



Newsletter

MARCH 2017

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2017 Partnership for a Safer Maryland Annual Summit
• **Thursday, June 8th** •
DoubleTree by Hilton, Annapolis (details to follow)

Do You Know EDITH?

*Craig Lowry, CSP
Chesapeake Safety Engineers*

No, I am not talking about the cute adopted daughter of Felonius Gru and Lucy Wilde from “Despicable Me” fame, but rather the acronym **EDITH** that everyone should know and practice.

EDITH – exit drills in the home. A home fire is bad enough, but if you and your family are not familiar with how to escape during an emergency, precious lives could be lost.



All Boy Scout's will tell you that being prepared is not only the Boy Scout motto, but in an **EMERGENCY**, it is essential. Most house fires occur at night, and knowing how to quickly get out of the house, might be the difference between life and death. And as we all know, your bedroom, hallway, and access to an exit, completely changes when dark smoke fills the area.

Before you can practice your exit drills, you must first perform a little planning. You will need to sketch out a floor plan and select the exit that is appropriate for each room. Just like you see in industry, school, or other public buildings, the exit plan with arrows and escape paths should be posted. I suggest posting it on the kitchen refrigerator door to serve as a reminder to all that frequently check to see if the light is working inside. The primary exit route should be the quickest, and most direct way out of the dwelling. An alternative exit might be through a window to a roof or balcony location where you can safely wait for help. If escape is through an upper level window, make sure that you have rope / ladders that reach the ground. Be sure to use the device when practicing, but be sure to be safe when training at higher levels.

For safety's sake, you may wish to consider having individuals practice at lower level windows until their full confidence is developed. Make sure your plan includes action for all infants, and non-ambulatory family members. Caution all children not to wait for an adult. In a fire, parents may be blocked from their children's bedrooms by smoke or flames. As soon as they are able, each child should know how to escape a fire and be taught to do so as soon as he or she smells smoke or hears the sound of the smoke alarm.

And, thinking about the alarm, as part of your training, be sure everyone knows how it sounds when activated. Adults need to make sure that children know the sound of your house smoke alarm and what to do if they hear it. As most of us know, during a fire, cleaner air will be near the floor. It is for this reason that in a fire you must stay low to the floor to avoid heavy smoke and intense heat. If you must exit through smoke, crawl on your hands and knees keeping your head as low as possible. You should have an exit plan for every floor level in your home, and update your escape plan as circumstances change in your household. Once you or any family member is out of the house, do not go back into the burning structure. This has proven to be a fatal mistake for many.

We all should get to know EDITH a little better and visit with her as often as possible.
<http://www.dhss.ny.gov/ofpc/publications/documents/brochures/EDITH.pdf>

2017 Injury Related Bills:

HB1285 <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=hb1285&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2017RS>
Makes seat belt requirement for all passengers a primary offense

HB1410 <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=hb1410&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2017RS>
Allows motorcycle riders to NOT wear protective headgear (helmets) if they meet 2 requirements: 1) licensed for 2 years 2) completed specified safety course

SB0946 <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=sb0946&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2017RS>
Prohibits individuals from carrying a firearm within higher education zones, even if they have a concealed carry permit. Excludes security guards/law enforcement

SB0987: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=sb0987&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2017RS>
Creates a seatbelt requirement for all passengers of a school vehicle belonging to private entities (ie private/charter schools)

Residential Sprinklers: A Firefighter in Every Home

Shannon Frattaroli, PhD, MPH

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Injury Research & Policy

The winter months are particularly tough for Maryland's first responders. While we have enjoyed a relatively mild winter in terms of snow and ice, residential fires have taken their toll on the fire service and the communities they serve. The year began with a fire in Baltimore City that claimed the lives of six children. More recently, a man from Rockville and another from Parkville died when their homes caught fire. These deaths are all the more troubling because we know how to prevent them.



Maryland has been a leader in smoke alarm distribution efforts. Working smoke alarms save lives and need to be in every home; however, we can do better. Residential sprinkler technology has existed for decades. Here again, Maryland has been a leader. The University of Maryland was a pioneer in some of the early work to adapt commercial sprinklers to residential needs. Localities in the state were among the first in the nation to pass ordinances requiring new townhomes and single family homes to be sprinkler-equipped; and Maryland and California were the first states to require sprinkler systems in new 1- and 2-family homes. A University of Maryland report comparing the impact of residential fires in homes with and without sprinkler systems in Prince George's County offers clear support for the potential of residential sprinklers to prevent future fire deaths. Over the 15-year period examined, no one died in the fires that occurred in the sprinkler-equipped homes while 101 people died in the fires in homes without sprinkler systems. In addition to the lives saved, when there was a fire the sprinkler-equipped homes sustained less damage (\$4,883) compared to the homes without sprinkler systems where no lives were lost (\$9,983) and where a fatality occurred (\$49,503). (Weatherby, 2009)

People who live in homes with sprinklers generally like the technology and are willing to pay for it. In a recent national survey, 75% of owners of 1- and 2-family homes with sprinkler systems stated they would buy a sprinkler-equipped home in the future, and 70% said they would pay more for a new home if it has sprinklers. (Frattaroli, et al. 2015) Unfortunately, only an estimated 2% of 1- and 2-family homes in the U.S. are sprinkler-equipped, leaving most of the housing stock and the people who live in those homes more vulnerable to fire's fatal effects.

What is needed is a concerted effort to retrofit current homes with sprinkler systems. In the survey previously mentioned, 20% of participants reported retrofitting their homes with a sprinkler system. This number is surprising given that the major focus of residential sprinkler promotion efforts over the past few decades has been on new housing stock. While this makes good economic sense: Installing sprinklers when a home is being built is less expensive than retrofitting an existing home, a complementary strategy is needed to encourage retrofit of some of the estimated 98% of 1- and 2-family homes in this country that lack this life saving technology. With sprinkler systems in more Maryland homes, fewer stories about lives lost to fire -- such as the tragedies that began our year -- will be a part of our future.

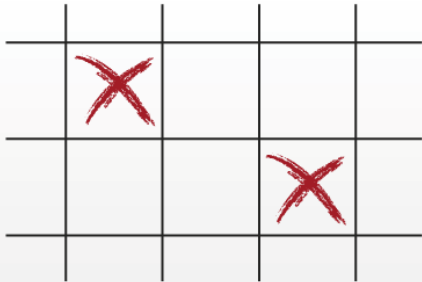
Importantly, homes with sprinklers are much safer for first responders since sprinkler systems effectively contain and extinguish most fires before they have a chance to spread. As we consider how best to promote safety in Maryland as professionals, as the Partnership, and as community members, increasing the number of homes equipped with sprinkler systems through education and advocacy should be a priority.

Frattaroli S, Pollack KM, Cook PJ, Salomon M, Omaki E, Gielen AC. Public opinion concerning residential sprinkler systems for 1- and 2-family homes. *Injury Epidemiology*. 2015;2(27). Epub 2015 Nov 5.

Weatherby S. Fire Sprinklers: Prince George's County 15-Year History with its Single Family Residential Dwelling Fire Sprinkler Ordinance. August, 2009.

An additional resource: Violence & Prevention in Maryland: a resource Guide for Decision Makers: <http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/ohpetup/Shared%20Documents/EIP-RESOURCE/MarylandResourceGuide2016LowRes.pdf>

EVENTS



March 18th • B'More Healthy Expo
10 am to 5 pm • Baltimore Convention Center

March 30th PSM Webinar Training
12 pm, linking details to follow
Elise Omaki, MHS & Nicholas Rizzutti
**Nurse Home Visitors & Firefighters Work Together to Protect
Some of the Most Vulnerable Community Members: Results
from a Pilot Study**

**April 3rd-5th Lifesavers National Conference on
Highway Safety Priorities**
Charlotte Convention Center

SAVE THE DATE

The Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy Presents:

ACTION THROUGH COLLABORATION

2017 Injury and Violence Prevention Translation Symposium

WEDNESDAY

May 3, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Feinstone Hall (E2030)

Wolfe Street Building

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



30th ANNIVERSARY | JOHNS HOPKINS CENTER FOR
INJURY RESEARCH AND POLICY

For more information, please visit
www.jhsp.h.edu/injurycenter

Upcoming Prevention Awareness Dates

• March •

Brain Injury Awareness Month
17th NHTSA Buzed Driving campaign
20th-26th Poison Prevention Week & Inhalants Awareness

• April •

Alcohol Awareness Month
Child Abuse Awareness Month
Distracted Driving Awareness Month
Sexual Assault Awareness Month
Youth Sports Safety Month
18th-22nd Playground Safety Week
24th National Safe Kids Day