

BARK DRAFT

Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog connects with children

BY FIREFIGHTER DAYNA HILTON



Firefighter Dayna Hilton works with Sparkles.



Sparkles' connection with kids helps her teach them about fire safety.



“We love you, Sparkles!” has been echoed by thousands of young children since Sparkles came into Firefighter Dayna Hilton’s life in May 2003. Sparkles was adopted from the Dalmatian Assistance League in Tulsa, OK. Previously, she lived a challenging life and was rescued from a home with 62 other dogs. Hilton knew that Sparkles was special from the day that she met her. On adoption day, Sparkles’ demeanor was calm, and she loved interacting with children.

SPARKLES HAS BECOME THE STAR OF A NEW CHILDREN’S FIRE SAFETY BOOK.

Since moving to Arkansas, Sparkles has become an invaluable member of Johnson County RFD #1’s Fire Safety Team in Clarksville. Sparkles and her adopted friend, Spanner, have assisted the department’s firefighters with hundreds of fire safety programs on the local, state and national level. Sparkles and Spanner have come a long way since their days before adoption. They have participated in a congressional briefing in Washington, D.C., and appeared in newscasts around the country, including *FOX and Friends* in New York City. Currently they help deliver fire safety tips on PBS KIDS Sprout (now on Sprout On Demand) and online at www.sproutonline.com/firesafety, reaching millions of children and their caregivers nationwide.

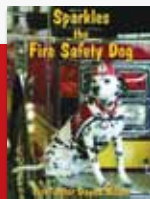
Sparkles’ connection with children and her ability to share fire safety messages has been truly amazing over the

years. Not only does she have the ability to connect with children, she has an instant chemistry when she mingles with adults as well.

Sparkles has recently become the star of the new children’s fire safety book and audio book, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*. The premise of the book is simple: Sparkles shares her enthusiasm for fire safety and provides children and their caregivers with the most current fire safety information, encouraging children and their caregivers to be fire safe. Sparkles and Hilton hope that this book will help save lives as Sparkles strives to promote fire safety every day.

Sparkles’ newest program is called *Ask a Firefighter*. Sparkles is inviting children from across the United States to learn about firefighters and the fire service by asking firefighters a question online at www.askafirefighter.net. “Why do firefighters get dressed so fast?” and “Are hoses light or heavy?” are the kinds of questions that children may ask. A firefighter from across the United States will answer the child’s question within a couple of days. **if**

To learn more about *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*, visit her website at www.sparklesthefiresafetydog.com; or her blog at www.sparklesthefiresafetydog.blogspot.com.



Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog is available from Firehouse Dog Publishing www.FirehouseDogPublishing.com and Amazon.com.

PHOTO COURTESY PBS KIDS SPROUT (TOP RIGHT)