

Fireflies



THE KID'S SAFETY SOURCE

Feature Firefighter

Meet Battalion Chief Mike Nakamichi



Chief Mike has been with the Seattle Fire Department for over thirty years. He has been a Battalion Chief for two years. Being a Battalion Chief is like being a principal of a school. Just like your principal does things for the teachers and students at your school, Chief Mike does things for firefighters. He makes sure that the firefighters that work with him have everything they need to do their job. He makes sure they take classes to keep learning. The chief also makes sure they have supplies needed to do their jobs, like safety equipment.

Safety is a very important part of a firefighter's job. It is even more important to have safety as part of a chief's job. "Safety is the bottom line," says Chief Mike. Everyday we learn new things. When Chief Mike first became a firefighter, firefighters did not wear face masks. They did not know how dangerous it was to breathe smoke. They did not know how important it was to protect their eyes and faces. "If I could make my choice again, I would have worn a mask even though it was not a rule. It would have kept me safer" says Chief Mike. Now it is a rule that all firefighters wear a face mask in a fire.

As a Battalion Chief, Mike Nakamichi makes choices everyday that effect the firefighters he leads. He makes safety important by being safe everyday. He is a good example to his firefighters and to his community. "My primary goal is to send every firefighter home to their family as safe and sound as when they came to work" says Chief Mike.



Major Madlib

Choose Wisely

Fill in the blank by choosing one of the two words under each line.

Jacob, Emily and their dad were watching TV. The phone rang. Their dad answered the phone. "I will be right back," he said. "The neighbor needs my help something. Be good."

hiding, fixing

Emily wanted to try and Dad's lighter. She thought it

light, break

would be . Jacob did not like that . Emily was sure

bad, fun

idea, game

that they would not get caught.

Emily made the lighter light. Jacob was scared. He told Emily to stop. Emily told him that he was being a baby. But Jacob had learned that lighters were tools for grown-ups.

Jacob thought about what he could . He could watch and hope Emily didn't burn anything. He could just play along so she wouldn't think he was a

be, do

. Or he could run outside and find his . What should Jacob do?

nerd, baby

toy, dad

Write down each letter that is circled. If you filled in the blanks correctly, you will have the answer for what Jacob should do.

