

# PARENTS/GUARDIANS/CAREGIVERS *GETTING HELP IN AN EMERGENCY* **9-1-1** *Do Your Kids Know What To Do?*



## 9-1-1 For Real Emergencies Only

Teach your children how to use the 9-1-1 number and have them practice dialing the number to report an emergency. (Unplug the phone during practice sessions.) Check out Trusty Ted's Page for coloring sheets and fun activities.

Children may not be sure what a real emergency is. Remind children to dial 9-1-1 when help must arrive in a hurry to save a life or catch a lawbreaker. Go over this list of some true 9-1-1 emergencies with them:

- Fire
  - Medical emergencies, when the victim is unconscious, can't breathe or is losing lots of blood
  - A prowler on the property
  - A crime or accident in progress
  - Other life-threatening situations, such as downed wires or broken water mains
  - A sounding fire or burglar alarm
- Minor accidents, a crime that happened some time ago, a sick person who needs transportation to the doctor, and disturbances such as loud parties and barking dogs are **NOT** 9-1-1 emergencies.

## What Every Child (and Babysitter) Should Know

When parents/guardians are not at home, every child or babysitter should have plainly posted near the phone:

- A list of emergency numbers – your number, a neighbor's number and 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- Your phone number and address (remember that babysitters will not know this) if calling 9-1-1 from a cellular phone at the residence (a wireline call to 9-1-1 will provide this information automatically)

## Act Now

The best time to prepare for an emergency is now – don't wait until one happens. And practice good emergency prevention by going over safety rules (what to do in case of fire, how to safely answer the phone, not opening the door to strangers, etc.) and teaching your children how to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.