



## Countdown to a Safe Holiday

### Introduction

Make sure this holiday season is a safe and secure holiday for your students, their families and friends. Help them countdown through the holidays (whether it is Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa) to the New Year. The *Countdown to a Safe Holiday Chain* is not only fun and instructional, it makes a really cool decoration in your classroom or at their homes hanging from a tree, across a doorway, or even hanging in a student's bedroom.

### Materials

Colored paper – different colors, colored pens, glitter, scissors, and stapler/glue

### Directions

- ✂ Have students cut 31 strips of construction paper about 8" long and 2" inches wide. (Or for very young students the teacher can have pre-cut strips of paper.)
- ✍ Using the tips from *Howie's Fire Safety Tips*, have students write a holiday safety message on each strip of colored paper. (Or for non-writers have the messages printed for them to staple/glue to each colored paper strip.)
- ✂ Let students decorate each strip with glitter, stickers...
- ✂ Have the students staple/glue the first strip into a loop and then make a chain of the strips by looping them and joining them together.
- ✂ Each day the students will take a link off the chain. When the link is removed, read the safety message to the entire class or if at home to the family.

### Howie's Fire Safety Tips

1. Fire safety starts at home!
2. Give gifts of safety – smoke alarms, home escape ladders, and fire extinguishers.
3. Make a home escape plan.
4. Know two ways out of every room.
5. A door is one escape route.
6. A window can be the 2<sup>nd</sup> escape route.
7. Practice our home escape plan at least two times a year, once a night.
8. If there is smoke, "Get low and go!"
9. Once out, Stay out!
10. Have a Safe Meeting Place, outside the home.
11. Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's home.
12. Make sure the smoke alarms work.
13. Test the smoke alarm every month by pushing the button.
14. Clean smoke alarms twice a year.
15. Blow candles out, before you go out.
16. Always supervise kids when candles are burning.
17. Place candles away from trees, decorations, curtains and other items that burn.
18. Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of kids.



## Holiday Fire Safety Activity, 5 – 10 years

19. Stop kitchen fires, “Stand by Your Pan.”
20. Kids should always be supervised in the kitchen.
21. Turn handles toward the center of the stove.
22. Keep electrical cords from dangling over the edge of counters.
23. STOP, DROP, ROLL if your clothes catch fire.
24. Use flame-retardant decorations.
25. Keep greens watered.
26. Use only UL labeled electrical decorations.
27. Check lights before using them and replace if broken.
28. Always recycle gift wrap, never burn it in the fireplace or woodstove.
29. Unplug all electric decorations before leaving the room or going to sleep.
30. Do not leave kids alone in a room with a fire in the fireplace.
31. Give space heaters space ~ at least 3’ away from anything that burns.