

Fire Safety House: The AAPS Safety Town program includes this important component as a critical part of each child's safety education.

Although we tell the children what to do and even have fire drills to practice what to do in the event of a fire, humans are wired for fight or flight. There are many stories of children hiding in closets or under beds in a house fire. We want to provide conditions similar to an actual fire so they are more likely to react in a safe way in a real emergency situation. The Fire Safety House experience helps children learn by doing and to get under the smoke and get out of the house.

Parents of children with asthma may worry about their child participating. We understand and recommend you ask your pediatrician if you have concerns. We are also able to make some accommodations. Please speak with your child's teacher so that they can make arrangements to have him or her be one of the first ones out of the Fire Safety House so they have the most limited contact with the smoke.

Here is what happens:

- The "smoke" is liquid fog, similar to Halloween store fog you may have seen.
- All children enter the Fire Safety House before the smoke is released and the firefighter explains what will happen and why they are practicing and shows a short video.
- The smoke is then released at the ceiling and slowly sinks. By the time the last child exits, the smoke is at about an adult's waist height. Keep in mind, we are crawling very low to the ground, well below the smoke.
- When all the children are outside again, the firefighter talks about what happened, what they noticed, how they're feeling about it, and answers all their questions.
- The entire experience lasts about 15 total minutes. If you have any questions or concerns, please email the directors at safetytown@aaps.k12.mi.us.

