

# SAFETY EDUCATOR



SEPTEMBER 2018

**WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!** We hope your summer was full of the many fun and safe summer activities that the State of New Hampshire has to offer. We are excited to be a part of your school year by offering this monthly *Safety Educator* newsletter. Fire safety can be fun when you learn it with our fire and life safety top dogs K9 MOLLY and K9 ANTHEM!



These accelerant detection canines are very important members of the NH State Fire Marshal's Office. Their job is to sniff out the tiniest traces of accelerants that may have been used to start a fire. Each dog lives and works with their handler 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They are very excited to be a part of this newsletter that will provide fire and life safety knowledge and skills to keep students, their families and friends safer!



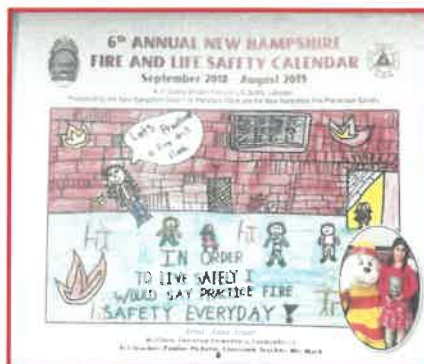
## K9 MOLLY & K9 ANTHEM EVENT LOOKOUT!



We want you to keep an eye out for K9 MOLLY and K9 ANTHEM as they love to attend events and show you how hard they work and train. Send us your photo with one of these canines and we'll send you a special gift just from them!



## 3rd GRADE FIRE & LIFE SAFETY CALENDAR CONTEST



Every year the NH State Fire Marshal's Office and the NH Fire Prevention Society hold an *Annual Fire & Life Safety Calendar Contest*. This contest is open to ALL 3rd grade students in public, private and home school settings. We encourage students to research the monthly topics, pick the one that is most interesting, and design the most clear, colorful poster with an important safety message. We look forward to receiving your entry!

[LEARN MORE!](#)

## TRAVEL SAFELY FOR SCHOOL!

School buses are the safest mode of motorized transportation for getting children to and from school, but injuries can occur if kids are not careful and aware when getting on and off the bus. Parents/Guardians be sure to take a moment to review these essential safety rules with your student(s).



- Walk with your kids to the bus stop. Wait with them until the bus arrives. Have kids stand at least three giant steps back from the curb while waiting for, and as, the bus approaches. Board the bus one at a time.
- Teach kids to wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before standing up from being seated.
- **NEVER** walk behind the bus.
- If your child needs to cross the street after exiting the bus, he or she should take five giant steps in front of the bus, make eye contact with the bus driver and cross when the driver indicates it's safe. Teach kids to look left, right and left again for stopped cars and before crossing the street.
- Instruct younger kids to use handrails when boarding or exiting the bus. Be careful of clothing and bag straps or drawstrings that could get caught in the door. If your child drops something, they should tell the bus driver and make sure the bus driver is able to see them before they pick it up.

**DRIVER SAFETY & AWARENESS:** With students heading back to school it is important that we all stay alert and aware.

- ▶ When backing out of a driveway, look for children walking or bicycling.
- ▶ Be alert, as children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking.
- ▶ **YELLOW** flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to stop.
- ▶ **RED** flashing lights and extended arms indicate that the bus has stopped and that children are getting on/off.
- ▶ Motorists **MUST STOP** their vehicle and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn and the bus begins moving again.

**LEARN MORE ON SCHOOL BUS SAFETY BY CLICKING GRAPHICS BELOW:**



## SEPTEMBER: PREPAREDNESS MONTH



September is National Preparedness Month. Please take time this month to ensure that you, your family, and your pets are prepared with not only a preparedness kit for natural disasters but for home emergencies as well.

Disasters and emergencies are unpredictable and because they can occur at any time, they can be especially frightening for children (and adults!). Being prepared can help lessen fears and anxieties before, during and after a disaster. Steps taken to prepare for any disaster can reduce the chance of harm and increase the chance for survival. We strongly encourage families to include ALL members living within the home in preparedness conversations and preparations in advance of these potential disasters.

**Be sure to have your home preparedness plans in place. Follow these links for more information.**



# DIAL 9-1-1 IN EVENT OF EMERGENCY



## KNOW YOUR LOCATION.

One of the challenges of being a parent is arming your kids with the skills to handle the obstacles life presents. Teaching them how and when to use 9-1-1 in an emergency could be one of the simplest most important lessons you'll ever share. Please remember an emergency is defined as a threat to life or property. For non-emergencies, callers should contact their local police or fire department non-emergency business number.

Post your address and phone number near each phone in your home as visitors and family member may need to relay this information.

- Remain calm... be precise and tell the dispatcher exactly what is happening and what the emergency is.
- Give the dispatcher the location of the emergency and the phone number.
- Stay on the line and answer all of the dispatcher's questions.
- Don't hang up until the dispatcher tells you it is okay.

LEARN MORE!

## CELL PHONE 9-1-1

In an attempt to cut costs, many households are choosing to cancel their landline telephone service in exchange for wireless phones. Therefore, it is imperative to teach our children how to use cell phones/smartphones in the event of an emergency. Be sure to teach your children:

- ♥ The proper use of a cell phone in emergency situations.
- ♥ Teach your child how to get to the dial pad (from the various screens) on your cell phone.
- ♥ Teach your child to push 911 and then the "call" or "send" button in an emergency.
- ♥ Explain the seriousness of making the call and that it will result in a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician coming to the scene.
- ♥ Discuss landmarks. If a child doesn't know their location they should be able to describe their surroundings (street signs, highway mile markers, buildings, etc).

## UNSAFE TO CALL? TEXT 9-1-1



**TEXT-TO-9-1-1** allows individuals in dangerous situations who are unable to risk the noise of a call to send a text for help. This will help save lives and **must** be used responsibly. Texting should only be used when a voice call is not possible, as voice calls provide an advantage by allowing the 9-1-1 operator to more quickly assess the type of emergency and the location of the emergency.

### How to TEXT 9-1-1:

1. Enter **911** in the 'To' field
2. In the message field, type your exact **location** and a **BRIEF description** of the help you need - use simple words. **DO NOT** use abbreviations or shorthand
3. Push the 'Send' button and
4. Be prepared to answer the 9-1-1 call taker's questions
5. A text or data plan is required to place a **Text-to-9-1-1**. Currently, **Text-to-9-1-1** is offered via Sprint, AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile. Text messages may not go through if a cell signal is not available. If a text message does not go through, the sender will receive the following message; 'There is no text service to 9-1-1 available at this time.'

**Text-to-9-1-1** messages cannot be received if there are multiple message recipients or if pictures, videos or emoticons are used.

**Please respect Text-to-9-1-1. It is FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY!**

There are several smart phone apps available to instruct your child on how to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency. Be sure to see if there is one for your cell phone.

LEARN MORE!

**Paul Parisi**  
**NH State Fire Marshal**



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**Find Us on the Web:**

[www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/](http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/)



***Message from Marshal Parisi:***

Every school year fire and life safety educators do their part in educating your student about fire and life safety awareness. These safety concerns are ones that may be encountered in your daily lives both at home and away. No matter how much your child learns at school, they need your support in sharing what they have learned by seeing that these fire and life safety practices are discussed and performed within your home. It is easy to take fire safety for granted. We all feel like "it won't happen to me." But it can. Therefore, it is critically important to stay educated on how to keep yourself, and your family, safe from fire.

This month's newsletter impresses upon a variety of safety topics including the importance of school bus safety, the proper use of 9-1-1 as well as being prepared for times of natural disaster. Natural disasters are unpredictable and do occur within the state of New Hampshire. By educating your family on how to be prepared by having them assist in the creation and/or upkeep of your home preparedness activities, children's anxieties can be decreased during times of emergency. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office.



**Paul Parisi**  
 NH State Fire Marshal

**K9, Student and Parent Approved Websites:**

While we encourage students to disconnect and enjoy safe outdoor play we understand that sometimes the weather just doesn't cooperate. So when it comes to computer time...



try any one of these child friendly fire and life safety websites!

Just click a picture to open the link and play.

Have fun and be safer!



**Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:**

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