

# FEATURE

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Target audience: Families with children

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## Fire Prevention Month

COLLINSVILLE, Ill. (Oct. 23, 2016)— The month of October is Fire Prevention Month. Did you know approximately 2,570 people die each year in the United States alone from house fires? I visited our local fire department here in Collinsville to see if I could learn more about Fire Safety. I spoke with firefighter Daniel Calderon of the State Park Volunteer Fire Department on what families can do to prevent a fatal house fire.

### Here are 5 safety tips for families and children

1. Draw out an escape plan.
2. Practice the escape plan twice a year with the whole household.
3. Place smoke alarms outside every sleeping area, on every level of the home (including the basement). Test these alarms monthly. Change batteries when needed.
4. Do NOT hide if there is a fire, so that it is easier for firefighters to spot you.
5. Keep lighters, cigarettes, matches, and candles away from children.

“If a fire occurs, get out, stay out, and call for help,” says firefighter Calderon.

Fire departments all around are sharing ways to keep our families safe. Don’t forget to stop by or look up your local departments events going on this month. If you know there’s a fire be sure to call 911 and they will send the fire department right away.

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