOWN LOW AND GO! GO! GO! Smoke rises, so by dropping to the floor and crawling it is possible to stay under the smoke.
- Feel closed doors, If they feel hot, do

not open them - the fire is on the other side. Find another way out, call for help or wait at the window for the Fire Brigade. Don't hide.

- If your clothes or hair catch fire, cover your face with your hands and STOP, DROP AND ROLL until the fire has gone out.
- Purchase a fire blanket and extinguishers and teach older children how to use them
- Teach children how to dial the emergency number 000 and ask for the Fire Brigade. Teach them their address (street number and name, and suburb) so they can give it over the phone.

FIRE FACT

In NSW, for the year 1996-97, 2032 fires were attributed to children's misuse of fire. This accounted for approximately 7% of all fire calls attended by NSW Fire Brigades. If everyone took the simple precaution of keep matches and lighters away from children, many of our fires, including fatal ones, could be prevented.

FIRE BRIGADE VISITS

NSW Fire Brigades will visit groups, such as playgroups, schools, kindergartens etc. They will visit any size (organised) group of people. There is no minimum number. If you would like to organise a visit, contact the NSW Fire Brigades' Public Relations Office on 9265 2908. They will then organise a visit from your closest Brigade.



courtesy of the NSW Fire Brigades

The heading indicates the sorts of lessons which can be learned by children when the Fire Brigade visits their kindergarten or school.

Firefighter 'Bernie Cinders' and fellow firefighters will arrive in their fire truck to visit any small group of children, as part of the NSW Fire Brigades' 'Community Awareness Program'.

The firefighters discuss with the children the differences between good and bad fires and the dangers posed by fires. They