



Citizens NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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www.citizens.coop

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Calling All Children: Help Citizens Promote Fire Safety

FLOYD, VA – Citizens, a local provider of telephone, Internet, and television programming, is looking for children, whose parents/guardians are Citizens' customers to participate in the Fire Safety Month Art Contest. October is Fire Safety Month across the United States and the art contest is just one way that Citizens is participating.

“Use Candles with Care” is the theme for the art contest that will be used to get fire safety information out in our communities. Citizens carries an excellent safety record and encourages children ages 8-14 to participate in the art contest sponsored by Telecom Insurance Group (a carrier for several of Citizens' risk management insurances).

During Fire Prevention Week, October 9-15, Citizens encourages children and grown-ups to work together with the following tips to make sure that candles are used safely in their homes:

- Make sure a grown-up is always in the room when a candle is burning.
- Never burn candles in bedrooms.
- Don't let teenage brothers and sisters burn candles in their rooms.
- Set up a 'kid-free' zone round burning candles; no playing with or near candles, with candle wax, or with things that could catch fire near candles.
- Keep candles at least a foot away from anything that could catch on fire.
- Don't put candles in window or doorways where the wind could knock them over, or blow things into them that could catch on fire.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Make sure to use candle holders that are sturdy and won't tip over easily, and are big enough to catch any wax that drips from the candle.
- Don't let children light candles. Keep hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Let a grown-up put out candles by using a snuffer or by blowing softly. Be careful of splattering wax. It is hot and can burn you.
- Grown-ups are encouraged to stay in the room until wicks have stopped glowing.
- Children are encouraged to CAREFULLY blow out their birthday candles.
- Sometimes grown-ups use candles because the power has gone out in a big storm, or because there is no electricity in the home. But Sparky wants to make

sure that you and your family are safe from fire – even during an emergency. If the power does go out, use flashlights and lights that use batteries. Make sure to have extra batteries on hand.”

“Citizens believes that the number of fires and accidents can be reduced by promoting fire safety and health to employees and their families, both on and off the job,” states Rita Turpin, Human Resource Manager and Safety Program Coordinator.

To enter, children can simply draw anything related to fire safety on an 8 _ x 11 piece of paper. All entries must be received at Telcom by October 21, 2005 for the judging. Prizes are available and the winning entry/entries may be used in Telecom’s next advertising/marketing materials.

“Citizens’ is proud to participate in Fire Safety Month and provide a resource such as the art contest as a way to educate our employees, our customers, and our community,” commented Gerald Gallimore, General Manager of Citizens.

Entry form and contest rules are available at www.citizens.coop or by contacting Citizens at (540) 745-2111.

Send Entries To:

Telcom Insurance Group
Attn: Art Contest
6301 Ivy Lane, Suite 506
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Contest Entry Rules:

- Must be 14 years old or younger and must represent a customer or an employee of a telecommunications company represented by NTCA.
- All entries must be on a flat medium no larger than 8.5” x 11” and must represent some element of general safety where people live or work or play.
- The back of the picture must include: contestant’s name, parent/guardian’s name, age, telecommunication’s company represented.
- All entries must be accompanied by an entrance form.
- All entries become the property of Telcom Insurance Group and may be used in any communications/media known or hereafter developed for non-commercial and commercial purposes. Pictures will not be returned unless specifically requested and accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope.
- Entries must be received by October 21, 2005 at the Telcom office.
- Telcom staff members will be the judges of the contest and all decisions are final.
- Prizes are:
 - \$100 first place
 - \$75 second place
 - \$50 third place
- Age groups are:

- Under 8
- 8-10
- 11-14