



K9 Pal

K9 Molly

Safety Educator



New School Year! New Look!



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL! We hope your summer was full of the many fun and safe summer activities that the State of New Hampshire has to offer. As always, we are excited to be a part of your school year by offering this monthly **Safety Educator** newsletter. Fire safety can be fun when you learn it with our fire and life safety "top dogs," and that is why we are excited to share with you **K9 MOLLY** and **K9 PAL**!

These accelerant detection canines are two very important members of the NH State Fire Marshal's Office. Their job is to sniff out the tiniest traces of accelerants that may have been used to start a fire. Each dog lives and works with their handler 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They are very excited to be a part of this newsletter that will provide fire and safety knowledge and skills to keep students, their families and friends safer!



K9 Molly

K9 Pal

MESSAGE FROM TOP DOGS K9 MOLLY and K9 PAL:



We want you to always be a "top dog"! Set your goals, be a helping hand, do great in school, be dedicated, and be the best you can be at whatever you do!



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K9 MOLLY & K9 PAL EVENT LOOKOUT!

We want you to keep an eye out for K9 MOLLY and K9 PAL as they love to attend events and show you how they work and train. Send us your photo with one of these canines and we'll send you a special gift just from them!



Molly's Minute Reminders



Get to School Safely This Year!

School buses are the safest mode of motorized transportation for getting children to and from school, but injuries can occur if kids are not careful and aware when getting on and off the bus. Parents/Guardians be sure to take a moment to review these essential safety rules with your student(s).

- 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.

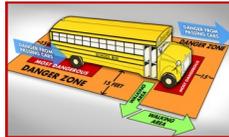
- ▶ Be alert, as children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking.

- ▶ **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.

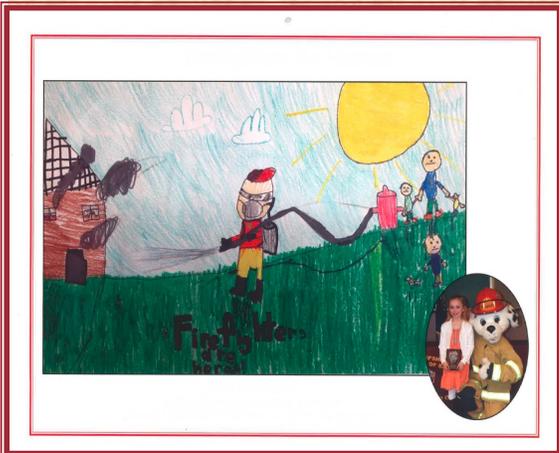
K9 MOLLY wants you to learn more about bus safety and statistics by clicking any of the pictures below:



3rd GRADE SCHOOL CALENDAR CONTEST!

Every year the NH State Fire Marshal's Office and the NH Fire Prevention Society hold an Annual Fire and Life Safety Calendar Contest. This contest is open to ALL 3rd grade students in public, private and home school settings. **K9 MOLLY** encourages ALL 3rd grade 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! Click the **MOLLY** button to learn more!



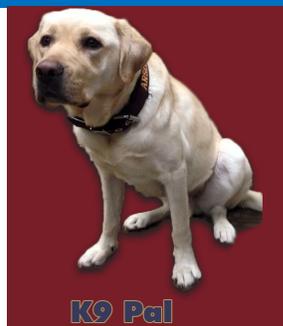
Kira Sutka, from Pollard Elementary School in Plaistow, reminds us during the month of September that firefighters are helpers in our community. They put out fires, they teach fire prevention and that it is very important not to hide from firefighters when they are trying to help us. Thank you Kira for your important safety message!

PAL'S POINTS

September Preparedness Month



K9 PAL reminds 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.



9-1-1 EMERGENCY NUMBER



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 using a business number. **K9 Pal** wants you to teach your child these emergency preparedness skills to your family.

- 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).



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!

For more information on New Hampshire's 9-1-1 system, visit www.nh.gov/nh911



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A message from Fire Marshal Degnan:

Every school year children are sent off to school with a new look for a renewed education. This year we are introducing you to two important members of our team, K9 Molly and K9 Pal. These dogs are important in helping us determine fire causes and they would like to share some important fire and life safety messages with you, your family and community. Educators do their part in educating your child about fire and life safety awareness. These safety concerns are ones that may be encountered throughout ones' daily routine, but no matter how much your child learns at school students need support in sharing what they have learned by seeing that these practices are discussed and performed within their home. This month our newsletter impresses upon the importance of school bus safety, our Annual Calendar Contest, when an emergency calls for dialing 9-1-1, as well as being prepared for times of natural disasters. Natural disasters are unpredictable and do occur within the state of New Hampshire. Through educating your child on how to be prepared, assisting in creating/up keeping your preparedness kit, anxieties can be reduced during times of emergency. I ask that you take a few minutes to read over the content included in this month's newsletter which is to aid you in making sure the environment as well as your student(s) is as safe as possible. Please share and discuss this information with all of your family. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the NH State Fire Marshal's Office.



J. William Degnan

J. William Degnan
NH State Fire Marshal



STUDENT & PARENT Approved Websites

K9 MOLLY and K9 PAL encourage students to disconnect and enjoy safe outdoor play, however we dogs understand 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 links and play. Have fun and be safe!



Find Us on the Web:

www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/



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

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