

2011-2012 PTO MEETING SCHEDULE

February 9
March 8
April 12
May 10
June 14

All meetings take place
at 7pm in the Upper
Media Center.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PTO Highlights	2
Upcoming Events	2
Nurse Notes	3
Artist Recognition	3
Butter Braids	4
Art Show Update	4
From the Math Corner	5
Movie Night	6
Playscape Update	7
Our Thanks	7
Spelling Bee Information	8
Grocery Gift Cards	9



Tiger Topics

EMERSON-WILLIAMS

FEBRUARY 2012

From the Principal's Desk

Elizabeth T. Catarius

We are continually looking for ways to improve student achievement. One way in which to do this is to conduct a Learning Walkthrough. A Learning Walkthrough is an inquiry process in which teams of teachers and/ or teams of administrators and teachers visit classrooms for a brief amount of time during the school day. During this time, the team may look at many different aspects of the classrooms that they visit. These walkthroughs are designed to be helpful in discerning specific needs for professional development and to create a picture of the school as a whole.

Although these walkthroughs have been conducted in the past, this year the teams are focusing on literacy. The teams are viewing the classroom environment, classroom instruction and classroom assessment in order to see the implementation of Reader's Workshop. This is also an excellent tool for teachers to see their colleagues and benefit from the professional expertise of the teachers in the different classrooms throughout Emerson-Williams. The students are familiar with teachers and administrators visiting their classrooms. The students are often asked about what they are learning during these visits, and they are eager to share information about the book(s) that they are reading. Conversations are rich and a source of enlightenment!

The Connecticut Mastery Test for students in grades 3-6 will be administered during most of March starting with a practice test on March 2nd. Your child will bring this practice test home, so that you may see the types of information that your child will be asked. We want our students to do well and reflect what they have learned over the years. However, we must balance the quest to do well and the students' well-being. The teachers are expert in conveying the need for students to do their best while maintaining a stress free climate during testing.

Talent Show Update

Are you ready for the Talent Show? The 6th Annual Emerson-Williams Talent Show will be held on Friday night, March 30 at 7pm at the Wethersfield High School. Yes, it's Final Four weekend, but there are no games that night.

If you would like to perform in the show, **NOW IS THE TIME TO SIGN UP!!**

Students are invited to showcase their acts on Wednesday, February 15. Any students interested in performing in the talent show should be prepared to demonstrate up to a minute of the act. For the show, each act must be 3 minutes or less in length.

We are also holding a program cover design contest. All entries must be submitted by March 8 – go to www.ewpto.com for more details.

If you have any questions, or to sign up to be in the show, contact Michele Quadrato at miq325@cox.net or Andrea Ginter at andrea.ginter@gmail.com. See you there!



PTO Highlights

Spring has sprung and it is time to break out your short sleeves. Well, it feels that way, even though it is only the beginning of February! Let's hope it lasts!

We all can look forward to the buzz of spring time events, including the Spelling Bee, Talent Show, Art Show, Elementary Schools Festival Concert and Spring Instrumental Concert. These events will showcase the many talents of our students. So mark your calendars, and join the Emerson-Williams community as our kids shine in the spotlight.

Have you ever considered volunteering for or chairing one of the many PTO committees? Did you know that the PTO has dozens of standing committees that are responsible for a myriad of fundraisers, events, and community outreach activities? To keep all this going, our PTO needs more parents involved! We are trying something new this year in regards to when sign-ups for these committees take place. In the past, these sign-ups all occurred at the May and June PTO meetings. This year, once a committee's event has occurred for the current year, it is open for anyone to sign up for the following school year.

This will give the chairperson and the committee a little more time to plan the events, and in some cases, it will allow for an early sign up bonus with some of the fundraising vendors.

We currently are looking for volunteers to serve on/ and or chair the following 2012-2013 committees: Address Directory, Appreciation Week, Book Fair, Bus Monitor, Fall Parent-Teacher Conference Child Care, Holiday store, Vendor Night, Wrapping Paper, Hospitality, Kindergarten Boo Hoo, Kindergarten Hand Print Project, Lunch Helpers, Media Center, Membership, Poetry Night, and Welcome Back Luncheon.

If you are ready to dive in this year, we also have these current year chair positions open that we would love to fill: Art Show, Springtime Dinner on the Lawn and Tiger Topics. If you are interested in volunteering in any way, contact either of us, and we will help you find your niche!

Regards,

Andrea Ginter, 2nd Year Co-President
Martin Malicki, 1st Year Co-President

Mark Your Calendars!

Take a look at what is coming up this month:

Thursday, 2/9	PTO Meeting
Tuesday, 2/14	Spirit Day: Heart Day—Wear Red!
Wednesday, 2/15	Showcase for Talent Show
Thursday, 3/8	Submission Deadline for Talent Show Cover Contest
Friday, 3/23	Wethersfield Spelling Bee
Thursday, 3/29	Talent Show Dress Rehearsal
Friday, 3/30	Talent Show
Wednesday, 4/11	Elementary Schools Festival Concert
4/16—4/20	TV Turn Off Week
Monday, 5/14	Spring Instrumental Concert
Thursday, 6/7	Art Show
Saturday, 6/9	Strawberry Fest
Saturday, 7/28	3rd Annual Golf Tournament



For a full listing of all upcoming events, please visit www.ewpto.com.

Tiger Topics Health Tips

Linda Ciarcia, BSN, RN



6th graders:

Keep getting the physical forms in to me. I still have many students that have not gotten them in. You will not be allowed to enter 7th grade in September without one.

SAVE THE DATE!

BLOOD DRIVE: Emerson Williams will be sponsoring a blood drive on May 22nd from 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm here at EW. We need a great EW family turnout!!!! You may see me regarding an appointment or visit the give blood website at Redcrossblood.org.

All children should be in school when they are well, but trying to decide if they are well enough can be a difficult task. We all know they can wake up feeling one way and an hour later feel another way. The goal is to have your child in school, ready to learn; but prevent the transmission of viral illness to classmates. Thank you for keeping our school community healthy.

Here are some guidelines to follow:

- A child with a temperature of 100 degrees or greater should not be in school.

- Students should be without a fever for 24 hours without the aid of antipyretics such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen before returning to school.
- If a child vomits; they must wait 24 hours before returning to school.
- Students with excessive secretions from coughing, sneezing, or runny nose should be kept home to prevent the transmission of illness to others.
- Students diagnosed with Strep throat from a throat culture must be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.
- For headaches, stomachaches, and sore throats, the decision to send your child to school should be based on your child's ability to focus on his/her class work and learn.

Artist Recognition

Congratulations to Jennifer Breglio and Chase Millen, both in grade 3. Their artwork was chosen to represent Emerson-Williams in the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce/Wethersfield Public School Youth Art Appreciation Program. Jennifer's artwork will be displayed at Subway and Chase's artwork will be displayed at Prudential Realty.

We Need Your Help...

This is a request from the Emerson-Williams Office:

PLEASE, if you have any **VISITOR BADGES** at home, in your car or in your pockets, return them to the school office as soon as possible!

Thank you very much.



Mixed Bag Fundraiser

Please look for a catalog and order form coming home in back packs (youngest & only). The fundraiser will run from 3/5 - 3/16. Some samples are available for viewing.

Questions/Concerns? Contact Janet Vasel ajavasel@cox.net.



Start saving room in your freezer because the Butter Braid & Cookie Dough Fundraiser is right around the corner. Orders will be taken between February 13 and March 2. Money raised will go into the EW PTO general fund. Thanks for your support!



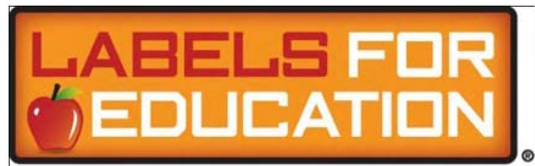
The Art Show is Coming!

The Emerson-Williams Art Show will take place on Thursday, June 7. Every E-W student will have artwork displayed around the school at this wonderful event.

We are currently seeking a chairperson for this event, as well as parent volunteers who are willing to help mount artwork. The mounting can be done at times that are convenient for the volunteers.

Thanks to Miss Nogueira for heading up this effort!

Don't forget to keep saving those Box Tops!!! For every Box Top you collect, Emerson-Williams earns \$0.10. While that may not seem like a lot, it really adds up fast! Also, if you work in an office environment, ask your copy/print services department to save Box Tops for you—many Avery products and even Boise copier paper have Box Tops on them!



Don't forget to keep saving Labels for Education! These labels can be found on lots of participating products, from Campbell's to Pepperidge Farm to Prego and more! Visit www.labelsforeducation.com for a complete list of participating products.

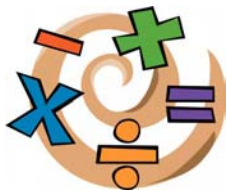
For juice products, please save the caps and for other products look for the bar code or "Labels for Education" logo inside a rectangle (see the sample below).

Don't Forget To



www.facebook.com/ewpto





From the Math Corner

Are you looking for ways to help your child with Everyday Mathematics concepts and basic facts?

Here are two great resources to support your child's learning!

Everyday Mathematics Resource and Information Center^{*new}

<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/parents>

Parents Section-Resources by Grade Level

The For Parents section is organized by grade level, so that parents can easily find resources and information most relevant to their child. A quick click on the "grade level link" will bring you to clear, detailed information and activities specific to each math unit including:

- Help with Home and Study Link problems
- Selected answers
- Vocabulary definitions
- Tutorials on algorithms
- Games

Helpful Web Links for Parents

The Parents Resources page links to dozens of online resources to help family members help their children. These links include online games, tutorials, simulations, and teaching tips.

Great Web Links for Students

The Student Resources page provides many useful resources for students, including links to interactive games, sites to practice basic fact fluency, web-based virtual manipulatives and tutorials, quizzes, forums, and more.

Everyday Mathematics Online*

Go to www.everydaymathonline.com

Online games: Reinforce skills mastery through challenging and fun computer games. You can select your level and then click on any game option. (New* There are new games and many are labeled "Facts Practice" or "Computation Practice")

Interactive Student Reference Book: A great homework help resource! The entire student reference book is online and is available in English or Spanish. There are hundreds of "Show Me" and "Try Me" interactive tools and links to glossary definitions with audio.

Family Resources: Gives families access to specific information to support student learning including the various algorithms introduced at all levels in Everyday Mathematics (Such as Lattice Multiplication!) along with interactive or printable practice of algorithms.

Please Save The Date
Emerson-Williams
Free Family Movie Night
April 20th, 2012

Webb Elementary School Auditorium
Movie will begin at 6:30 PM
Refreshments Will Be Served

All Children MUST be accompanied by an adult.



The **Wethersfield George D. Ritchie Soccer Club** is registering Wethersfield children online for recreational and travel soccer this Spring from now until the end of February.



Programs exist for elementary school children of all ages as well as 3- and 4- year old pre-schoolers!! Please visit WethersfieldSoccer.org for more details.



H&R BLOCK®

Stay tuned for details about how you can help earn money for E-W just by getting your taxes done! H&R Block will donate \$25 to Emerson-Williams for each tax return by an E-W family.

HELP US HELP OUR SCHOOL.

Did you know there's an easy way to save money AND help us raise money for our school—for books, reading programs and anything else that can use extra funding? It's called Take Charge of Education, and it's helping our school right now.

Here's how it works: Visit Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school, then use your REDcard whenever you shop. When you use your REDcardSM (Target[®] Visa[®] Credit Card, Target Credit Card[®] or Target Check Card[®]), Target will donate up to 1% of your purchases to the eligible K-12 school of your choice. In addition, you receive 5% your Target purchases every day!

Don't have a REDcard? It's easy to apply. Get started in person at any Target store or go to Target.com/redcard.

Grandparents, alumni, friends and neighbors are all welcome to participate in the program. The more people we involve, the harder the program works for our school. If you're already participating, thank you! Check out our school's progress anytime at Target.com/tcoe.



Playscape Update

Hello again EW families. I wanted to take a moment to pass along an update on our progress surrounding a new playground for the 2012-2013 school year. In December, the committee met with Wethersfield Parks & Recreation to discuss the political process of our proposed playground. It was proposed that we move the playground toward the back of the school (immediately behind the basketball court). This will prevent us from paying a fortune to getting the current pathway leading to the playscape raised high enough to be ADA compliant. We are awaiting a site survey from the town, and upon completion, the committee will be charged with presenting a proposal to the Town Council for an approval of installation as well as potential financial assistance. We hope that this part of the process will be completed by the end of March.

As of now, we have about \$22,000 in the playground fund. The cost of Phase I (which is a smaller version of the total project) is approximately in the vicinity of \$45,000. It is roughly \$30,000 for the equipment and about \$15,000 for the installation. We are hoping that the \$15,000 will be reduced once the survey is done by the town and will be something that the Parks & Recreation can assist us with. Our goal, the \$30,000 for the equipment, is very reachable as we have 2-3 more fund raisers that will help us raise another \$8,000. Recently, the Lowe's grant that we applied for was denied which would have made things much easier for us. However, we are still waiting for a response on our grant request from the State of CT and Nike. We anticipate that within the next month.

As you can see, we still have some work ahead of us. We knew when we embarked on this project 2 years ago, that the playground is not only necessary but that the children would benefit from it all the way around. However, hearing the words of a student holding change in an outreached hand saying, "Here Mr. LaPerriere, please put this towards the playground fund" speaks more volume than any request I can write on a piece of paper or in Tiger Topics. The committee is dedicated and will continue to work as hard as it can to make this year **THE** year. Our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament, specifically devised to raise money for the playground, will be held on July 28th at Blue Fox Run in Avon. We need the support of our EW golfers to attend. If you can not attend, please pass along the brochures to friends that you know who play golf. A successful golf tournament this year, will get us very close to our goal. Visit the golf site for more details, www.ewptogolf.com. Thanks in advance for your continued support!

Paul LaPerriere
Playscape & Golf Committee Chairperson

A Few Notes of Thanks ...

Thank you to Mrs. Cookson and Ms. McCabe for volunteering to be the Spelling Bee coordinators for Emerson-Williams.

Thanks to everyone who donated stuffed animals for the Lovable Huggables drive. And thanks also to Bob Morrissey who delivered all 16 bags of stuffed animals to the Lovable Huggables organization.

Thanks to Lauren Barbara for coordinating the very successful CT Whale game fundraiser. In addition to raising funds for the playscape fund, a great time was had by all! Thanks also to Stripes the tiger for coming out to support the cause.



THANKS!



Wethersfield Schools District PTO Spelling Bee
Sponsored by the school's Parent Teacher Organizations



Eligible Grades 1-6

Friday, March 23, 2012

www.wethersfieldbee.com

Grades 1-6 from all five public elementary schools are welcome to register for the spelling bee. All spellers will spell individually. The event will take place at the Wethersfield High School and spellers are encouraged to wear black and yellow. Prizes will be awarded to the winner and runner up and token prizes to all participants.

Students can begin registering by going to www.wethersfieldbee.com and click on registration form. Register by filling in the required fields and click submit. * Practice materials are on the website separated by age group, plus all the rules, puzzles, and more!

Volunteer Judges needed (parents, teachers, local celebrities), plus face painters, and more. If interested please contact your school's contact person(s) or go to www.wethersfieldbee.com

Highcrest	Webb	Charles Wright	Hanmer	Emerson Williams
Leslie Esoian 860-563-4855	Michele Meehan 860-558-9660	Hannah Granfield 860- 416-4722	Jill Swoverland E: nkswov@att.net	Mrs. Cookson shartford@wethersfield.k12.ct.us
Kathleen Stickley 860-529-2051		Meredith Banet 860-836-9825	Marianne Lienau E: lienau1@gmail.com	Ms. McCabe emccabe@wethersfield.k12.ct.us

Deadline for registration is Friday, March 9, 2012

* If students do not have a computer at home, we ask that they use the computers at the local library and or the computers in their school's media center (with permission) if possible. Otherwise, use the sign-up sheet below and submit to your school labeled Spelling Bee.

Spellers, Please consider participating in the Great American SpellCheck! Forms attached or go to www.wethersfieldbee.com/greatamericanspellcheck

Spelling Bee Sign-Up (return in backpack labeled PTO-Spelling Bee)

1) Name _____ Grade _____

Teacher _____ School _____

Phone Number _____ Parent Signature _____

2) Name _____ Grade _____

Teacher _____ School _____

Phone Number _____ Parent Signature _____

*This event is **not** a Wethersfield Board of Education sponsored event and is solely being run by the Parent Teacher Organizations(s) from each of the five participating public elementary schools.*

Grocery Store Gift Cards

Last month, you received a flyer with information about purchasing grocery store gift cards. Without spending any extra money beyond what you are already spending on your grocery bills, you can help the PTO raise the funds we need to replace our playscape. The PTO will earn 11% profit on every gift card purchased, which may not sound like a lot, but it adds up fast! For example, if only 50 families commit to purchasing \$200 in gift cards per month (which is likely just a portion of your monthly grocery bill), the PTO would earn **\$11,000** in the course of just one year. WOW! Now just imagine what we could do if all our E-W families participate. Below are some frequently asked questions about the fundraising program.

For what stores can I purchase gift cards?

We are currently selling gift cards for Stop & Shop, Price Chopper and Shoprite. As a side note, you can use Stop & Shop gift cards when shopping with Peapod and you can use Shoprite gift cards at both Shoprite and Pricerite.

Can I get gift cards for other stores/restaurants?

You can use your grocery store gift cards to purchase a variety of retailer gift cards at the grocery stores, expanding our fundraising potential exponentially!

What about Gas Rewards?

You still earn gas rewards at Stop & Shop and Price Chopper if you pay by gift card.

Why am I being asked to commit to a recurring subscription?

We have found that without a monthly or bi-monthly subscription, it is much easier to forget. With a subscription, you have a built-in system to get your cards. Keep in mind that this subscription is not binding and you can cancel at any time. We do have a limited supply available on an as needed basis.

Where can I find the order form?

You can find the order form by going to www.ewpto.com. Order forms are also available in the school office.

What if I have more questions?

Feel free to contact Andrea Ginter at andrea.ginter@gmail.com or at 860-251-9125.





Wethersfield Library Children's Department
2012 Family Winter Reading Program



Winter Reading Road Trip!



January 9th, 2012 – March 4th, 2012

- **Registration:** Tuesday, December 27th for Wethersfield residents
Wednesday, January 4th for non-residents
- You will receive a "Winter Reading Road Trip" map to log your reading and a family car to decorate for our giant library road map.
- Decide how many minutes you will spend reading each day as a family.
- Beginning Monday, January 9th, the entire family reads the amount of time agreed to, for at least five days each week.
- Color in a block on your map for every day your family reads together.
- When five blocks are colored in, bring your reading map to the library.
- At the library receive your weekly raffle ticket (1 per family) and move your family's car along the giant library road map.
- Complete weekly bonuses for extra weekly raffle tickets (1 per family)!
- Finish all eight weeks and each child will receive a paperback book of their choosing.



Wethersfield Library
515 Silas Deane Highway
Wethersfield, CT 06109
www.wethersfieldlibrary.org
Children's #: 860-257-2801
Main #: 860-529-2665



Email: childservices@wethersfieldlibrary.org





for Parents



NO. 47 • WINTER 2012

A PROGRAM OF CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

Safe Kids Connecticut Coalition
Injury Prevention Center
Connecticut Children's Medical Center
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Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 545-9988 TEL • (860) 545-9975 FAX
www.ctsafekids.org

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Director, Injury Prevention
Center, Connecticut
Children's Medical Center

For more information, contact:
Safe Kids Connecticut
860-545-9988
safekidsct@ccmckids.org

or your local Safe Kids

Fairfield County
203-247-1614

supported by Weston Fire Rescue

Greater Naugatuck Valley
203-732-1337

supported by Griffin Hospital and the
Valley Parish Nurse Program

Safe Kids Greater New Haven
203-946-8186

supported by New Haven Health Department
and Quinnipiac University, Occupational Therapy

Greater Waterbury
203-709-3655

supported by St. Mary's Hospital and
Waterbury Medical Association

Litchfield County
860-626-8201

supported by Education Connection,
Northwestern Connecticut Community College
and Torrington Fire Department

Windham County
860-456-6978

supported by Windham Hospital

New London County
860-442-0733

supported by Lawrence & Memorial Hospital



Fire Safety

Is your home fire safe? A recent study revealed that while 97% of households have installed smoke alarms, home fires continue to be the third leading cause of unintentional home injury-related deaths. A Home Safety Council (now part of Safe Kids Worldwide) study showed that although the majority of Americans report having smoke alarms installed within their homes, only 20% actually test their smoke alarms on a regular basis. Additional research shows that 64% of families polled have *never* planned or practiced a fire escape plan. A dual approach of installing/testing smoke detectors while also creating/practicing a fire escape plan is best.

Installing and Testing Smoke Alarms

- ⊗ Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement and in or near all sleeping areas.
- ⊗ Test smoke alarms at least once a month. Replace batteries at least once a year.
- ⊗ Never disable smoke alarms, even temporarily—you may forget to replace the battery.
- ⊗ Smoke alarms don't last forever—replace once every ten years.
- ⊗ Consider installing an automatic home fire sprinkling system. Smoke alarms provide an early warning of the fire, while sprinklers suppress and may even extinguish the fire.

Creating a Fire Escape Plan

- ⊗ Find two ways out of every room – the door and maybe the window.
- ⊗ Children and older people will need help escaping a fire. Make this part of the plan.
- ⊗ Make sure windows and doors open easily.
- ⊗ Practice your plan two times a year with your family. Practice when everyone else is asleep at least one time.
- ⊗ Have a place to meet in front of your house.
- ⊗ Get out and stay out. Never go back inside a burning building.

Beware Button Batteries!

Button batteries—small, coin-sized batteries—can be found in a variety of holiday items from toys to battery operated candles to holiday cards. Many button batteries can appear “invisible” to parents because devices come with the batteries already installed. These batteries pose a great risk to children four years and under as they can be easily swallowed. Symptoms of button battery ingestion may be similar to other childhood illnesses, such as coughing, drooling, and discomfort. Once burning begins, damage can continue **even after** the battery is removed.

We urge parents to keep kids safe with these 4 tips:

1. Look in your home for any items that may contain coin-sized button batteries.
2. Place devices out of sight and out of reach of small children.
3. Keep loose or spare batteries locked away.
4. Share this life-saving information with caregivers, friends, family members and sitters.

Please visit thebatterycontrolled.com for more information. •



PHOTO COURTESY OF THEBATTERYCONTROLLED.COM

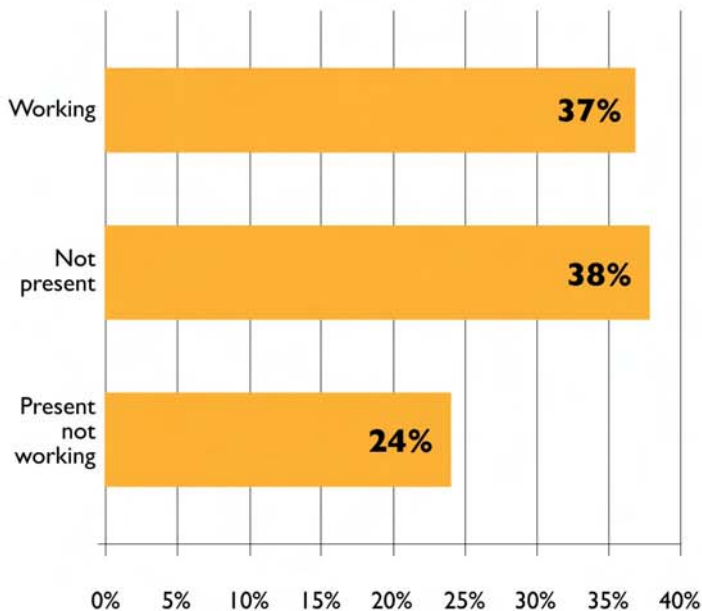


REPORTING ON CHILDHOOD INJURY

Smoke Alarm Presence and Performance

Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH, Director, Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center; Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

House fire deaths by smoke alarm performance, 2005-2009, U.S.



Each year, there are approximately 373,900 house fires in the U.S. resulting in 2,650 civilian deaths, 12,890 civilian injuries, and \$7, 147 million in direct property damage.

Smoke alarms sounded in 37% of the house fire deaths reported to U.S. fire departments. However, 38% of all house fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, and in 24% of homes smoke alarms were present but did not operate. The death rate per 100 reported fires was twice as high in homes without a working smoke alarm as it was in home fires with this protection.

In reported home fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, half of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries. Nuisance alarms were the leading reason for disconnected smoke alarms. Almost one-quarter (23%) of the smoke alarm failures were due to dead batteries. Hardwired smoke alarms are more reliable than those powered solely by batteries. •

Source: Aherns, M. Smoke alarms in U.S. House Fires. National Fire Protection Association, Fire Analysis and Research Division. September 2011. Available at <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/OS.SmokeAlarms.pdf>



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