

**Georgia**



HANDS &  
VOICES™

## **GA Hands & Voices and Cherokee Fire Department Present: Fire Safety Video for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

### **FIRE SAFETY TIPS and VIDEO NOTES:**

#### **What 3 elements do you need to have a fire?**

- Oxygen, fuel and heat

#### **What are some heat sources we need to be aware of?**

- Lamps, nightlights, cords/outlets, electronics charging stations, space heaters, oven, stovetop, microwave, fireplace, etc.

#### **Where should we have smoke alarms?**

- In EVERY sleeping space and on every level of your home

#### **How often should I test a smoke detector?**

- Test smoke detectors EVERY MONTH.

#### **What do you do when a smoke detector goes off?**

- Crawl low and go! Get close to the ground and crawl to stay under the smoke so you can still see and breathe.

#### **The smoke alarm is going off - do I open the door and leave the room?**

- WAIT! Feel the door with the back of your hand first.
  - If **HOT** – leave it CLOSED and find another way out, such as a window.
  - If **NOT hot** – open the door, staying low, and crawl to the nearest exit. If you have to go downstairs, crawl down BACKWARD to avoid a fall and injuring yourself.
    - Note: Remember to always sleep with bedroom doors closed to help create a barrier between you and the fire and to give you more time to escape!

#### **The door is hot and I have to find another way out. What if my window is not on the ground floor?**

- Purchase a **window escape ladder** to keep in upstairs bedrooms for emergency escapes:  
<https://www.safewise.com/blog/top-window-escape-ladders/>

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**I've made it outside. Now what?**

- Go to your designated **Meeting Place**: this is a special place where your family decides to meet up in case you have to evacuate the house. It's important to **STAY** here until everyone is together.
- Once outside, you cannot go back into the house until a parent or Firefighter tells you it's safe.

**What are some fire hazards in the kitchen?**

- Stovetop, burners, pothandles/panhandles, oven, microwave, crockpot, cords/outlets, etc.

**How do I minimize fire hazards and burns in the kitchen?**

- Never leave appliances unattended when they are on.
- Use oven mitts when pulling items out of oven, stovetop or microwave.
- Let food rest in the microwave for a minute after finished cooking.
- Create or teach your children to maintain a three-foot barrier around hot items.
- Turn pothandles/panhandles inward on the stove to avoid knocking them over.

**What is all the gear a Firefighter wears?**

- The special equipment a Firefighter wears is called **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**, and it is designed to keep him/her safe while going into a burning building or home.
- Keep in mind that children who may not have seen a Firefighter dressed in all their gear might be afraid, especially in an emergency situation where parents and children may be separated. Show your kiddos this video so they can see what firefighters look like with all their equipment on! Remind them that Firefighters are there to help make everyone safe.
- Also, it's important to note that when Firefighters have on all their equipment, we are not able to see their mouth. For a child with hearing loss, this could make communicating even more challenging. Call and register your home with your local fire and police departments and let them know you have a child with hearing loss and where their room is to aid in finding your child and communicating.

**Most importantly, make safety fun and practice your escape plan with Fire Drills!**

- Educating your family about safety doesn't have to be serious and stressful. You can make it fun!
- Remember to practice your escape plan with your family. This way, if an emergency ever does arise, you are more prepared and have already practiced how to safely get everyone out of your home as quickly as possible.