

1st Grade School Talk

During our visit with your child's class, we started by reviewing STOP – DROP – ROLL to ensure they can perform it properly if their clothes were to catch fire. We then reviewed the dangers of matches and lighters, and how they are tools and not toys. The main point of the 1st grade school talk is to show your child's class why firefighters can go into a house that is on fire while we tell the class that they must get out. We do this by showing our fire gear and explaining how it protects us during a fire.

- Coat and pants (called turnout gear): The firefighter's coat and pants are made of three layers of material, and each layer has a special purpose. The outer layer is a tough layer that protects us from sharp objects that we may crawl over during a fire. The middle layer (vapor barrier) protects us from steam that is made when we put water on the fire, because steam can burn them just like fire can. The inner layer helps protect us from the heat of the fire.
- The fire boots have a steel toe to protect us if something heavy falls on our foot, and a steel shank in case we step on something pointy, like a nail. They are also waterproof.
- Our hood is made of a special material (Nomex) that covers and protects all areas of our head and face that is not covered by our mask.
- Our fire gloves protect our hands from burns and cuts, all while providing the dexterity needed to operate our equipment.
- Our helmets protect our head from falling objects, or when we bump our head on something we cannot see due to the smoke. It also has a shield that can be placed over our eyes to protect our eyes when we are using tools, and a wide brim at the back so hot water from firefighting will not roll off without going down the back of our coat.
- Our self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) provides us with the air needed to breath while we are in the smoke.

The Tusculum Volunteer Fire Department is committed to responding to your needs should your home ever have a fire. We also are committed to preventing fire, when possible, to protect our residents from potential injury and loss of property. We feel our elementary school talk program is a step in this direction, and we are happy to provide this service.