



Dear Parents:

At school today, your child learned the basics of calling 9-1-1. Please make sure your child knows how to call 9-1-1 on any telephone in case of an emergency. Today, phones vary greatly, from an older model corded phone, to a cordless home phone, to the many different styles of cellphones. Another important thing to remember is that many cellphones have a screen-lock feature, but it is still possible to make an "Emergency Call." Show your child how to make a call from any phone they may have access to.

Important points to emphasize are:

- 9-1-1 is for emergencies only;
- 9-1-1 is the number to call for the police, the fire department, an ambulance, or a poison emergency;
- If your child is unsure it's a true emergency, it's okay to call 9-1-1.
- Teach them their home address and phone number.

Remind your child that calling 9-1-1 is a serious matter; prank calls, calling 9-1-1 and hanging up, or calling 9-1-1 just to practice can prevent someone with a real emergency from getting the help they need.

Visit the South Dakota Department of Public Safety website at www.dps.sd.gov to learn more about 9-1-1.

Educationally yours,