

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sheridan's Early Fire Prevention Training

Every year, the Sheridan Volunteer Fire Department spends a few days on a special fire prevention training program and, while the trainees may be short in stature, they are very big on enthusiasm. Fire Chief Ted Woirhaye and his team run special fire prevention classes at the pre-school, the daycare and the K-3 classes at Sheridan school. The curriculum is intense but the trainees are up for the challenge.

“We teach the kids how to Stop, Drop and Roll, about escape routes and smoke detectors,” said Woirhaye. The program mostly involves active teaching with the kids practicing fire smothering techniques and crawling out of the building on their hands and knees. “It’s fun to do and the kids get so excited about it, especially the rolling part,” added Woirhaye.

Following the classroom instruction and the escape from the building, the kids get to interact with a volunteer fireman in a full fire suit with the air tank. The purpose of the encounter is to familiarize the children with the sounds and appearance of a rescue firefighter and mitigate their fear of the firefighter’s huge suit and the tank noises. “The air tank can sound very scary to a child already in a stressful situation,” said Woirhaye. The kids also get to squirt water from the fire hose, climb around the cab of the fire truck, honk the horn and turn on the siren!

The National Fire Prevention Association provides themed instruction materials to fire departments every year to assist in the early development classes. This year’s theme is “Smoke Alarms Save Lives”. Each fire department pays for coloring books, stickers, badges and washable tattoos to help reinforce the theme. “The investment in this program has really paid off. We have had no fires resulting from kids playing with matches. Getting kids involved in fire prevention at a young age has big benefits. They go home very motivated and excited about fire prevention. This carries over into encouraging their parents to change the batteries in the smoke alarms, plan an escape route for the family and designate a meeting place,” concluded Woirhaye.

To learn more about this program or support the Sheridan Volunteer Fire Department, please leave a message at the town hall (406) 842-5431. Ted Woirhaye is also the Director of Nursing at the Ruby Valley Hospital.

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Photo attached: tWoirhayeEarlyFirePrevention.jpg

Suggested caption: Fire Chief Ted Woirhaye conducts early fire prevention training at Ready-Set-Grow Preschool

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