



Safety Matters

Things We Learned in Grade School



Do you remember the fire drills we did with our classmates back in grade school? We just thought it was nice to get out of the classroom for a few minutes, but we were really being taught an important lesson. Do you remember what it was?

Think back for a moment. There we were, sitting in class, when the fire bell suddenly started ringing. The teacher calmly said, "Everyone put down your pencils and stand up. Beginning with the row closest to the door, I want you to walk single-file out of the building and go to the far side of the playground. Stay in a group and wait for me to join you." And if one of our classmates was on crutches or in a wheelchair, we were instructed to help out.

We learned to...

- 1) stop what we were doing,
- 2) walk outside the building,
- 3) help anyone who needs assistance,
- 4) move to a designated location away from the building,
- 5) stay with our group and wait for further instructions.

The rules are the same today as they were back then. So the next time there is a fire alarm in your building,

- 1) stop what you are doing and turn off your computer,
- 2) walk outside the building (last one out of a room close the door, but don't lock it),
- 3) help anyone who needs assistance (remember, don't use the elevator),
- 4) move to a designated location away from the building,
- 5) stand with members of your department or group and wait for further instructions.

The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week was "Practice Your Escape Plan." Your department could practice these rules during the next fire alarm test. After all, it would be nice to get outdoors for a few minutes. But remember, you'll have to come back inside when it's over. 😊