

Blank Children's Hospital

Blank Children's Hospital is an 88-bed facility that continues to expand to provide the most complete medical care to children across Iowa. In addition to more than 60 pediatric specialists and over 150 primary care physicians, Blank Children's also features the Center for Advocacy and Outreach. The Center offers a number of community outreach and medical education programs to promote a healthy, safe and nurturing environment for all children. Blank Children's Hospital is a part of Iowa Health – Des Moines that includes Iowa Methodist, Iowa Lutheran and its affiliated physicians and clinics. For more information about Blank Children's Hospital log on to www.blankchildrens.org or call (515) 241-6728.

Iowa Elks Association

The Iowa Elks Association, organized in 1906, is composed of 35 lodges consisting of over 14,000 members. The Elks of Iowa, living and supporting the principals of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity, have adopted the "Fire Safety Initiative" as their state Major Project. The Major Project mission is to promote fire safety across the state of Iowa and to protect and save the lives and property of Iowans. For more information about the Iowa Elks Association, log onto www.elks.org or call the public relations department at (641) 228-5133.

Iowa Firemen's Association

The Iowa Firemen's Association, organized in 1879, is a state organization made up of over 15,000 volunteer and career firefighters from across Iowa. The association is dedicated to the improvement of Iowa's Fire Service and protection of the general public through legislation, better training, minimum standards for fire apparatus and equipment, fire prevention, public relations and information. For more information about the Iowa Firemen's Association log on to www.iafireassn.org or call (319) 472-5067.



BLANK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM

a statewide fire safety program for children

Some grim statistics

The United States has the highest fire death rate of all developed countries in the free world. The American fire problem is concentrated in home environments made up of one- and two-family dwellings (including mobile homes) and apartments. Approximately 80 percent of all fire deaths and 75 percent of all fire injuries occur in this setting.

Two-thirds of these happen between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. Most fire deaths occur among the very young - age nine or younger. Often, children do not learn proper fire safety behavior such as dropping and rolling on the ground if clothing ignites and crawling instead of running out of a house. Education is a powerful tool to help prevent children from dying in fires.

A life saving experience

Together, Blank Children's Hospital, the Iowa Elks Association and the Iowa Firemen's Association offer a FREE statewide fire safety program to teach children important aspects of fire safety. Through this partnership, a network of **Fire Safety Houses** offers hands-on learning to prepare children for the unexpected and frightening experiences of a fire. Each **Fire Safety House** contains the three rooms where fires start most frequently: the kitchen, the living room and the bedroom. Demonstrations are conducted by firefighters and trained volunteers. Some of the life-saving procedures taught are how to crawl under smoke, how to feel a door before opening it, how to use a fire escape ladder, what a smoke detector sounds like and how to call 911.

Accessing the program

To arrange a Fire Safety House visit to your local school or community event, contact the coordinator for each House to ask about availability using the phone numbers included on the map. For more information regarding this statewide Fire Safety House program, or to find out about how your organization or fire department can join the partnership, call the Iowa Firemen's Association at (319) 472-5067.

Realistic fire simulations

Very similar in appearance to an RV or motor home, each Fire Safety House is a mobile, wheelchair-accessible fire safety education tool which can easily be towed to any location. The entire unit can be filled with smoke, or the smoke can be isolated to fill only one room in the house. The smoke is a non-toxic, theatrical product that offers realistic conditions and a memorable demonstration. Participating adults are reminded of the importance of developing a home fire escape plan, including alternate escape routes from each room of their home for their family's safety.



Thanks for your support

Countless agencies, organizations, businesses and individuals give invaluable support to each Fire Safety House within the partnership. For their financial grants and donations, their numerous volunteer hours and their dedicated partnership, we gratefully say, "Thank you!" to each contributor.

Each Fire Safety House needs ongoing contributions to continue its fire safety education. Much of this financial support comes from the dedication of the Iowa Elks Association.

If you would like to help, you may give your tax-deductible contribution directly to the Fire Safety House of your choice or call the Iowa Elks Association treasurer at (641) 858-9021.



The partnership between Blank Children's Hospital, the Iowa Elks Association and the Iowa Firemen's Association began in 2005 with four Fire Safety Houses. This network of Houses continues to expand. For the most up-to-date list of Fire Safety Houses within the partnership, contact the Iowa Firemen's Association at (319) 472-5067.

