

Fire Station Tours

A fire station tour is the most common public interaction that fire departments engage in. Tours give fire departments an opportunity to deliver fire safety messages and to market their mission of keeping communities safe.

Consider the following when conducting a fire station tour:

- **Contact Group**

Contact school or tour group prior to the day of the tour. Discuss group expectations and if additional preparations are required due to special circumstances.

- **Deliver 1 or 2 Fire Safety Message(s)**

Every tour is an educational opportunity. Make sure your visitors leave with one or two age-appropriate fire safety messages they can use.

- **Use a Lesson Plan**

Lesson plans help to ensure that a consistent, age-appropriate fire safety message is delivered regardless of who delivers the program. A chief officer or the public fire educator can develop the plan.

- **Curriculum Planning Guidebook**

Reference the *Massachusetts Curriculum Planning Guidebook* for information on age-appropriate fire safety behaviors, lesson plan development and child developmental guidelines.

- **Tour Safety**

Establish safety rules immediately. Explain to the group what happens if the firefighters have to leave on an emergency call.

- **Consider using Props**

Props enhance lessons. Consider using one of the following props when delivering a fire safety message: smoke detector w/battery, blanket to simulate smoke (stay low under smoke), phone to dial 9-1-1, etc.



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FireFACTORS

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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- **Firefighting Gear**

Teaching children to go towards the firefighter and to recognize a firefighter in their gear as a helper are important lessons. However, it is difficult to guarantee that a firefighter's gear is clean and free of any contaminants. To keep children safe, use a dedicated set of clean firefighting gear or child-size gear when allowing children to wear gear.

- **Fire Helmets**

Never allow children to wear real fire helmets. Firefighter helmets are heavy and present a contamination risk to both child and firefighter. Use plastic helmets or have children make their own helmets in class.

- **Handouts**

Handouts should be age appropriate. Make sure you have handouts for both children and the adults on the tour. Some handouts for adults include: smoke alarms, developing and practicing a home escape plan, cooking safety. Delivering handouts to adults and to children allows your safety messages to be reinforced at home.

