

School Safety Initiative

FIRE

Fire is identified as a visible flame accompanied by heat, light and smoke. It is event of some thing burning. Fire causes huge losses of life and property every year. In less than 30 seconds a small flame can be completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It takes only one minute for thick black smoke to fill in side of room and in a few minutes a room can be in flames, and then in another few minutes turn in to ashes. The heat from the fire alone can kill. Room temperatures in a developing fire can be 60 C at floor level and 300 C or more at eye level. Inhaling of this hot air will scorch the lungs also.

Eighty-three children aged between eight and ten years were charred to death, 20 of them beyond recognition, while over 27 others received serious burns when a major fire raged through their school in this town of Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district. The dead included 28 boys, 38 girls and the bodies of others were charred beyond recognition. Most of the children died on the spot and were in the age group of eight to ten. At least 27 injured are in hospital battling for life.

(16 July 2004)

Fire Preparedness

Before

- Do not keep inflammable material near kitchen or any other place where there is a risk of it catching fire
- Keep a First Aid kit ready
- Avoid storing inflammable substances for more than one month.
- Repair defected wiring

During

- Stay Calm. Don't Panic
- Call fire department

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- Don't throw water on electrical appliances, if they are switched on
- Use sand, dust , loose earth to extinguish fire
- Water can also be used, but if used it would be used with great force. Muddy water is more effective
- Evacuate family members, cash and movable property as far as possible
- Don't go in a smoke filled corridor. Crawl if needed
- Cover your self with a blanket if being exposed to flames
- Practice Drop Cover and Roll.

After

- Get proper medical treatment
 - Help the people who have got burns in fire
 - Find out the cause of fire
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