

# Working to Help Keep You Safe!



NFPA is the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week.

**F**irefighters are brave men and women who dedicate themselves to keeping everyone safe. Their jobs can be dangerous so they have to follow a lot of safety rules. Sparky® talked to Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshal Antiliano Estrella of the Providence Fire Department in Rhode Island about his job. Here's what he told Sparky.



**Sparky: Why did you become a firefighter?**

**Mr. Estrella:** When I was 20 years old, I read an ad in the newspaper about taking a test to become a firefighter. I decided to take the test and I passed! Being a firefighter is the best thing that ever happened to me.

**Sparky: What do you have to do to become a firefighter?**

**Mr. Estrella:** It takes lots of hard work! You have to take a written test and you have to be in good shape. If you pass the tests, then you go to school for six months. I had to run 10 miles a day in school!

**Sparky: How can I keep my home safe?**

**Mr. Estrella:** You can help keep your home safe by reminding your moms and dads to install smoke alarms and test them monthly. Also, remind grown-ups to test smoke alarms when you return from vacation. Smoke alarms should be on every floor of the house, and in every room where people sleep. And, always have an escape plan!

**Sparky: Are there any safety rules kids should follow if the smoke alarms sound in their home?**

**Mr. Estrella:** Yes! You have to get out of the house quickly and stay out. That's why you need to practice your home fire escape plan at least twice a year.

**Sparky: What do you do at the fire station between calls?**

**Mr. Estrella:** In between emergency calls, firefighters are constantly training and maintaining the equipment to make sure everything is in good condition. We also inspect buildings to make sure they are safe. Sometimes we visit schools to teach children how to be safe from fire and prevent fires and other emergencies.



**Firefighter Antiliano Estrella of the Providence Fire Department in Rhode Island**

**Mr. Estrella:**

Now I have a question for you. Why do you think fire trucks are usually red, or sometimes white, yellow, or green?