

West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office

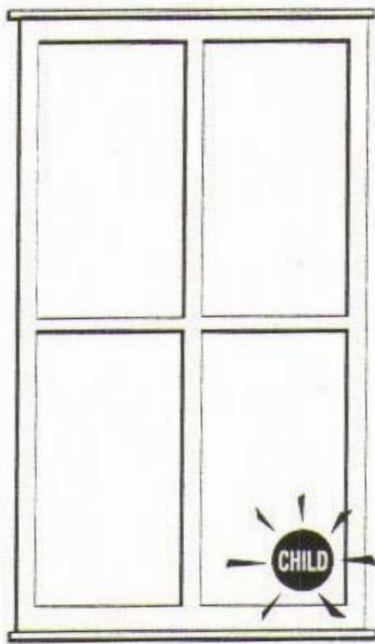
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The Case Against Locator Decals

We've all seen them - window decals designed to alert firefighters to the locations of children's bedrooms. But because of several safety issues, the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) and the Home Safety Council do not recommend the use of these decals. Here's why:



1. **Sound philosophy when it comes to fire safety practices is to teach proactive quick response to a fire situation for people of all ages.** These decals could give you and your family a false sense of security and may imply it is safe for children to wait to be rescued rather than to respond immediately on their own. Children, even at a very young age, can be taught the basics of home escape planning: responding immediately when the smoke alarms sound, knowing two ways out of every room, crawling low under smoke, gathering at a safe meeting place, and calling the fire department from outside the burning building.
2. **The window decals signal an area of vulnerability in the home.** This could put the children and/or the entire household at risk from intruders.
3. **We are also concerned about the safety of firefighters** who may enter a bedroom with a decal on the window to search for trapped children, only to learn later that the children had changed rooms, grown up, or moved out.



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