

### 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Speed of Fire

Today the youngsters learned about how quickly a fire can grow to overwhelming proportions, and how dangerous it can get.

The first activity was to guess how long it takes to process through a fire. Some of the guesses we've had are:

- 1 minute for the smoke alarm to go off,
- 2 minutes for the entire process of alerting the fire dispatcher until the firefighters are in their trucks on the way to the fire,
- 20+ minutes for the firefighters to get to the fire

Then the students watched a real fire in a real house – not to worry, though, it was a training fire in a house that was going to be demolished. It was still quite a shock for most of the youngsters to see how fast the fire grew. Times were given during the video ([bit.ly/RCFDSchool](http://bit.ly/RCFDSchool)) – we skipped the introduction). The final part of the video covered the value of fire sprinklers, and how they work, including that they surround a fire and can put it out very quickly. . Ask you youngster about what happened when the sprinkler went off in the bedroom fire!

We then went back to the timeline we had used before, and put in the actual times of what happened during the fire: when the smoke alarm went off, when dispatch was called, when the firefighters were alerted, and when they actually got to the scene and got ready to put out the fire. Did you know that fire can totally consume a room in as little as 2 ½ minutes? And that no matter how fast everything works, it will take at least 8 minutes for firefighters to reach a fire in Rapid City?

The final part of the video was a 'Duffus' short cartoon on creating an escape plan for getting to your Outside Meeting Place in case of a fire. You may want to check it out; it's funny and serious at the same time. The web site is (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RumCPC4rSw>.)

A few other YouTube videos to watch on the speed of fire and fire safety are:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puy6IUd4IQ0> (***This is for parents to watch, not kids!!***)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfG4WOpG-bU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkaO2EzfK9I>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q\\_mE9JeLF1Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_mE9JeLF1Y)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1WRTQaQnFs>

Although many of these teaching simulations occurred in Australia or New Zealand, the fires and the lessons are the same. Don't fight a fire yourself. Have a plan. Get out.

***Thank you for letting us teach your youngsters a valuable lesson.***