



# 16th Annual Fire Prevention and Life Safety Essay Contest

Essay Theme:  
**"Prevent Fires, Save Lives"**  
Grades 4-8

**Submission Deadline:**  
Essays must be postmarked on or before December 18th, 2009

**Mail entries to:** Jeffrey S. Burkhart  
905 Utica Street  
Oriskany, NY 13424  
315-525-0814

**Contact Person:**  
Jeffrey S. Burkhart  
FPLS Essay Contest  
Ph. 315-525-0814  
e-mail: jsburkhart@oriskanyfd.com



## Essay Rules and Content:

- ◆ Please submit one typewritten, or two neatly handwritten double-spaced pages.
- ◆ Only one essay per student may be submitted.
- ◆ Discuss the importance of this year's essay theme: "Prevent Fires, Save Lives."
- ◆ Discuss causes of burns, injuries, death and loss of property, as well as the methods and techniques to prevent them.
- ◆ Discuss how the community, schools and fire departments can work together to educate and ensure that fire safe techniques and procedures are known and followed.



## Judging and Awards:

- ◆ All essays submitted to local, county or sectional firefighters' organizations will be screened, and six winners from each grade level will be submitted for judging at the state level.
- ◆ A state level panel of judges will choose a first, second and third place winner in each grade level.
- ◆ First, second and third place winners for each grade level will receive a plaque and a check from FASNY.
- ◆ All winning entries forwarded to FASNY but not selected as first, second or third place winners will receive a FASNY certificate.
- ◆ Statewide winners will be announced by April 30th, 2010.

**Each essay submitted must include the following information printed legibly on the back:**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



## Dear School Principals:

Each year the Firemen's Association of the State of New York and its Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee sponsor an essay contest. Students throughout New York State in grades four through eight are eligible to participate. Winning entries at the sectional, county and local level are forwarded for final judging at the state level. This contest is made available to you, your students and to children in your community in an effort to advance fire prevention and life safety awareness in our schools and community. A thorough knowledge of fire prevention and life safety procedures and techniques will greatly reduce injuries, deaths and loss of property.

The New York State Department of Education requires a minimum of 45 minutes per month of instruction in fire curriculum. Programs such as this essay contest or instruction from your local fire department may help fulfill this requirement.

Please distribute this essay contest flyer to your classroom teachers, especially those teaching science, health and English composition in grades four through eight. Participation in this contest is a very positive way to promote fire prevention and life safety and meet the curriculum criteria set forth by the New York State Department of Education.

Thank you for your cooperation and participation.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey S. Burkhart, *FASNY Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee Chair*

Laurie M. Hance, *FASNY Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee Vice Chair*

For more information, please visit our website at [www.FASNY.com](http://www.FASNY.com).

Firemen's Association of the State of New York  
107 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12210

## Teacher/Principal Guidelines:

### October is Fire Prevention Month

This contest is a method of extending and building on the instruction and events taking place in our state, community and schools in relation to fire prevention and life safety. We offer the following points to assist you in encouraging student participation in this contest:

- ◆ Please introduce the concept of fire prevention and life safety procedures and techniques in the home, school and community to the students in your classroom and members of your fire department.
- ◆ Stress the importance of fire safety techniques and practices to prevent and eliminate fires, injuries or death.
- ◆ Encourage family, school and community commitment to fire safety education.
- ◆ Provide fire prevention and life safety instruction, literature and resources for students and members of your fire department.

**All sectional, county and local firefighters' organizations are encouraged to participate in this essay contest.**

