

FIREFIGHTERS
are my friends



Hey Kids!

Who says you can't have fun and learn at the same time? The next time you're visiting INNOVENTIONS at Epcot® with your family, stop by Liberty Mutual's "Where's the Fire?" exhibit. This experience includes a game where teams search a model house to find and solve common and uncommon fire hazards, an interactive playhouse for young children and touch screen kiosks with fun and challenging fire-safety questions for you to answer. "Where's the Fire?" will open in October 2004, and is located in INNOVENTIONS at Epcot® at the Walt Disney World® Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.



Fire Safety Resources for Parents

We at Liberty Mutual hope parents find these materials helpful in teaching children about fire safety. For additional support, please visit the following Web sites.

Liberty Mutual Kids Fire-Safety Page: www.libertymutual.com/lm/wheresthefire

U.S. Fire Administration Kids Page: www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/

U.S. Fire Administration
Parent/Teacher Lounge: www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/1.htm

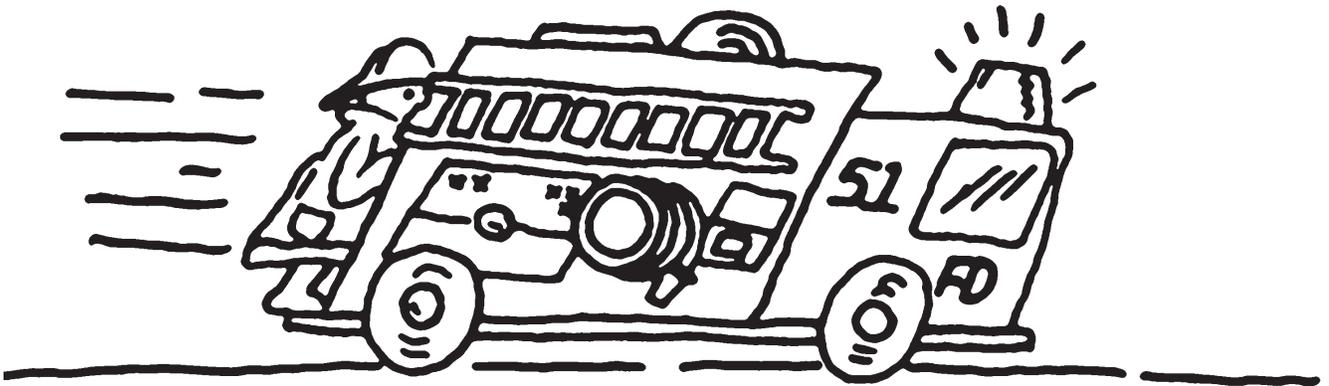
National Fire Protection Association Fire
Prevention Week Kids & Family Area: www.nfpa.org/FPW/Kids_Area/kids_area.asp

Acknowledgments

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Lua was a little girl who loved fire engines. The first one she saw was in a parade. She loved everything about them: the bright red color, flashing lights and loud siren that gave excitement to the air. Every time one went down her street with its siren blaring, Lua would run outside to watch it go by, jumping up and down and waving.



Firefighter Joe says:
Fire engines carry water that puts flames out.

One day, a fire started in the kitchen of Lua's house. When the fire engines pulled up outside, instead of being excited, Lua was very frightened. The loud sirens and flashing lights weren't any fun now. The large red trucks with all the hoses looked more like monsters than parade floats. And there were big, scary people dressed in strange clothes running into her house.

Instead of jumping up and down with glee, Lua ran to her parents and cried.



Firefighter Joe says:

Together, you and your parents should make an escape plan with two ways to get out of each room in your house. When escaping, crawl low on the floor, under the smoke, and get out as fast as you can.

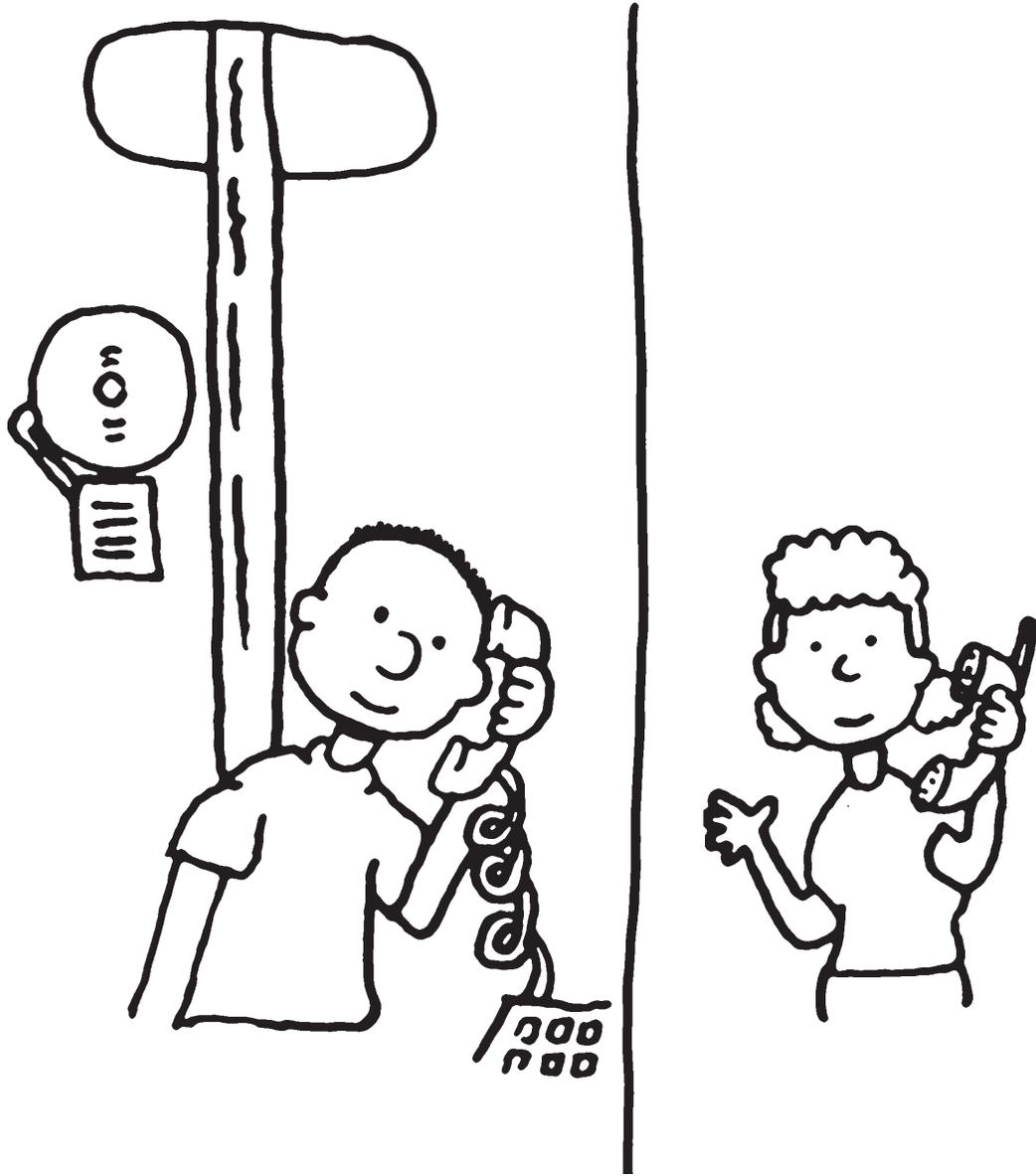
Luckily, the firefighters put the fire out, and Lua's house was fine. But Lua was still upset. She was having bad dreams about firefighters. She decided she would never run outside when a fire engine drove by, or even go to another parade again.



Firefighter Joe says:

Your parents should choose a safe and easy-to-remember place outside your home to meet after you get out.

Lua's mother called her teacher. Lua's mother suggested that all the children in Lua's class at school should learn more about firefighters so they wouldn't be scared if firefighters came to their houses one day. So Lua's teacher invited Firefighter Joe to come to school and talk to the children.



Firefighter Joe says:

Don't be afraid of firefighters, because we are here to help you.

When Firefighter Joe got there, he didn't look like the firefighters Lua had seen at her house. He was dressed in a regular-looking T-shirt, pants and boots that she saw people wearing every day.

Firefighter Joe said, "The clothes I'm wearing now are called *my day uniform*. This is what firefighters wear on a regular workday when we are not fighting a fire."

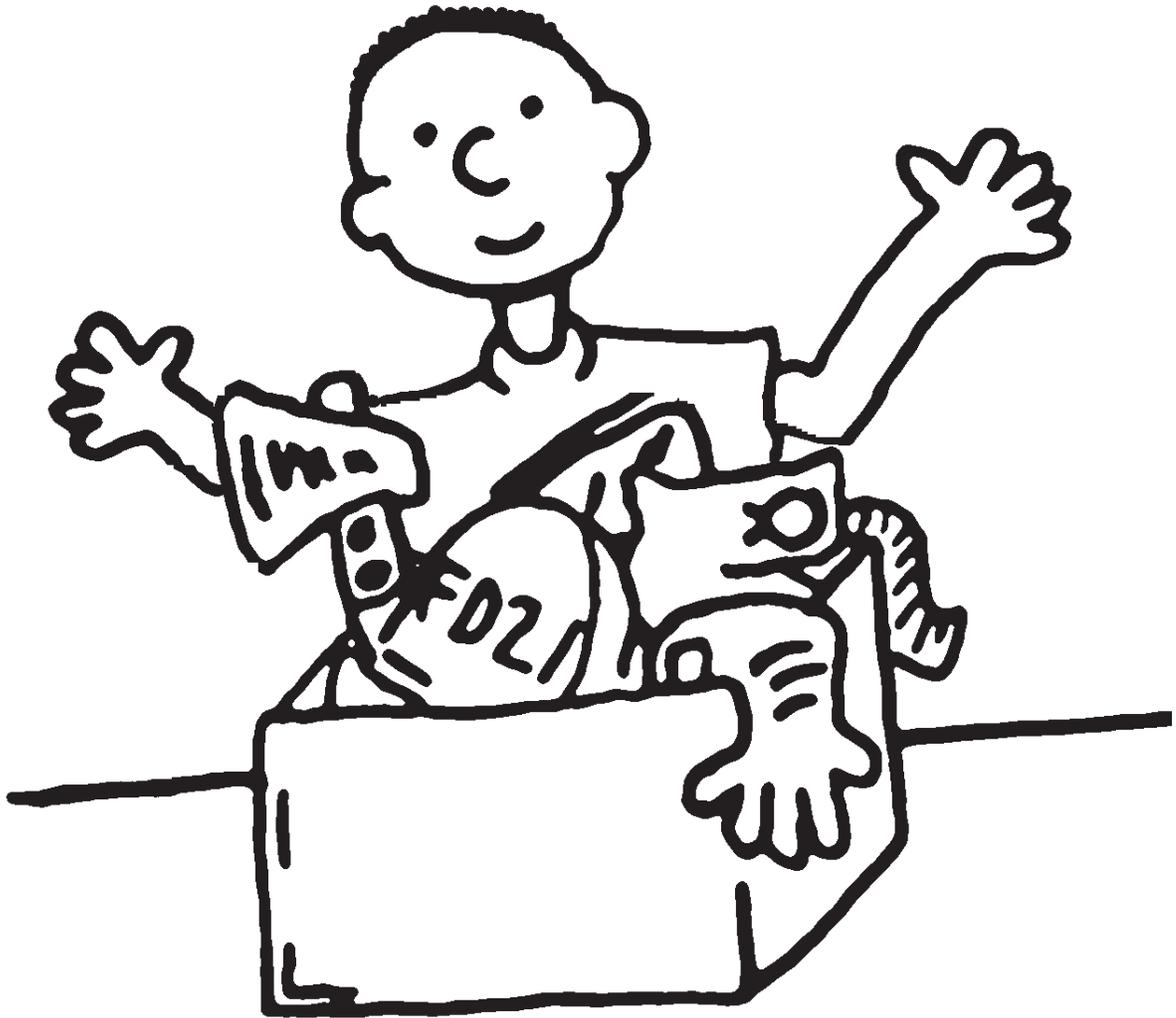


Firefighter Joe says:

When firefighters are not fighting fires, we are cleaning and maintaining equipment, practicing fire drills and doing inspections, or talking to groups of people about fire safety.

"I'm here to show you why firefighters have to wear special clothes and gear that can look kind of scary," said Firefighter Joe. "We must protect every part of our bodies so we can go into burning buildings without getting hurt, to save people and put out fires."

"But you can see that, underneath our firefighting clothes, we are regular people, just like your mom and dad or your teacher."

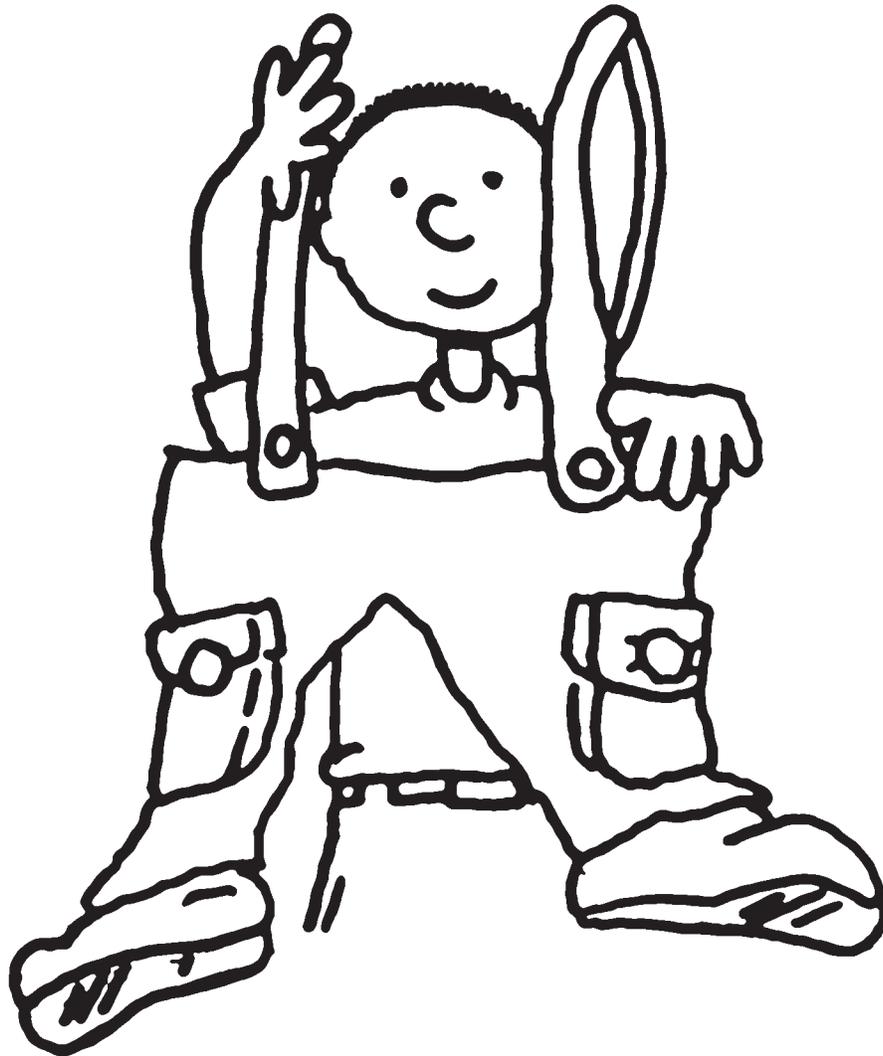


Firefighter Joe says:

Fighting fires is very dangerous, but we are trained to do it as safely as we can.

Firefighter Joe put many items of clothing and equipment onto a table. The first thing he picked up was a pair of big yellow pants with funny red suspenders on them.

“These are called turnout pants. They are called turnout pants because, when we are not wearing them, we turn them inside out with rubber boots attached.”



Firefighter Joe says:

When there is an emergency, we can quickly jump into the boots and pull the pants up over our regular pants, right side out.

“These rubber boots have steel toes and steel bars in the soles to protect our feet from sharp and heavy objects. They also have soles that won’t slip.”



Firefighter Joe says:

Handles at the top of the boots help us pull them on quickly.

Firefighter Joe picked up the big yellow jacket that matched the pants. Lua could see how the two pieces together formed a suit.

“Here is the turnout coat,” said Firefighter Joe as he slipped his arms into the coat and pulled it over his shoulders. “It’s very heavy. It has a hood to protect my head and neck.”



Firefighter Joe says:

The firefighter's last name is printed on the back of the coat so everyone can easily tell who is wearing it.

Next, Firefighter Joe put on a funny-looking mask with a hose hanging from the front of it. This thing had scared Lua the most.

“This mask is important because it allows the firefighter to breathe fresh air inside a burning building filled with smoke. It is called a self-contained breathing apparatus, or SCBA. The mask is attached to an air tank.”



Firefighter Joe says:

Firefighters' voices sound very strange and loud when we talk with the mask on.

Firefighter Joe held up his helmet. "The fire helmet protects the firefighter's head. The numbers and wording on the fire helmet tell you the firefighter's engine company name and number." He put the helmet on and placed the strap securely under his chin.



Firefighter Joe says:

Fire helmets can be seen in many different colors.

“The piece of protective clothing the firefighter usually puts on last is a pair of gloves,” said Firefighter Joe. “The gloves are made of thick material to protect our hands from heat and sharp objects, such as glass or metal.”



Firefighter Joe says:

Firefighters' gloves are made of special material that won't catch fire.

“In addition to the things we wear, we often carry tools, such as an axe, that we use to chop holes in roofs to let air in, break doors and windows, or tear down walls so we can get to the fire quicker.”



Firefighter Joe says:

Firefighters always carry a two-way radio so we can talk to each other at the fire scene when we are in different locations.

Now the children could see what Firefighter Joe looked like wearing all of his firefighting gear. He did look very different. But underneath it all, he was still friendly Firefighter Joe.



Firefighter Joe says:

Wearing all the special clothes and gear, a firefighter can weigh 50 pounds more than usual. That's about how much a medium-sized dog weighs.

“This is what firefighters will look like if they come to your house to put out a fire,” he said. “Because it’s an emergency, we’ll be in a hurry. We’ll run into your house carrying water hoses or fire extinguishers to put the flames out. By that time, we hope you will be safely outside. But if you are not able to get out, we’ll rescue you.”



Firefighter Joe says:

We may have to use ladders to climb up to windows on upper floors.

All the children nodded. None of them liked thinking about being in a fire. But they felt better knowing that someone like Firefighter Joe would be there to help them.

Especially Lua, who already knew what it was like to have a fire in her house. She hoped it wouldn't happen again. But if it did, she knew she wasn't going to be afraid of the firefighters. And she couldn't wait for the next parade, when she would once again jump for joy when the fire engines drove past.



Firefighter Joe says:

Don't ever hide when there is a fire. If firefighters call to you, shout out and tell us where you are. Follow our instructions and we will get you out safely.

