



TOPEKA FIRE
DEPARTMENT



Smoke Alarm Program

Dear Smoke Alarm Program Recipient,

Thank you for allowing the Topeka Fire Department the ability to make your home safer by installing a smoke alarm. Now that that we have smoke alarms installed in your house, what do you do if the alarm goes off?

When the Alarm Goes Off

- If the alarm goes off, crawl low to the ground under the smoke and exit your home quickly.
- Don't try to take anything with you; just get out. Once safely outside, go to your family meeting place to ensure that everyone got out safely.
- Once you're out, stay out!
- Make sure to prepare and practice an escape plan including a family meetingplace. Just like schools practice fire drills, families should also practice what to do if their smoke alarms go off.
- Remember, every day a smoke alarm saves somebody's life.

Smoke Alarm Maintenance

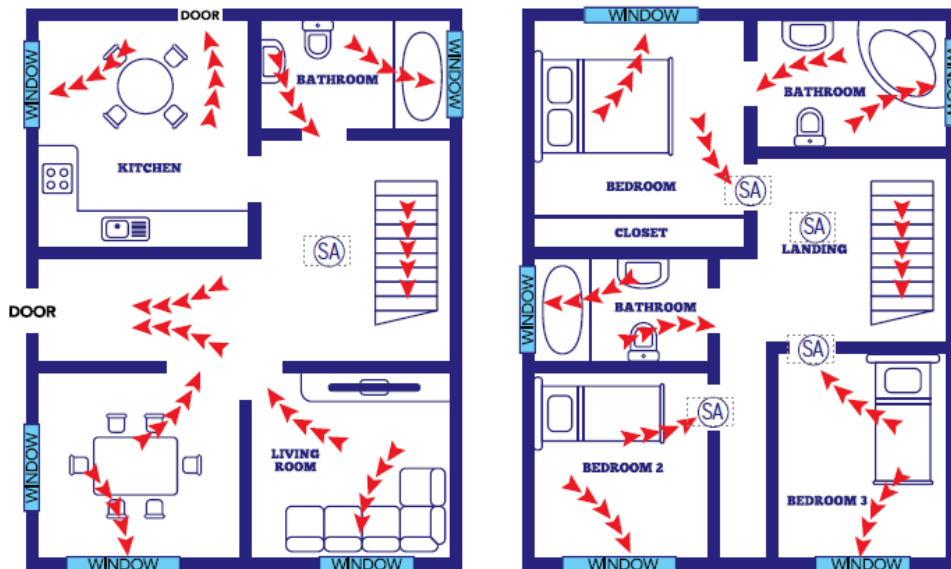
Test your smoke alarm. A suggested frequency is every month by simply holding down the test button. Vacuum your alarm at least once a year; dust and cobwebs can impair sensitivity. Never paint over a smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.

Smoke alarm installation is only the first step getting out in the event of a fire emergency. Included in this packet you will find instructions on how to create your own home fire escape plan. Plan and practice your escape, so in the event of a fire emergency you and your family can get out safely.



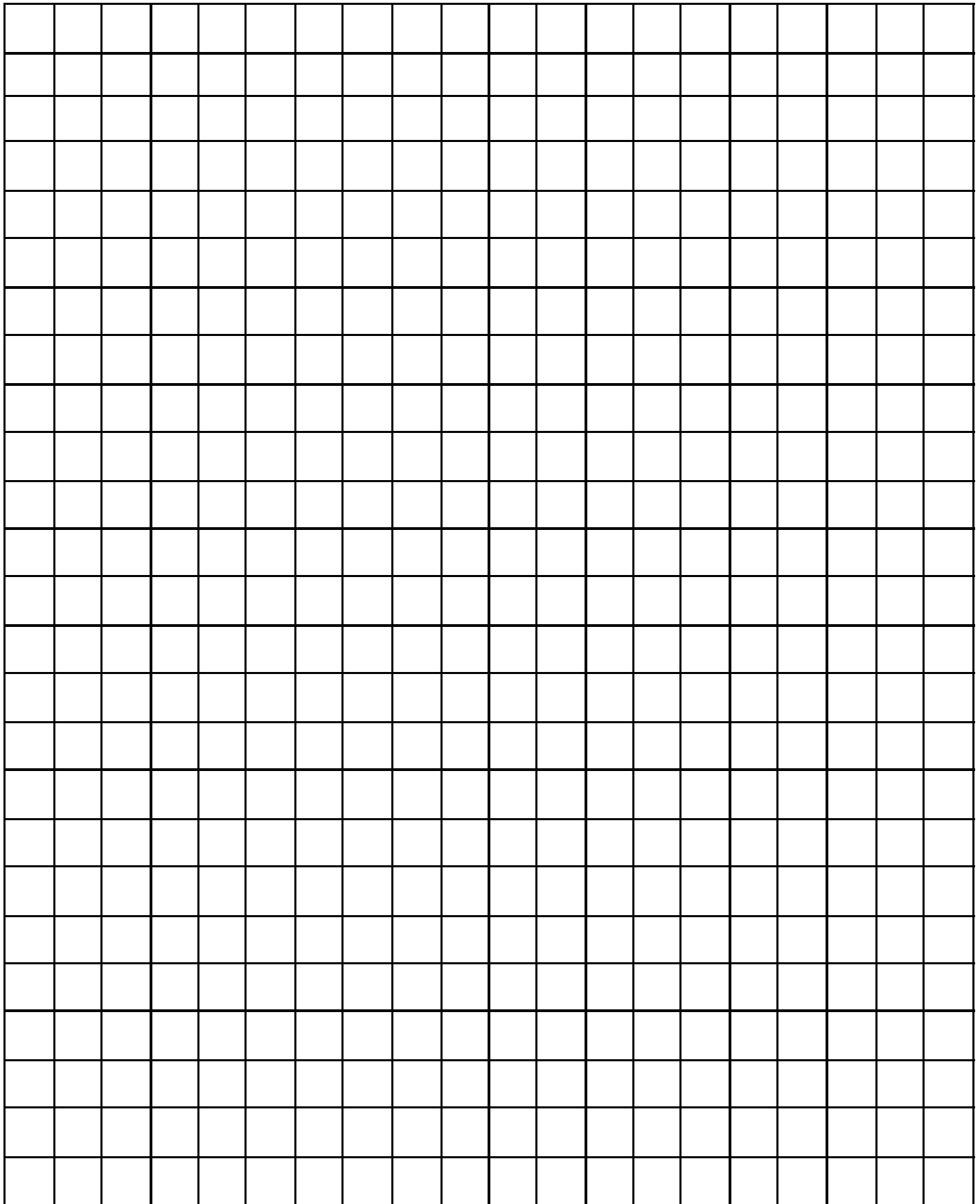
Create a Home Fire Escape Plan

1. Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
2. Visit each room. Find two ways out.
3. Make sure all windows and doors open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
4. Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button monthly to make sure they are working.
5. Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone should know to meet at the meeting place.
6. Make sure your address is visible from the street.
7. Talk about the plan with everyone in the home.
8. Remember to dial 911 in case of an emergency.
9. Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year. Practice at least once during the day and at night.



Use the grid paper on the following page to draw your escape plan.

Use the grid diagram below to draw your home fire escape plan.



Home Fire Safety Checklist

Cooking Safety



- ☐ "Keep an eye on what you fry." Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or using an open flame.

Fireplaces, Space Heaters, Baseboards, etc.



- ☐ "3 feet from the heat." Furniture, curtains, dish towels and anything that could catch fire are at least 3 feet from any type of heat source.

Smoking Safety



- ☐ Never smoke in bed.

Electrical and Appliance Safety



- ☐ Large and small appliances are plugged directly into wall outlets.

Children Playing



- ☐ Matches and lighters are locked away.

Smoke Alarms



- ☐ Change smoke alarm batteries every year unless it has a long-life battery.
- ☐ Replace smoke alarms every ten years.
- ☐ Test your smoke alarms each month. If they're not working, they can't get you out the door.

Home Fire Escape Plan



- ☐ At least twice a year, practice your fire escape plan with all family members.
- ☐ Practice makes perfect! After each fire drill, mark down your escape time.

What's Your Escape Time?

Make sure everyone can escape in two minutes or less.

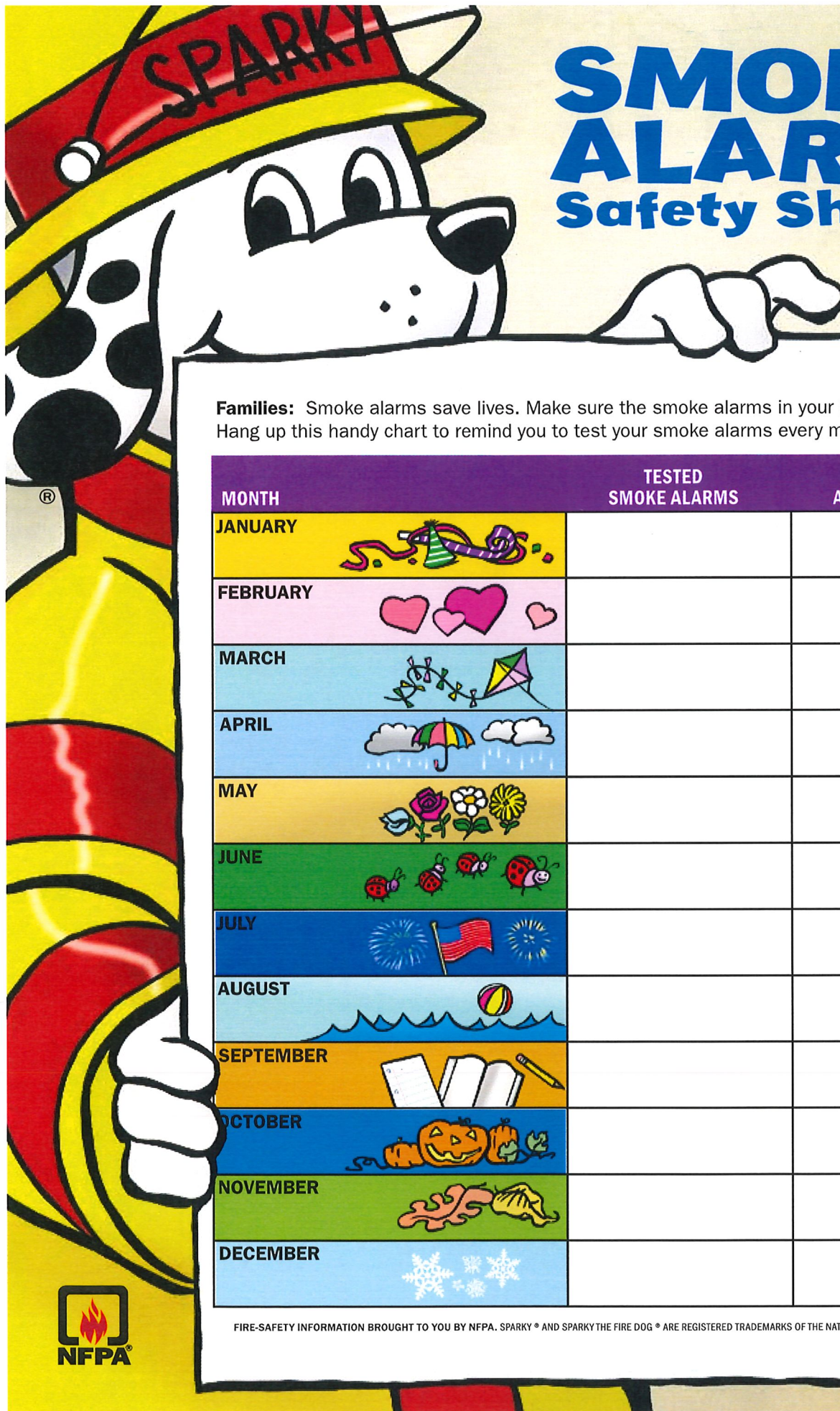
Drill 1

Drill 2



**American
Red Cross**





SMOKE ALARM Safety Sheet

Families: Smoke alarms save lives. Make sure the smoke alarms in your home are working. Hang up this handy chart to remind you to test your smoke alarms every month.

MONTH	TESTED SMOKE ALARMS	SMOKE ALARMS WORKED
JANUARY 		
FEBRUARY 		
MARCH 		
APRIL 		
MAY 		
JUNE 		
JULY 		
AUGUST 		
SEPTEMBER 		
OCTOBER 		
NOVEMBER 		
DECEMBER 		

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