

October 6-12: Fire Prevention Week

Each October, Fire Prevention Week is acknowledged throughout the country to spread awareness and educate the community about the importance of fire safety, ultimately helping to prevent home fires and their devastating consequences.

This year's theme, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!", stresses the importance of installing smoke detectors in the correct places in your home, testing them regularly to ensure they are functioning, and replacing your detectors. See the back of this bill insert for helpful tips and information courtesy of the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA).

The NFPA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating death, injury, and loss from fires and electrical hazards. Several free resources for individuals, families, children, teachers, and caregivers are available on their websites at www.nfpa.org and sparkyschoolhouse.org. They include activities, safety tips, lesson plans, videos, games, and additional fire safety information. Be sure to check out these useful tools and share them with your family.



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Color, Learn, and Win!

To celebrate Fire Prevention Week, and highlight the importance of smoke detectors in every home, we're holding a kid's coloring event!

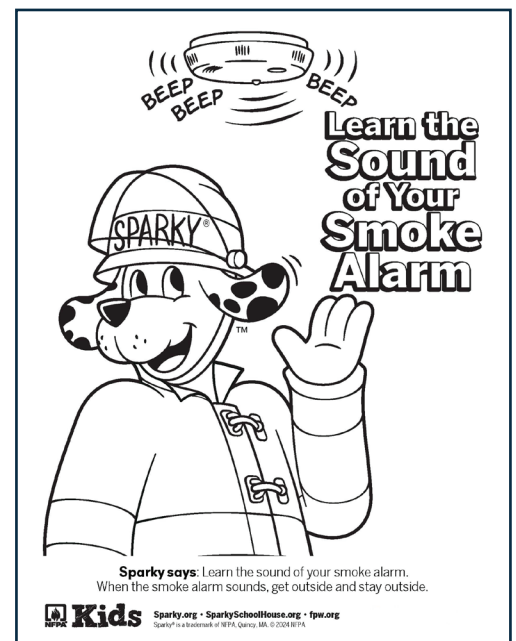
Children ages 12 and under are invited to color, learn, and be entered to win, a \$25 gift card to McDonald's Restaurant.

A resource of the NFPA, our coloring page features Sparky the Fire Dog®, and encourages children to learn the sound of a smoke alarm, and what they should do when they hear it.

Entry forms may be picked up and returned to any of our three office locations - Metter, Swainsboro, and Americus, and are due by close of business on Friday, October 25th.

Submissions will be divided into three age groups, and a name drawn from each to receive a gift card. Winners will be announced on October 28th. All children are welcome to participate, and do not need to reside in a household with Pineland services.

If you have questions about this event, please contact us at [800.247.1266](tel:800.247.1266) or info@pinelandtelco.com.



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When the smoke alarm sounds, **get outside and stay outside.**
Go to your **outside meeting place.** Call **9-1-1** from a mobile phone or a trusted neighbor's phone.
Stay outside until the fire department tells you it is safe to go back inside.

Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work For You!™



You could have as little as two minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

Installation

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- When installing, follow the instructions that come with the smoke alarm.
- For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms. When one sounds, they all sound. It is important to have interconnected smoke alarms if you sleep with the bedroom doors closed.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall.

How to Choose an Alarm

It is important to purchase a smoke alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory. The two most common types of smoke alarms are ionization and photoelectric alarms.

- For the best protection, or where extra time is needed to wake up or help others, both types of alarms or dual sensor ionization-photoelectric alarms are recommended.
- An ionization smoke alarm is more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is more responsive to smoldering fires.
- Photoelectric smoke alarms are the best type of alarms to be installed near the kitchen and bathrooms to reduce nuisance alarms.

Testing and Maintenance

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working.

Replacement

- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- For smoke alarms that do not have non-replaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.