



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ESCONDIDO STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN CONTEST

Escondido, September 28, 2022 – The Escondido Fire Department has teamed up with the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation (Fire Foundation) and the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW), October 9-15, 2022. This year's campaign, "*Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape.*"™ works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires.

NFPA statistics show that in 2020 U.S. fire departments responded to 356,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 2,580 deaths and 11,500 injuries. On average, seven people die every day in a house fire in our country.

To help increase safety and promote awareness, the Escondido Fire Department, along with the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation, sponsored a contest at The Classical Academy in Escondido to encourage families to develop and practice their home fire escape plan.

We are proud to announce our winners in each of these divisions:

- Kindergarten through 2nd grade: Aubrey Swenson 1st place, and Rebekah Rouse 2nd place.
- 3rd through 5th grade: Hannah Rouse 1st place, and Adam Mitchell 2nd place.
- 6th through 8th grade: Eliot Gardalits 1st place, and Nicholas Husseman 2nd place.

1st Place winners received \$100 and second place winners received \$50. An additional \$50 was awarded to each of the students' teachers for classroom supplies", said Joan Jones, Fire Foundation Executive Director.

Winning students were awarded their prize during the annual Fire & Water Expo this past Saturday at Escondido Fire Station #4. The winners were also recognized on Wednesday, September 28, during the Escondido City Council meeting during the Fire Prevention Week Proclamation.

“I am so pleased to see students preparing and practicing home escape plans with two exits from each room and showing where the family should meet after getting safely out of the house. Having fire escape plans and smoke detectors are the two most important things people can do to help save lives during a home fire,” said Escondido Fire Chief Rick Vogt.

In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely. Escape planning and practice is essential in ensuring everyone gets out of a burning house safely; yet only one in three American households have developed and practiced a home fire escape plan. *Fire won't wait – prepare and practice your home fire escape plan today.*

About the San Diego Regional Fire Foundation

The [San Diego Regional Fire Foundation, www.sdfirefoundation.org](http://www.sdfirefoundation.org), a 501c3 non-profit, was formed in 1989 with a mission to improve the system of fire and emergency services in San Diego County by providing financial support for first-responder equipment and training, by increasing public awareness, and by facilitating cooperation between cities, fire departments, county agencies, corporations, and other foundations. We are the only fire foundation that supports the entire county: 29 fire agencies with 250 fire stations.



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