



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN JONATHAN THRASHER

Above: Jessica, 6, and Matthew, 4, children of Maj. Brad Gillette from the 19th Fighter Squadron, pick out a free toy as part of the Fire Prevention Week activities. On the cover: Tech. Sgt. Ethan Gildersleeve, 3rd Civil Engineer Squadron, shows children what a firefighter looks like in full gear. This was an exercise to show children what firefighters look like when they enter a burning building.



Harrison Hee, 9, puts out a demonstration fire at the open house at Fire Station 1 Saturday, which concluded the Fire Prevention Week activities.



Mrs. Amanda Corral and her daughter, Kaylean, give a 'high-five' to Sparky The Fire Dog outside the Base Exchange.

'Test your smoke alarms'

By Senior Airman Amy Morrisette
3rd Wing Public Affairs

As the temperature dropped, things were heating up on base during Fire Prevention Safety Week Oct. 3-9. The theme this year was "Test your Smoke Alarms."

Elmendorf's five fire stations teamed up to hold events and training activities to teach Arctic Warriors how to prevent and put out fires. The team focused especially on educating children. Base firefighters visited schools and brought along a special visitor, "Sparky The Fire Dog," who greeted children at the Open House and the Aurora, Mt. Spurr, and Orion schools.

"We visited all the schools, we briefed them, had poster contests, and gave away prizes for the winners," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Borja, 3rd Civil Engineer Squadron fireman at Fire Station 2. "We had several fire safety demonstrations and gave out items, which all had some type of fire prevention message."

Other issues discussed were how to evacuate a building during a fire and how to report a fire.

"The first thing we teach is to get out of your house, go outside to a meeting place and call 911," said Sergeant Borja. "We had a fire safety smoke-house set up at the Base Exchange all week to train families on how to evacuate during a fire."

The Elmendorf Fire Department also spread the word about fire safety by hosting an Open House. "We taught people how to use fire extinguishers, we had equipment demonstrations, door prizes, and free food and drinks," said Sergeant Borja.

He said that almost everyone has smoke detectors, but they don't always check them. "Test your smoke alarms every month and change their batteries every year," said Sergeant Borja.

Another rule of thumb he suggests is keeping your smoke detectors working properly by not decorating or painting over them.

"Having properly working fire detectors and knowing what to do when it sounds can help you and your family escape safely," he said.

The Elmendorf Fire Department is here to help Arctic Warriors with any fire concerns and questions. To schedule a courtesy visit at a fire station, call 552-2801.



Families wave as the fire parade comes to a halt at Fire Station 1, Oct. 9. Elmendorf fire trucks, including one from Fort Richardson, drove around base, starting at the Base Exchange through the housing area and ending at Fire Station 1.