

4th Grade School Talk

The 4th grade talk is all about home fire safety. We start by explaining what the most common causes of fires are per the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA): Cooking (49%), Heating equipment (13%), Electrical (9%), Intentional (9%), Smoking materials (5%). (NFPA Home Structure Fires report of 4/1/2023)

Since cooking is by far the number one cause, we stress safety measures to take like:

- If cooking in a pan, have the lid handy to cover the pan and smother any fire that might occur.
- Keep combustibles (paper, boxes, rags) away from cooking surfaces.
- Have a fire extinguisher available.
- DO NOT use water on a grease fire. It will only spread the fire.

We explained that there are three ingredients needed to create a fire – Heat, fuel and oxygen. By keeping the fuel (stuff that burns) away from the heat (stuff that gets hot) we can prevent a fire from occurring. Some easy ways to accomplish this are:

- Keep Christmas trees and other combustibles away from the fireplace or other heat sources.
- Don't store combustibles on a stove top.
- Don't store combustibles too close to water heaters or furnaces.
- Keep flammable liquids in tightly sealed containers, preferably in a shed or garage.
- Don't leave candles unattended, and don't use them on combustible surfaces.
- Properly discard smoking materials or fireplace ashes into a non-combustible container (metal can).
- Don't run extension cords through doorways or under rugs where they could get damaged and spark.

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.