



CITY of TONAWANDA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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To all teachers of the Tonawanda City School District who are taking the time to have your students view this video, I want to say thank you. The topic of fire prevention is very important. Despite the advances made towards fire protection and fire codes, that occur on a regular basis, approximately 3000 persons lose their lives each year due to fire. Most of these fatalities are a result of a fire that occurred in a home where people, especially the very young and very old, are the most vulnerable. The lessons I feel that are most important to discuss can be summed up in two categories; how to prevent fire from occurring and how to survive/escape, should a fire break out.

No one should ever die in a fire. Almost all home fires can be prevented. Despite that fact, tragic fires continue to occur (as was the case just 4 days ago in Hamburg where a mother, along with her two young children, perished in their home during an early morning fire). Unfortunately, these situations will continue to occur and that is why I feel it is so important that we provide these lessons to the public and especially, young children.

Attached to this letter are some talking points of the subjects covered in the video that can be used as a teaching guide. The subject matter in the video is aimed at the K thru 5th grade level. I hope you will take time to review with your students, the video's contents. It is not the best production ever, as this was our first attempt at doing something like this, but the lessons are nonetheless just as important. While we normally visit each class every year to discuss these lessons in person, the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented that from happening and thus the reason for creating this video. I would like to thank Superintendent Tim Oldenburg, for his support in making this video possible and for his continuous awareness to the safety of students and staff. Thank you as well, to Mr. Gregory Fox for his effort in producing, editing and making this video available to all teachers.

Again, thank you very much for taking the time to watch and discuss the video with your students. Should you have any questions about any fire safety topic, please feel free to reach out to me by phone or email.

Charles B. Stuart
Fire Chief