

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## HOME FIRE PLAN

Each year approximately 6,000 people are killed and 28,000 people are seriously injured in fires in the U.S. Many victims die from smoke and gas inhalation before the fire reaches them. Most people are unprepared for the possibility of a fire and do not realize that survival requires knowledge and a plan. All families need to know what to do and how to reach safety in case of a fire.

Teach children these facts about fires.

- During a fire both heat and smoke rise. When trying to escape, stay low.
- Do not open a door if it feels hot. A closed door acts as a temporary fire barrier.
- Do not try to escape into a fire. When trapped, open windows (top and bottom), and wait near them for help.
- Do not try to hide during a fire. Call for help and stay where you can be seen.
- When trapped in a room, place clothes or towels at the bottom of a closed door.
- If clothes should catch on fire, stop, drop, and roll.

Establish a family fire escape plan. Define routes out of all rooms in your house. Discuss how to leave through windows and how to break glass with a heavy object, if necessary. Discuss the best way to alert or wake family members and determine who is responsible for helping younger or older family members out of the house. Establish a meeting place outside for all members of the family. Then call the fire department and give necessary information. Practice your fire escape drill on a regular basis.

Remember, the most important protection for the family is a smoke detector in the house. Make sure you have at least one working smoke detector in your home for the safety of your family.

## STANDARDIZED TESTS

Standardized tests allow for the comparison of students in schools throughout the country. These tests are given in classrooms at different times under standard conditions. Scores from standardized tests may be used to determine a student's ability in different subject areas, the need for remediation, and a comparison with scores of other students taking the same test throughout the country. Schools can use those comparison scores for curriculum improvement and development of new programs.

Standardized tests generally cover the following areas:

Vocabulary - Reading and comprehension

Language - Spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar

Mathematics - Number system, computation, problem-solving, terms and operations

Social Studies and Science - General knowledge

Standardized tests come with their own specific terms. To interpret test results it is necessary to understand the meaning of those terms.

**RAW SCORE** - The number of questions that have been answered correctly.

**PERCENTILE** - A comparison to other students in the same grade level nationwide. A percentile of 75 means that a student scored better than 75 percent of the students in the same grade level.

**STANINES** - Standard scores with a range of 1 to 9, with 9 being high, 5 being average.

**GRADE EQUIVALENT** - The grade level at which the student is performing. A score of 5.5 would mean the student scored about as well on the test as the average student who is halfway through fifth grade.

**COMPOSITE** - This is the average score of the subtests.

A standardized test is just one of many tools used to evaluate student school performance. Results are used in conjunction with classroom work, assignments, participation, and teacher observation to provide an overall picture of student achievement.

*"Worry is the absence of an organized plan."*

*Dale Carnegie*