



Township of Maplewood

MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07040

FIRE DEPARTMENT

105 DUNNELL ROAD

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WINDOW DECALS (Tot Finders)

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) does **not** recommend the use of window decals such as “Tot Finders” which are designed to alert firefighters to the locations of children’s bedrooms. As a result, the Maplewood Fire Department does not issue such decals. The NFPA’s reasoning is based upon the following:

- NFPA’s educational philosophy is to teach proactive quick response to a fire situation for people of all ages. These decals could give a false sense of security by implying that it is safe for children to wait to be rescued rather than responding immediately on their own. Children, even at a very young age, can be taught the basics of home escape planning: responding immediately when smoke alarms sound, knowing two ways out of every room, crawling low under smoke, and gathering at a meeting place and calling the fire department from outside the burning building.
- Window decals signal an area of vulnerability in the home. This could put the children and/or the entire household at risk from intruders.
- NFPA is concerned about the safety of firefighters who may enter a bedroom with a decal on the window to search for trapped children, only to learn later that the children had changed rooms, grown up or moved out.