



## **FIRE SERVICES DIVISION**

### **Important Fire Safety Information for Babysitters**

Taking care of children is a big responsibility. Babysitters must ensure that the children left in their care are safe. Preventing fires and knowing how to respond should a fire occur are an important part of the job.

#### **ESCAPE PLAN**

- Talk to the children's parents about their home fire escape plan. This will let the babysitter know what is expected of them and remind the parents to plan ahead in case of a fire emergency.
- Tour the home and identify two ways out of every room and identify where telephones are located.
- Make sure all smoke alarms work.
- Make sure the family has chosen an outside meeting place where everyone is supposed to meet once they have escaped from the fire.
- Talk to the kids about the escape plan. Find out how much they know. Do not confuse them by changing their home escape plan.

#### **THE BABYSITTER IS A SUPERVISOR**

Supervise the children when they are awake and check on them often when they are in bed.

#### **PREVENTION TIPS**

- Don't smoke. Keep matches and lighters out of sight and out of reach of children.
- Don't use candles. They can be easily knocked over and fire can spread quickly.
- Don't use appliances with frayed or damaged cords.
- Keep combustibles away from heat sources such as space heaters.

## **IN CASE OF FIRE**

If the smoke alarm or carbon monoxide detector sounds an alarm, or you discover fire or smoke - don't hesitate. Respond immediately by following the escape plan.

- If you must pass through smoke to escape, crawl low under smoke to your exit. Air is cooler and cleaner 1-2 feet above the floor. Test doors to make sure its cool. If it's warm, don't open it - use your second way out. If it's cool, open the door cautiously and be ready to slam it in case there is fire on the other side. Get yourself and the children outside and stay out.
- Call the fire department as soon as possible from a portable phone or a neighbour's house. Give the fire department the exact address of the fire and stay on the phone until they say it's okay to hang up.
- Call the adults who hired you **after** you call the fire department.

## **IF YOU CAN'T GET TO THE CHILDREN**

If smoke or flames are blocking the way to the children's bedrooms, leave the building and call the fire department from a neighbour's home or a portable phone. Tell them where the children are trapped.

## **IF YOU CANNOT ESCAPE**

If blocked exit paths prevent you from escaping, close as many doors as possible between you and the fire. Use towels or bedding to seal around doors and cover vents to prevent smoke from coming in. Call the fire department, even if someone has already reported the fire, and let them know exactly where you are trapped. Wait by a window to be rescued. If possible signal to firefighters by waving a flashlight beam or light coloured cloth.

## **QUESTIONS?**

If you have any questions regarding home escape planning or fire safety, please contact Pickering Fire Services – Fire Prevention Division at 905.839.9968 (or your local Fire Department).

## Emergency Information

Instruct the children's parents/guardians to fill out this form. Then keep it in your pocket so you will have it in case of emergency.

**Fire / Police / Ambulance: 9-1-1**

**Poison Information (Durham Region): 1.800.268.9017**

**Doctor (name and phone number):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Designated outside meeting place:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and full address where you are babysitting:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Where parents/guardians can be reached:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Neighbours to contact :**

Name	Address	Phone No.

Name	Address	Phone No.

**Other Instructions:**

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