



Central Pierce Fire & Rescue

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Today, your child(ren) completed a lesson about Making Safe and Responsible Choices. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), "Municipal fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 30,460 fires caused by playing with fire in 2014–2018. These fires resulted in an estimated 50 deaths, 510 injuries, and \$205 million in direct property damage each year." Almost half of these fires were set by children ages 11-17. The focus of this lesson was to help your child(ren) understand the risks associated with fire, as well as how to make informed decisions to stay safe in various situations.

These are the key ideas that your child(ren) learned today:

1. Understanding Risky Behavior
 - Child(ren) learned what it means for an action to be considered "risky" as well as identifying which actions would be considered risky.
 - They identified why some children might engage in these behaviors such as the fun thrill of the activity, social status, peer pressure, and or depression.
2. Consequences of Risky Behavior
 - There are positive and negative consequences for every action.
 - They became familiar with some of the negative consequences that could result from playing with fire such as injury, fire damage, earning a criminal record or financial restitution.
3. Making Safe Choices
 - Students were given hypothetical situations where they practiced decision making skills to get themselves out of a risky situation. Strategies included reporting the incident to an adult, walking away, and trying to talk their peers out of a situation.

We encourage you to have open communication with your child(ren) about what they learned today. Please stress that learning to make safe choices takes time. If they do make a mistake all they can do is commit to taking responsibility and getting help if something goes wrong.

This lesson, materials, and activities were provided to your child's school courtesy of Central Pierce Fire & Rescue, Graham Fire & Rescue, and Orting Valley Fire & Rescue. All information was sourced from the NFPA. We are very excited about this year's Making Safe and Responsible Choices program and the opportunity to share potentially life-saving information with students and their families. If you would like more information about this or other programs, please do not hesitate to reach out.

With gratitude,

Public Educator Team
Community Risk Reduction Division
Central Pierce Fire & Rescue