

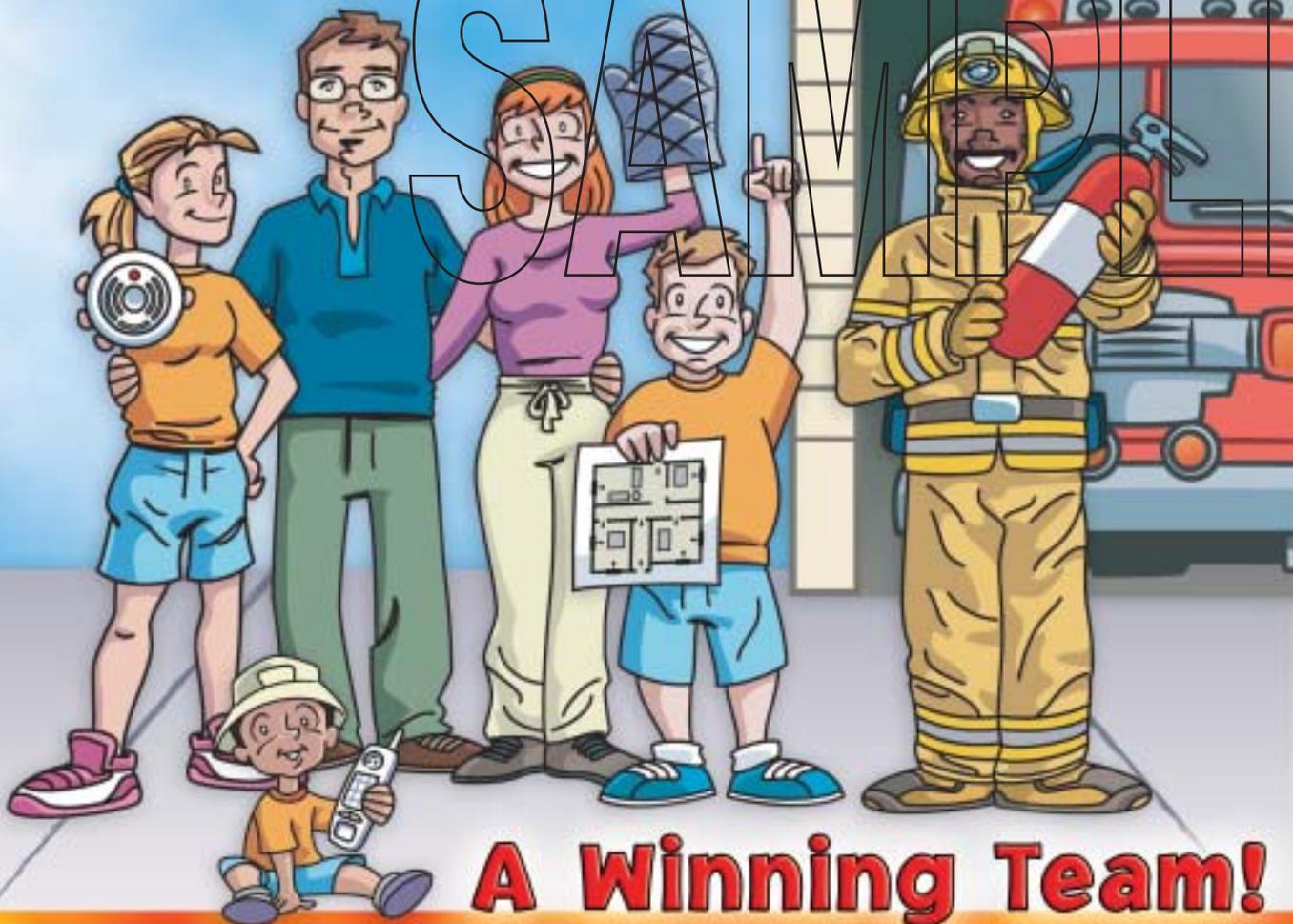
You and Your Fire Department

Fire is a deadly opponent. Thousands of lives are lost each year, and billions of dollars in damage occur in house fires. Still, many families are not prepared to prevent or to respond to a fire. Fires are faster, darker, and hotter than you might think. Learn in advance how to survive.

Solid fire prevention puts you on the same team with your fire department, and that's a winning team. Take the time to learn about fire safety and put some prevention measures in place. You will dramatically decrease the chances of having a fire in your home.

Don't face a fire unprepared. Get your home team ready to escape a house fire unharmed. Plus, get your house in shape to be fire-resistant.

This pamphlet has a number of important fire safety tips. Your local fire department may have additional ideas for you. Team up with them to stay safe.



A Winning Team!

Escape as a Team

Know how to get your family out of a burning house in a hurry.

- Make a map of your home showing two ways out of each room and a safe meeting place outdoors.
- Practice your plan twice or more per year.
- Crawl with your head below the smoke.
- Test doors for heat. If hot, use a backup exit.
- Stop, drop, and roll if clothes catch fire.
- Never go back into a burning building for any reason.

Team Up For FIRE SAFETY



Danger Areas in the Home

Most house fires can be prevented. There are simple things you can do as a family to limit the risk of fire. Most home fires are caused by: smoking, kitchen accidents, heating systems, or electrical problems.

If Anyone Smokes:

- Use heavy, hard-to-tip ashtrays. Empty them often, when contents are cool.
- Avoid smoking in bedrooms and never smoke in bed.
- Avoid smoking when sleepy or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.



SAFETY

Smoke Alarms:

The sooner you are aware of a fire, the sooner you can escape. Working smoke alarms cut your chances of dying in a house fire in half!

Place one smoke alarm on every floor of your home, plus one in or near each bedroom. Smoke rises, so try to install alarms on the ceiling—4 to 12 inches from the wall. If you have very high ceilings, install alarms high on the walls (at least 4 to 12 inches from the ceiling). Make sure you can safely reach the alarms to test them. Alarms should be 3 feet or more from windows or air ducts.

Stay safe by following these smoke alarm tips.

- Test smoke alarms monthly.
- Replace alarms' batteries twice a year.
- Never "borrow" the battery from the smoke alarm for another use.
- If cooking or steam causes a false alarm, fan the fumes away and open a window. Never remove the battery.
- Use a vacuum cleaner to remove dust from smoke alarms.
- Replace your smoke alarms every 7 to 10 years.



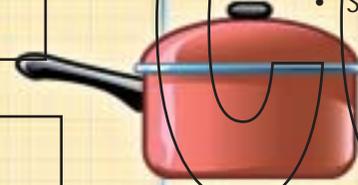
Heating Systems:

- Have your furnace and fireplaces inspected annually.
- Inspect space heaters for wear and tear, especially cords, connectors, and valves.
- Keep combustibles at least 3 feet away from space heaters or fireplaces.
- Use space heaters only when you are awake.
- Use metal or glass fire screens on fireplaces.
- Burn only seasoned firewood in fireplaces.



In the Kitchen:

- Keep appliances clear of grease, food debris, dishtowels, packaging, and other flammables.
- Never leave cooking food unattended.
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Smother a grease fire by turning off the heat and sliding the lid carefully over the pan. Don't use water, baking soda, or fire extinguishers—they can spread grease fires.
- Close the oven door and turn off the heat to smother a fire in the oven or microwave oven.



Electrical Fire Safety:

- Instead of plug adapters, choose surge-protecting power strips.
- Never run an extension cord under a rug, across a doorway, or where it might be pinched.
- Repair or replace loose or frayed electrical cords or plugs.
- Don't overload electrical outlets with high-wattage appliances.
- Keep combustibles clear of heat-producing appliances and lamps.
- Use only recommended-wattage light bulbs in lighting fixtures.
- Have a licensed electrician check your home wiring from time to time.

