



Introductory Memo for Educators

Test Your Smoke Alarm Day: “Saved By The Beep” – Campaign Overview

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) is proud to bring Test Your Smoke Alarm Day and the “Saved By The Beep” campaign into your classroom!

This province-wide fire safety campaign was established in 2023 and takes place every September 28 in Ontario. The campaign highlights the importance of working smoke alarms. The campaign will visit schools, communities, and public venues across Ontario with the goal of helping families understand how and why smoke alarms save lives.

As part of this initiative, educators are encouraged to engage students in age-appropriate learning about fire safety and smoke alarms through discussion, interactive activities, and at-home extensions for parents.

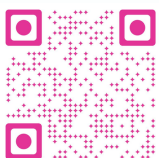
Campaign Objective

To teach children the importance of having working smoke alarms at home, and to empower them to become fire safety ambassadors in their families. Students will learn:

- Where smoke alarms should be placed in their homes.
- Why it is important to test them monthly.
- What to do when the smoke alarm sounds.
- How they can help their families stay safe from fire.

Top Smoke Alarm/Fire Safety Tips to Share with Students:

- Install smoke alarms on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas.
- A smoke alarm will let you know if there is a fire in your home.
- Test smoke alarms once a month by pressing the test button.
- Replace batteries at least once a year, or as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years, or earlier if they stop working properly.
- Make and practice a home fire escape plan with your family—know two ways out of every room, if possible.
- A smoke alarm will make a loud “beep, beep, beep (pause), beep, beep, beep (pause)” sound if there is smoke.
- Never remove the batteries from your smoke alarm to stop it from beeping.
- Know the different beeping sounds: a chirp, for example, means your battery needs to be changed.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, everyone should get outside. Stay outside until a grown-up says it is safe to go back inside.





Resources:

To access all resources, please download your resource kit at SavedByTheBeep.ca/educators. In this kit you will find:

- Two example lesson plans in smoke alarm safety (Primary and Junior) to help facilitate learning
- Tailored worksheets for some of the suggested activities
- Accompanying multimedia for certain activities
- Once launched, multimedia content, including referenced videos in your lesson plans, will be made available at the above link as well

More information and additional learning resources can be found across our campaign website, savedbythebeep.ca. The lesson plans included in the kit are guidelines and can be modified to suit the needs of your specific classroom. For any feedback or suggestions, please send us a message at OFM.PubEd@ontario.ca.

Your local fire department is also a fantastic resource for any kind of fire education for your classroom. Reach out today to organize a member of the fire department to visit your classroom to talk about fire safety this school year. By participating in this campaign, you are helping your students become proactive members of their communities when it comes to fire safety. For more resources, downloadable worksheets, posters, and videos, visit savedbythebeep.ca.

Let's all remember: Working smoke alarms are the only way you will be alerted to a fire in your home. You could be saved by the beep!

