



# Safety Educator



SEPTEMBER 2017

## Welcome 2017-2018 School Year!

### K9 Molly



**K9 Molly** here and I would like to welcome you **ALL** to the 2017~2018 school year. I hope your summer was full of lots of fun and safe activities. I love a new school year because it means I have the opportunity to become smarter learning about so many subjects! I am excited to be a part of your school year by sharing this monthly **Safety Educator** newsletter. I hope that this newsletter is shared with everyone in your home because fire and life safety is SO important!

Here is a **GREAT** example **WHY....**

On Thursday, August 24th State Fire Marshal Bill Degnan had the opportunity to award 8yr old Harrison with the **NH State Fire Marshal's Award of Excellence in Fire & Life Safety Award**. Harry's family discussed their family's escape plan, meeting spot and how to call 9-1-1, so when their family barn caught on fire Harry knew just what to do. He was quick and calm when he got his 11 month old sister and the telephone. He quickly exited the home and went to their meeting spot. From the meeting spot, Harry called 9-1-1. Chief Bud Chapman and Marshal Degnan, as well as Harrison's Family, agree that family conversations and education around fire safety are extremely important and WORK in the event of an emergency. Please take the time this school year to dedicate to being safer in your home and community.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**School Bus Safety** 2

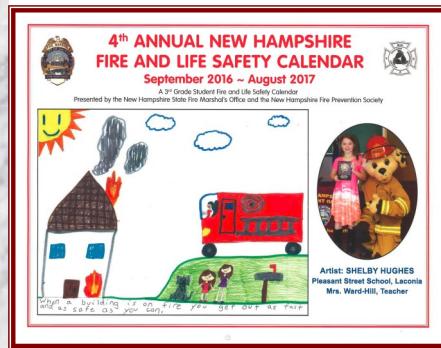
**September Preparedness** 2

**DIAL 9-1-1 In Emergency** 3

**TEXT-TO 9-1-1** 3

**Message From Marshal Degnan** 4

### 3rd Grade Students... This Contest is FOR YOU!



Every year the NH State Fire Marshal's Office and the NH Fire Prevention Society hold an Annual Fire & Life Safety Calendar Contest. This contest is open to **ALL** 3rd grade students in public, private and home school settings. We encourage students to research the monthly topics, pick the one that is most interesting, and design the most clear, colorful poster with an important safety message. We look forward to receiving your entry!

**LEARN MORE!**

# GET TO SCHOOL SAFELY THIS SCHOOL YEAR



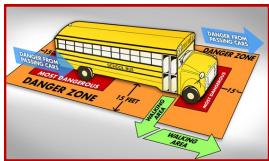
The greatest risk to your child is not riding a bus, but approaching or leaving one. Before your child goes back to school or starts school for the first time, it's important for you and your child to know traffic safety rules. Teach your child to follow these practices to make school bus transportation safer. Parents/Guardians be sure to take a moment to review these essential safety rules with your child.

- Walk with your kids to the bus stop and wait with them until it arrives. Tell kids to stand at least three giant steps back from the curb while waiting and as the bus approaches. Board the bus one at a time.
- Teach kids to wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before standing up from being seated.
- **NEVER** walk behind the bus.
- If your child needs to cross the street after exiting the bus, he or she should take five giant steps in front of the bus, make eye contact with the bus driver and cross when the driver indicates it's safe. Teach kids to look left, right and left again for stopped cars and before crossing the street.
- Instruct younger kids to use handrails when boarding or exiting the bus. Be careful of clothing and bag straps or drawstrings that could get caught in the door. If your child drops something, they should tell the bus driver and make sure the bus driver is able to see them before they pick it up.

**DRIVER SAFETY & AWARENESS:** With students heading back to school it is important that we all stay alert and aware.

- When backing out of a driveway, watch for children walking or bicycling.
- Be alert, as children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking.
- **YELLOW** flashing lights indicate that the bus is preparing to stop.
- **RED** flashing lights and extended arms indicate that the bus has stopped and that children are getting on/off.
- Motorists **MUST STOP** their vehicle and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop sign is withdrawn and the bus begins moving again.

**K9 MOLLY wants you to learn more about bus safety and statistics by clicking any of the pictures below:**



## SEPTEMBER: PREPAREDNESS MONTH

**K9 MOLLY** wants to remind NH citizens that September is National Preparedness Month. Please take time this month to ensure that you, your family, and your pets are prepared with not only a preparedness kit for natural disasters but for home emergencies as well.



Disasters and emergencies are unpredictable and because they can occur at any time, they can be especially frightening for children (and adults!). Being prepared can help lessen fears and anxieties before, during and after a disaster. Steps taken to prepare for any disaster can reduce the chance of harm and increase the chance for survival. We strongly encourage families to include ALL members living within the home in preparedness conversations and preparations in advance of these potential disasters.

**Be sure to have your home preparedness plans in place by following these links and recommendations.**



# DIAL 9-1-1 IN EVENT OF EMERGENCY

One of the challenges of being a parent is arming your kids with the skills to handle the obstacles life presents. Teaching them how and when to use 9-1-1 in an emergency could be one of the simplest most important lessons you'll ever share. An emergency is a threat to life or property. For non-emergencies, callers should contact their local police or fire department non-emergency business number. **K9 MOLLY** wants to teach your family these emergency preparedness skills.

- Post your address and phone number near each phone in your home as visitors and family members may need to relay this information.
- Remain calm... be precise and tell the dispatcher exactly what is happening and what the emergency is.
- Give the dispatcher the location of the emergency and the phone number.
- Stay on the line and answer all of the dispatcher's questions.
- Don't hang up until the dispatcher tells you it is okay.



## CELL PHONE 9-1-1

In an attempt to cut costs, many households are choosing to cancel their landline telephone service in exchange for wireless phones. Therefore, it is imperative to teach our children how to use cell phones/smartphones in the event of an emergency. As many of us are aware, there are many cell phone options available, all coming from different manufacturers, with different ways to activate the dial pad in the event of an emergency. Most smartphones will allow one to access a dial pad if the phone is locked, but the process can vary. It is necessary to provide children with this knowledge so that they know just what to do in the event of an emergency while at home or away. Be sure to teach your children:

- The proper use of a cell phone in emergency situations.
- Teach your child how to get to the dial pad (from the various screens) on your cell phone.
- Teach your child to push 911 and then the "call" or "send" button in an emergency.
- Explain the seriousness of making the call and that it will result in a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician coming to the scene.
- Discuss landmarks. If a child doesn't know their location they should be able to describe their surroundings (street signs, highway mile markers, buildings, etc).

**LEARN MORE!**



## TEXT-TO- 9-1-1

**TEXT-TO-9-1-1** allows individuals in dangerous situations who are unable to risk the noise of a call to send a text for help. This will help save lives and **must** be used responsibly. Texting should only be used when a voice call is not possible, as voice calls provide an advantage by allowing the 9-1-1 operator to more quickly assess the type of emergency and the location of the emergency.

### How to TEXT 9-1-1:

1. Enter **911** in the 'To' field
2. In the message field, type your exact **location** and a **BRIEF description** of the help you need - use simple words. **DO NOT** use abbreviations or shorthand
3. Push the 'Send' button and
4. Be prepared to answer the 9-1-1 call taker's questions
5. A text or data plan is required to place a **Text-to-9-1-1**. Currently, **Text-to-9-1-1** is offered via Sprint, AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile. Text messages may not go through if a cell signal is not available. If a text message does not go through, the sender will receive the following message: 'There is no text service to 9-1-1 available at this time.'

**Text-to-9-1-1** messages cannot be received if there are multiple message recipients or if pictures, videos or emoticons are used.

**Please respect Text-to-9-1-1 it is FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY!**

There are several smart phone apps available to instruct your child on how to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency. Be sure to see if there is one for your cell phone.

**LEARN MORE!**

**J. William Degnan**  
**NH State Fire Marshal**



**NH STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
Department of Safety  
33 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03305  
Phone: (603)223-4289  
Arson Hotline:  
1-800-400-3526  
EMAIL: [FMO@dos.nh.gov](mailto:FMO@dos.nh.gov)

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DIVISION:**

K9 District Chief:

Stacey Dubois

**EDUCATORS:**

Mary MacCaffrie

Amy McLaughlin

Sheryl Nielsen

**Message from Fire Marshal Degnan:**

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! I hope that it is off to a great, safe start! Over the summer I had the wonderful opportunity to present an award to young Harrison Holt for his heroic efforts. His family had recently moved to a new home and discussed what to do in the event of an emergency. This discussion was tested shortly thereafter when the family barn caught fire and eventually spread to his family home. Harry knew to get everyone out of the home, to go to his meeting place and to then call 9-1-1. Harry remained calm throughout this event because he **KNEW** what to do. I strongly encourage you and your family to discuss the age appropriate material that K9 Molly will be sharing in the monthly **Safety Educator** Newsletters. This September our newsletter discusses the importance of school bus safety, the Annual Fire & Life Safety Calendar Contest, being prepared for natural disasters and when/how to teach your child to call 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency. By educating your family on fire and life safety, anxieties can be reduced during times of emergency. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the NH State Fire Marshal's Office.

The HOLT family proves that education, and conversations, on fire and life safety work! Know what to do. **HAVE A PLAN.** Practice it!

J. William Degnan

NH State Fire Marshal

## Student & Parent Approved Websites

**K9 MOLLY** encourages students to disconnect and enjoy safe outdoor play. However, this dog understands that sometimes the weather just doesn't cooperate. So when it comes to computer time...



try one of these family fun fire and life safety websites! Just **click a picture below to open the link and play.** Have fun and be safe!



Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:

**Sheryl Nielsen**

Public Education Specialist

Youth Firesetter Intervention & Education

[Sheryl.Nielsen@dos.nh.gov](mailto:Sheryl.Nielsen@dos.nh.gov) 603-223-4289

Find Us on the Web:

[www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/](http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/)



**nixle**

