



Fire Truck

Introduction to the Exhibit:



Today is your day to be a fire chief! This 25-foot long fire truck is one of our most popular exhibits at the Museum & Theatre. Here you can try on some firefighter gear (make sure you grab a jacket, pants, boots and hat), climb into the driver's seat and race to the scene of the fire! Make sure to steer the wheel carefully and don't forget to turn on our authentic fire engine lights as you make your way toward the blaze. How many firefighters are needed to hold the hose and fight the fire? Hold on tight as you slide down our brass fire station pole and get the rest of your crew ready to leave the station! While you're

here, take advantage of this exciting space to reinforce the importance of fire safety. Practice staying low in smoke and "stop, drop and roll" on the truck's lower level. Be sure to check out the *Know Two Ways Out* game board to help the family in the house make it to safety.

The Power of Play:

By role playing and creating real life situations, children learn about the world around them and discover key skills important for their success with peers. During play, children strengthen their discoveries about suitable behavior in various situations, as well as enhance their ability to think creatively. In addition to promoting the growth of imagination, improving memory and increasing vocabulary skills, the opportunity to engage in role play allows children the chance to learn valuable social skills (such as the ability to understand different perspectives) that they will continue to develop into their adult lives. This exhibit is an ideal place for undirected play to occur, which encourages children to share ("Can I wear the fire hat after you're done with it?"), listen ("I'll listen for you to run the siren before I start to turn the wheel") and negotiate ("Let's *both* hold onto the fire hose so we can put out the flames fast!") while learning to work in pairs and/or groups. Role play (such as pretending to be a firefighter or a

specific family member in need of assistance) enables children to make choices and explore while developing language and leadership skills.

ASK: Ask your child what number to call in case of a fire or emergency. Does your child know his own phone number and address? What should he do if there is a fire? This is a great opportunity to start developing a Family Escape Plan and Meeting Place if you have not done so already.

LISTEN: Listen to your child's calls on the radio and telephone. Listen to your child as he engages in role play – is he taking turns wearing the firefighter costume with other kids? Are they sharing the equipment? How do you know?

LOOK: Look carefully at the escape route game board. Can you see two ways out? Look at the red, yellow and green traffic lights. What does each color on the traffic light mean? Can you see what the child on the poster at the bottom of the truck is doing? Can you look at the pictures and copy his movements to practice "Stop, Drop and Roll?"

Key Vocabulary WORDS to USE in This Exhibit

safety	escape	smoke	plan
firefighter	911	stay low	help
rescue	crawl	flames	extinguish
bell	hose	uniform	danger
alarm	fire hydrant	ladder	stop, drop and roll

After Your Visit: The Learning Continues!

Make a list of safe meeting places outside of your home with your child. Choose a location that is best for your family to meet in case of a fire, then draw that Meeting Place with your child. Create a story with your child of what you and your family would do should a fire occur. Customize the story for your family by making a fire plan especially for the members in your household. After you have gone over your fire plan and decided upon a meeting place, have a fun fire drill! Once your child knows the path to get out of your house, activate your smoke alarm so the child can hear it and be able to recognize the sound should a fire occur. Make sure to practice your family escape plan and meeting place once a month so that everyone in your family is familiar with the procedure.

**We carefully choose the props and toys included in our exhibits. All of these items are in compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) lead testing standards.*