

# Rescue Dogs, Firefighting Heroes, and Science Facts

## 4 Stories And A Poem About Fire Safety



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# Jack the Superhero Alien Firefighter

## By Julie Cantrell

Jack Palmer is glad today is Fire Safety Day. This means no math drills!

When his friend, Carter, passes the firefighter's hat, Jack nearly drops it. "It's heavy!" Jack says. Carter flexes his muscles.

One of the firefighters shows how quickly he can put on his turnout gear—boots, pants, jacket, helmet, mask, gloves, air tank, and all. Carter whispers, "He looks like an alien." Just like that...Jack's imagination runs away again.

Soon, Jack is far away, fighting fires on a distant planet.

"Jack?" Mrs. Wimble's voice breaks through. "Name two things your family needs to do to stay safe, just in case your house ever catches fire."

Oh, no! Jack hits the panic button. He hasn't been paying attention—again! "Um, well, did you ask for two things?" Jack tries to stall his teacher.

"Yes, Jack." Ms. Wimble frowns. "Quickly now."

Jack looks to Carter for help, but Carter shrugs. He must have been imagining alien firefighters too!

Of course, Anna is in the front, saying, "I know. I know!" Jack tries to come up with the right



# Jack the Superhero Alien Firefighter

answer before Anna beats him to it. He clears his throat. "I guess you could...never play with matches?"

All of Jack's classmates laugh. Loud. Jack's face turns red, like a fire hydrant, and he hangs his head in shame. No wonder Jack prefers other worlds, worlds where he can be a superhero and not the class clown.

"Anna," Ms. Wimble says. "Please tell Jack what every family needs to do so they'll be ready in case of a fire."

Anna gives Jack a winning smile. "First, you need to make sure you have smoke alarms that work. Second, make a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room. You should also choose an outside meeting place. And practice your escape drill too."

"Very good, Anna."

As the firefighter finishes the lesson, Jack tries to focus, picturing each fact in his mind as if it were a meteor in outer space.

### SPARKY SAYS:

- Ask a grown-up to test smoke alarms once a month to be sure they are working.
- Every room needs two ways out.
- Choose a meeting place outside the home.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.
- Call the fire department once you are outside and wait for everyone at your meeting place.



# Jack the Superhero Alien Firefighter

That afternoon, Jack's mother asks, "What did you do at school today?"

Jack tells her about the firefighter's heavy hat and the outfit that looks like an alien.

"What did you learn about fire safety?" his mother asks.

"I think we're supposed to test our smoke alarms. And plan a meeting place outside."

"We'd better get busy," Jack's mother says, as she shuffles him through the house to check each smoke alarm. The one in the hallway makes a loud BEEP, BEEP, BEEP. "It's so loud!" Jack says, covering his ears.

**Hey kids! Make your own home fire escape plan at [www.sparky.org](http://www.sparky.org).**

"That's so we can hear it even if we're sleeping." His mother continues checking alarms through the house.

The alarm in Jack's bedroom doesn't make a sound. "We need to change the battery right away." Sure enough, a new battery does the trick, and Jack's alarm is beeping loudly again.

At dinner, Jack's family talks about ways to stay safe if their house catches fire.

"If you hear a smoke alarm sound, get outside right away," his mother says. "Don't wait for me. I'll find you at our meeting place."

"How will you know to find me?" Jack asks.



# Jack the Superhero Alien Firefighter

"We have smoke alarms in each bedroom," Jack's father says. They are connected, so when one sounds, they all sound. They will let us all know if there is a fire, so we can get outside and meet at our outside meeting place."

"What if I can't get out?" Jack asks. His sister Emily looks afraid.

"If you can't get out through your door, your bedroom is on the first floor so it will be easy to climb out the window."

"Emily too?" Jack asks.

"Yes," their father nods at Emily. "Emily has a smoke alarm in her bedroom too. When the smoke alarm wakes us up, we will all get outside. Don't wait for us to get you, and don't try to find us in the house. Meet us at Mr. Adamson's house. We'll all find each other there."

"Let's practice!" says Jack.

Everyone goes to Emily's bedroom and Jack's father pushes the test button on the smoke alarm. BEEP, BEEP, BEEP—all the alarms start beeping. Everyone does the drill and quickly goes to their meeting place.

Less than two weeks later, Jack is sleeping and hears the smoke alarm sound its loud BEEP, BEEP, BEEP. He rubs his eyes and climbs out of bed, assuming this is a family drill. But when Jack touches the doorknob, he jerks his hand back. It is too hot to touch! There is smoke in his room. This is no practice drill. Jack's house is on fire!

Jack remembers the fire safety tips he learned at school. He remembers his home fire escape plan. Jack climbs through his window. His sister Emily climbs out of her window too, and together they run to Mr. Adamson's house next door. They bang on the door and ask Mr. Adamson to call 9-1-1.

# Jack the Superhero Alien Firefighter

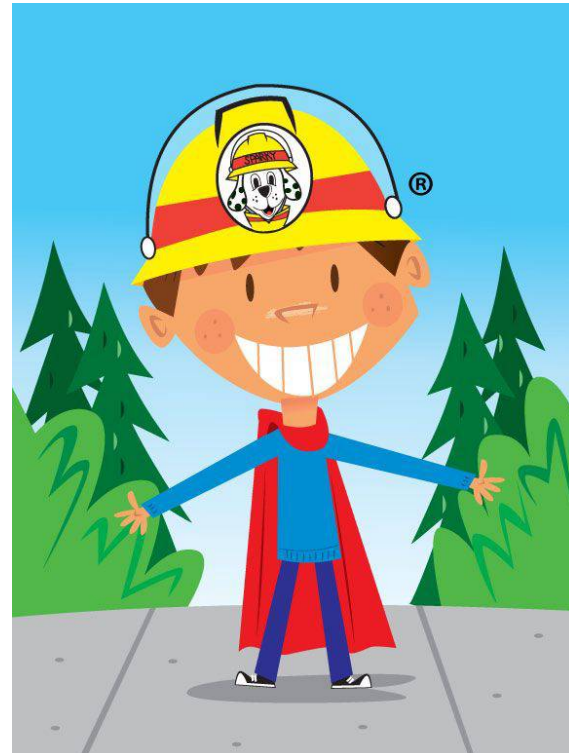
As Mr. Adamson is calling for help, Jack's parents join the family at their meeting place. "Jack! Emily! Thank goodness you're safe!"

The firefighters arrive to fight the fire. They wear the turnout gear Jack saw in class. They really do look like superhero alien firefighters.

The next day at school, Ms. Wimble calls everyone together. "Jack Palmer rescued his family from a fire last night." Everyone claps. "Is there anything you'd like to say, Jack?"

This time Jack knows exactly what to say. He looks right at Anna in the front row and says, "Be sure to check your smoke alarms and always have a home fire escape plan."

"Good job, Jack," Ms. Wimble says. She gives Jack his very own fire hat with a picture of Sparky the Fire Dog on it. And everyone cheers.



# Jack the Superhero Alien Firefighter

## Discussion Questions:

1. What is one thing you can do—today—to teach your family about fire safety?
2. Where would you choose as the outside meeting place at your house?
3. Has your family ever talked about fire safety? What are the components of your family's fire safety plan?

## Writing Prompt:

Do you consider Jack a hero? Why or why not?

## To learn more, go to:

[www.sparky.org/learnmore](http://www.sparky.org/learnmore)

# The Black Pearl and Captain Ron

## By Susy Flory

The phone buzzes at a Los Angeles County Fire Station.

Captain Ron Horetski answers the phone. After a brief conversation, he hangs up, then looks down at a wiggly black dog wagging her tail and hopping around in excitement.

“You guessed it, Pearl. It’s time to go to work!” But this isn’t a fire call. While Captain Ron is a firefighter, his dog is not just a fire dog. The Black Pearl, named for her gleaming black coat, is a highly trained, super-smart Urban Search and Rescue Dog.

When earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, or other disasters put people in dangerous situations, Pearl works hard to help find and save people. Because of her keen sense of smell, she can do work that humans cannot as she climbs piles of rubble and follows her nose to locate survivors.



Search Dog Foundation/Eliot Crowley

Search-and-rescue dogs like Pearl have been used to save lives since the early 18th century. The first rescue dogs were St. Bernards who worked with Monks to rescue travelers on a dangerous pass in the Alps, Italy, and Switzerland. The dogs helped the Monks rescue people traveling over the pass in bad snowstorms. The St. Bernard dogs had a great sense of direction, and they did not mind the cold. The dogs would find travelers buried in the snow, dig through the snow, and lie on top of the injured to provide warmth. Another dog in the unit would return to the monastery to alert the Monks of an injured traveler, and the Monks would rescue the traveler.

# The Black Pearl and Captain Ron



Search Dog Foundation/  
Penny Woodruff

During World Wars I and II, other breeds of dogs worked with medics to bring essential supplies to treat wounded soldiers. The lifesaving work of these dogs inspired the first canine search-and-rescue training program, which opened in Switzerland in 1969. These highly trained dogs responded when needed in emergencies, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, typhoons, storms, fires, tornadoes, floods, and disasters.

The Black Pearl carries on the work of earlier rescue dogs. But she wasn’t always the hero dog she is today. In fact, for the first few years of her life, she caused a lot of trouble. She once belonged to a young man who put her out in the backyard each day when he went to work. But Pearl was bored, and she often jumped over the fence and escaped, looking for an adventure. She usually ended up at the local animal shelter, where she was known for her friendliness and extreme energy. After Pearl had jumped out of her yard many, many times, her owner realized there was no way he could keep her in the yard and so he

### SPARKY SAYS:

Did you know that search-and-rescue dogs ignore loud or sudden noises? They must be able to ignore sirens, loud machinery like bulldozers, and other rescue operation noises.



# The Black Pearl and Captain Ron

left her at the shelter. Lucky for Pearl, a shelter visitor noticed the high energy, athletic dog and thought she would make a great search-and-rescue dog. From there she was paired up with Captain Ron for training, and Pearl turned into the hero she is today.

Now Ron and Pearl work together almost every minute of the day. They get up early and leave for the fire station each morning at 4:00 a.m., with Pearl riding in her kennel in the back of Ron's truck. When they get to work, Pearl takes her place in a special kennel, just outside the fire station. Although the other firefighters know her and love her, Ron is the only one who handles her at work. They are together all the time so they can quickly pack up and leave when needed.



Search Dog Foundation/Matt Haines

In 2010, Pearl and Ron got an urgent call and boarded a military cargo plane and flew to the island of Haiti just a few hours after a huge earthquake destroyed buildings and trapped people. For 14 days, Pearl and Ron joined a team of six dogs and six handlers who lived in tents and searched the city for survivors. Altogether, the search-and-rescue dog teams saved 45 people.

Today, Captain Ron and Pearl wait at the fire station, ready to deploy, or be sent, anywhere in the United States or the world, whenever they are needed. And Pearl doesn't need to jump fences for adventure anymore. Now her whole life is an adventure as she continues to train and be ready to save lives with her strength, her courage, her energy...and her nose.

# The Black Pearl and Captain Ron

## Discussion Questions:

1. It's amazing what animals can do! What special abilities do dogs have that make them great search-and-rescue helpers?
2. What can dogs do that humans can't that make them great partners for firefighters?
3. What characteristics do you think make Pearl a great search-and-rescue dog?
4. What kind of relationship do you think Pearl has with her handler, Captain Ron? How do you think they established mutual trust?

## Writing Prompt:

What do you think about the idea of using animals as helpers or partners? How would you like to help others, working with a dog like Pearl?

## To learn more, go to:

[www.sparky.org/learnmore](http://www.sparky.org/learnmore)

# Three Ways Science Has Made the World a More Fire-Safe Place

By Troy Schuknecht

Think about all of the ways that you enjoy fire: roasting marshmallows, telling stories around a campfire, or watching a beautiful fireworks display. Fire is amazing and makes our lives better in so many ways! But fire can also be destructive and devastating.

Scientists, engineers, and other ordinary people are using their growing knowledge to create ways to help us enjoy the benefits of fire, while minimizing the dangers. New discoveries and advancements in fire safety are being made every year. Who knows? Maybe you can make the next big discovery!

## Part 1: People Have Invented Important Fire Safety Tools

An important part of fire safety is early detection. This means knowing that there is a fire while it is small enough that everyone in harm's way can get to safety before the small fire becomes a big fire. Forty years ago, smoke alarms were very expensive and difficult to install, so very few buildings had them. But in the last several decades, scientists have invented small, battery-operated smoke alarms that are not only easy to use, but also cost a lot less. Now almost every home in America has at least one.

Can you find the smoke alarms in your home? What about in your school? Be thankful for the way these amazing devices keep kids fire safe! A long time ago, hundreds of people died in fires that happened in schools. **Read "Learning From Tragedy" on page 19 for more information.** Now that schools have smoke detectors that sound an alarm in the school and also at the fire station, along with heat detectors, fire sprinkler systems, and other fire safety rules, deaths and injuries from fires in schools have become extremely rare.

# Three Ways Science Has Made the World a More Fire-Safe Place

The diagram illustrates the internal mechanism of an ionization smoke alarm. It features a battery connected to two metal plates, labeled 'CIRCUITRY' and 'PLATE'. The top plate is marked with a '+' sign and the bottom with a '-' sign. In the first part of the diagram, labeled '1', a path of positive ions (represented by green circles with '+') is shown moving from the positive plate towards the negative plate, and a path of negative ions (represented by yellow circles with '-') is shown moving from the negative plate towards the positive plate. This movement creates a complete circuit. In the second part, labeled '2', smoke particles (represented by black dots) enter the space between the plates. In the third part, labeled '3', the smoke particles bond with the ions, breaking the path of electricity. In the fourth part, labeled '4', the flow of electricity is reduced, and the alarm goes off. A cartoon flame character is shown at the bottom right.

### SMOKE ALARMS

Did you know that scientists have spent many years working on smoke alarms to keep us safe? One of the most common types is an ionization smoke alarm. Here's how it works:

- 1** Inside the smoke alarm, there are two tiny metal plates called electrodes that are connected to a battery. This is called a circuit.
- 2** There is also a substance called Americium-241. Americium-241 converts air molecules into positive and negative ions. Because opposites attract, the negative ions move toward the positive plate and the positive ions
- 3** move toward the negative plate. This movement creates a complete circuit or path of electricity.
- 4** When smoke enters the smoke alarm, the ions bond with the smoke, breaking the path of electricity.

When the flow of electricity is reduced, the alarm goes off.

# Three Ways Science Has Made the World a More Fire-Safe Place

**1** Light source emits a beam of light across the chamber.

**2** Smoke particles enter the chamber and scatter the light beam in many directions.

**3** Light rays scatter toward the light sensor, activating it.

**SMOKE ALARMS**  
Another type of alarm is a photoelectric smoke alarm. Here's how it works:

- 1 Inside the smoke alarm, there is an LED light that sends a beam of light (similar to a laser pointer) in a straight line across the chamber. In a separate compartment inside the chamber, there is a photosensor that detects light.
- 2 As smoke enters the alarm, the smoke particles interrupt the light beam, scattering it in many directions. Some of the LED light scatters toward the light sensor. When light beams hit the sensor, the alarm will go off!
- 3 When the batteries in your smoke alarm get low, the smoke alarm automatically activates a low battery chirping sound different from the alarm sound so you know it's time to get new batteries.

Some smoke alarms contain both photoelectric and ionization smoke detection systems.

# Three Ways Science Has Made the World a More Fire-Safe Place

## Part 2: People Have Designed Fire-Safe Buildings

Which of the three little pigs was the wisest, the one who built his home out of straw? Or the wood-working pig? Or the bricks-and-mortar guy? You're right! The pig who made his house out of bricks not only knew how to protect his home from the wolf, but he also had some good knowledge about fire safety.

Engineers use building materials that are hard to burn, called fire-resistant materials, to keep fires from spreading quickly. Common fire-resistant materials used in buildings are concrete, stucco, and bricks. Another amazing fire-resistant material that engineers have developed is drywall, which is used for the walls inside most homes. These amazing boards have a layer of a fire-resistant material called Gypsum, which really helps to slow fires down. The rest of the drywall has a special substance that is full of moisture, which also helps to keep the fire

**SMOKE ALARM FACT:**  
Did you know that in less than three decades, smoke alarms went from an invention to being in nearly every home in America? Can you think of any other invention that caught on this quickly?



## SPARKY SAYS:

Become one of Sparky's official Safety Inspectors. Go on a hazard hunt around your home with Sparky's Fire Inspection Checklist.

[www.sparky.org/learnmore](http://www.sparky.org/learnmore)

# Three Ways Science Has Made the World a More Fire-Safe Place

from spreading quickly. Did you know your walls are full of moisture?

Engineers have also started planning buildings so that people can get out of a burning building quickly. Every room should have two different exits. What are the two exits from the room you are sitting in right now? If you don't see two doors, check to see if there is a window that would be easy for you to use as a second way out. Other ways engineers design buildings for easier escape are to make wide hallways and stairs, add exit signs, and design fire sprinkler systems to put out fires before the fire department arrives.

Did you know that the person who invented fire sprinklers was not a scientist? He was a piano maker who wanted to protect his factory from burning down. No matter what career you choose, you can still use your creativity to make a big difference in the world!

## SPARKY SAYS:

Hey kids! Get your family together and have a home fire drill, just like schools do. Make sure each person in your family knows two ways out of each room and your outside meeting place.

Can you crack Sparky's secret code? Play [Crack the Code](#) and get your own decoder ring sent to you.

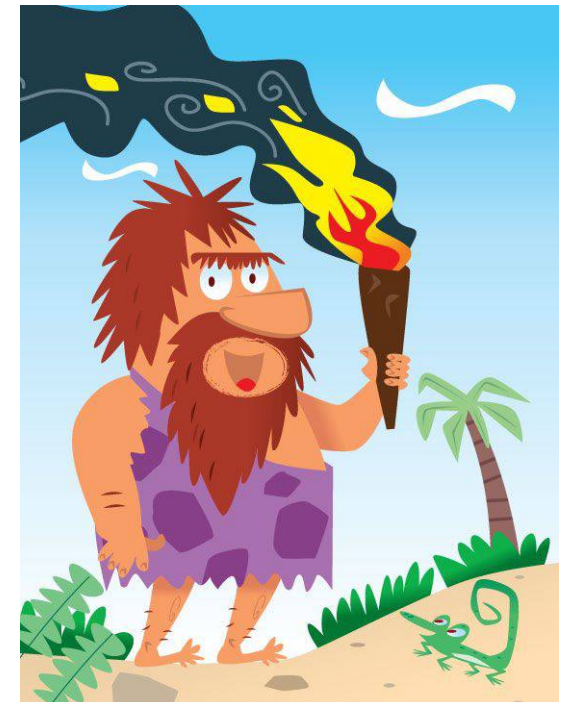
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# Three Ways Science Has Made the World a More Fire-Safe Place

## Part 3: People Have Helped Us Understand How to Stop Fire

We don't know when fire was first discovered because it has been used in all of recorded human history. Even ancient cave drawings show fire! But in the last 200 years, science has improved our understanding of how we can control and stop fire.



When trying to put a fire out, it is important to remember that there are three things fire needs in order to burn: high heat, oxygen, and fuel. If any one of these three can be removed, the fire will go out. Let's look at ways people use this knowledge to help keep us safe.

### ONE: REMOVING HEAT

People have learned to fight fire by reducing the heat so that a fire cannot burn. The most common way to do this is with water. Fire hydrants are hooked into the water supply and firefighters use hoses to spray over 1,000 gallons of water every minute onto the fire. That amount of water pressure would empty a typical backyard swimming pool in around 15 minutes!

### TWO: REMOVING OXYGEN

We all know that humans need oxygen to live. But did you know that fires "breathe" oxygen as well? Without a steady supply of oxygen, a fire will go out. Scientists have learned that the best way to extinguish some types of fires is by removing oxygen. People can do this by sliding a lid over a pan fire. Another example is what you do if your clothes catch on fire: STOP what you are doing, DROP to the ground, ROLL over and over to put the fire out.

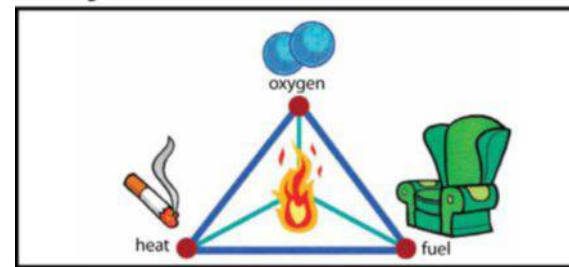
# Three Ways Science Has Made the World a More Fire-Safe Place

Engineers also developed an amazing device called a fire extinguisher. Some types of fire extinguishers can smother a fire to keep oxygen away from the flames.

## THREE: REMOVING FUEL

Remember those fire-resistant materials engineers use in building? The reason they work is that they are not fuel for a fire. Fuel can be anything that can burn, like paper, blankets, wood, and curtains. Without fuel, the fire will not burn. You can use this knowledge to keep your home safe from fire. If you have a fireplace, make sure anything that can burn is at least three feet away. Also, grown-ups should keep anything that can burn, like paper or pot holders, away from the stovetop as these can catch on fire. If your family burns candles, be very careful about keeping paper, furniture, curtains, pets, and people away from the flame. Remind grown-ups to blow out lit candles when they leave the room.

### Why do fires burn?



### SPARKY SAYS:

Hey kids! If the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Leave the firefighting to professionals.

# Three Ways Science Has Made the World a More Fire-Safe Place

## Discussion Questions:

1. Inventors and scientists have made our world a much safer place. What are some things you've thought of that could make our world even safer?
2. What are the three things fires need to thrive? Based on this information, why does water put out flames? Why does covering a burning pan with a lid put out a fire?
3. What invention do you think is most helpful in the advancement of fire safety? Why?

## Writing Prompt:

In your own words, explain how a smoke alarm works to detect smoke and alert people of a fire.

## To learn more, go to:

[www.sparky.org/learnmore](http://www.sparky.org/learnmore)

# Learning From Tragedy

## By Jeanette Hanscome

It was 2:30 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 1958. Students were finishing an ordinary day at Our Lady of the Angels school in Chicago, Illinois. About 1,600 kindergarten through eighth graders attended the two-story Catholic school, which had been built in 1910.

A few teachers noticed that the building seemed unusually warm on this cold winter day, but they ignored it, assuming the janitor had overloaded the furnace. They went on with their typical history and music lessons, completely unaware of the danger outside their classroom doors. Down in the basement, a fire had started in a cardboard container that the janitor used for trash. Since smoke alarms weren't invented until 1963 and this building didn't have heat detectors to send a warning, nobody noticed the fire.

Two fifth-grade boys were taking trash down to the basement for their teacher, Miss Tristano, when they smelled smoke and ran back to report it. Around the same time, ten-year-old Frankie Grimaldi had just asked permission to use the bathroom. Out in the hallway, Frankie noticed a strange fog in the air. He sniffed. Smoke. He turned back toward class. Miss Tristano was already in the doorway.

"Come back in here," the teacher ordered. "Remain seated, children."  
She rushed next door to Room 205, Miss Coughlan's room.

Students in Room 205 spotted smoke trickling through the crack under the classroom door as their teacher whispered in the corner with Miss Tristano.



Diana Voskrenski, 10, told a reporter the memories of the Our Lady of the Angels fire were as painful as her injuries. From the Chicago Tribune, December 13, 1958.

# Learning From Tragedy

Knowing the school rule that only the principal, Sister Florence (the Mother Superior), could flip the switch on the fire alarm or give permission to leave the building, Miss Coughlan hurried down to the principal's office, but Sister Florence was not in her office because she was substituting for a sick teacher. With precious time ticking away, Miss Coughlan and Miss Tristano started evacuating their classes.

Miss Tristano decided to break the rule and activate the fire alarm bells. They didn't go off. She and Miss Coughlan moved their students to the safety of the church rectory. Remembering the hundreds of children still inside, Miss Tristano went back into the smoke-filled school and tried to sound the alarm again. This time it worked.

Many lives were saved that day because Miss Coughlan and Miss Tristano broke the school's strict rules.

Our Lady of the Angels was an old building and did not have automatic fire alarms, a fire sprinkler system, or an alarm that sounded directly to the fire department. Fire extinguishers were hung seven feet off the ground, where most people couldn't reach them. By the time anyone noticed the smoke, the fire was burning out of control. The outside of the school was made of brick, but the walls, floors, stairs, and roof were built mostly of wood that had been brushed with layers of varnish, which caught fire easily. The staircase leading to the top floor of the school was completely open, giving the fire, smoke, and gasses a clear path to the upstairs hallways.

Downstairs in the basement, the janitor, Jim Raymond, had noticed smoke and ran outside to a local shop to call the fire department. Then he headed back into the building to help children escape. Room 207 was on the second floor. It had a fire escape door, which their teacher, Sister Geraldita, tried to open, only to find it locked. Children in room 207 managed to escape, thanks to Jim Raymond, who crawled up the back staircase with the key and unlocked the fire escape door, freeing them seconds before the room burst into flames.

## Learning From Tragedy

Classrooms on the first floor were evacuated quickly. Many of the younger children thought they were having a fire drill until they got outside and saw the smoke. The church's priest, along with parents and people walking by the school, risked entering the school to rescue children and teachers, but they quickly discovered that they could not reach the second floor because of the heat and smoke.

Some students in the upstairs classrooms were told to wait and pray to be rescued; others were encouraged to jump from the second-story windows.

Firefighters finally arrived with ladders and brought some children down from the top floor, but the flames eventually took over. By this time, the fire had been burning for about 30 minutes.

Sadly, three teachers and 92 students died in the Our Lady of the Angels fire; 77 were badly injured. Many believe the fire was set on purpose, but the cause of the fire is still a mystery. Like so many tragedies, the Our Lady of the Angels fire led to changes that would save lives in the future.

After the Our Lady of the Angels fire, parents began demanding better fire safety in schools. Just two weeks after the devastating fire, the Chicago City Council called for automatic fire sprinkler systems to be required in all public and private schools that were two or more stories. Monthly fire drills were required when school was in session (weather permitting). This fire led to the greater use of automatic fire sprinkler systems and fire alarms, as well as alarms that connected to the local fire department. New schools were



From the Chicago Tribune, December 1, 1958

## Learning From Tragedy

constructed from materials that wouldn't burn as easily and with enclosed exit stairs that were built with special fire doors. Gone were the days when a school could get away with one fire escape or a rule that only the principal could pull the fire alarm.

Because of this and other devastating school fires, our laws now say that emergency exits cannot be blocked or locked in a way that could prevent escape. In the years after the fire, people paid more attention to fire safety in schools, stressing the importance of getting out of the building quickly and safely and having more than one escape route (in case one is blocked by fire).

When we read sad stories like that of the Our Lady of the Angels fire, we see how far we have come in fire safety. While school fires still happen, the changes that were made to keep schools safe continue to save lives. The next time you have a fire drill, you might find yourself thinking of the Our Lady of the Angels fire. Hopefully, the story will also remind you to be thankful for the lifesaving lessons it taught us.

### SPARKY SAYS:

Make sure to pay attention during school fire drills. Understand what you're supposed to do. If a real emergency happens, you will then know what to do, and you will be able to get out quickly.

**Play Put Out the Fire and see if you have what it takes to help Sparky.**

[www.sparky.org/learnmore](http://www.sparky.org/learnmore)



# Learning From Tragedy

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## Discussion Questions:

1. What fire safety problems did Our Lady of the Angels have?
2. Look around your classroom. What do you notice about your classroom that makes it safer in the event of a fire?
3. How did Miss Coughlan and Miss Tristano break the school rules to help save lives?

## Writing Prompt:

Often it takes a horrible tragedy to help inspire big changes. As tragic as the Our Lady of the Angels fire was, what positive outcomes came from it? Explain.

## To learn more, go to:

[www.sparky.org/learnmore](http://www.sparky.org/learnmore)

# Sparky the Fire Dog Says “Stay Fire-Safe!”

## By Annie Elliott

Fire safety is simple,  
It happens every day—  
Here are rules to keep in mind  
To stay safe while you play!

When you are in your room,  
Think of two ways to get out.  
A window and a door?  
Those are both a perfect route.

Talk with your family now  
About a safe place you can meet  
A mailbox, lamp post, or tree?  
Pick someplace near your street.

If you hear a loud BEEP, BEEP, BEEP!  
It comes from the smoke alarm  
Don't worry and don't be scared,  
It beeps to keep you from harm.

And you must remember,  
My most important chide:  
Find a door or window  
And get yourself outside!

Once you've left the house,  
Please wait at your meeting place.  
Grown-ups will meet you there...  
And you'll be fire-safe!

—Annie Elliott



We want to hear your fire safety poem. Go to [sparky.org/learnmore](http://sparky.org/learnmore) to send us your poem.

# Sparky the Fire Dog Says “Stay Fire-Safe!”

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## Hey kids! Feeling inspired?

Write your own fire safety poem. Send Sparky the Fire Dog your poem by email and he will send you a free goody bag with Sparky Band-Aids®, a glow-in-the dark safety bracelet, a Sparky secret society decoder ring, and more.

Go to [www.sparky.org/learnmore](http://www.sparky.org/learnmore) to submit your poem.

# Learn More With Sparky

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## Teachers:

Head to [sparkyschoolhouse.org](http://sparkyschoolhouse.org) to find:

- Full-color custom-built interactive whiteboard lessons on fire safety for grades K-5.
- Downloadable and printable curriculum materials associated with all of the stories in this book.
- Common Core State Standards alignment for all stories and activities in this book.
- A free fire safety app targeted at grades K-2.

## Parents:

Head to [sparky.org](http://sparky.org) to find:

- Free printable and downloadable fire safety activities for kids
- A free interactive fire safety app with more than 15 games and activities: [www.sparky.org/appworld](http://www.sparky.org/appworld)
- Monthly parent and educator fire safety information: [www.sparky.org/parents](http://www.sparky.org/parents)

## Kids:

Go to [sparky.org](http://sparky.org) for:

- Loads of fun, free games, eCards and to learn all about fire trucks.
- Printable activity pages including what you need to be a superhero alien firefighter like Jack and create your own fire-safety plan for your house.
- The chance to get free Sparky gear like a decoder ring and Band-Aids sent to your home: [sparky.org/learnmore](http://sparky.org/learnmore)
- Ask a grown-up to go to [sparky.org/appworld](http://sparky.org/appworld) for a free storybook app.

