

FIRE SAFETY

Sparky The Fire Dog Celebrates The Big 50

(NAPSA)—It may be a dog-eat-dog world, but when it comes to teaching children about fire and life safety for a half-century, Sparky the Fire Dog® will “paws” to no one. The cool, Dalmatian-mascot for the international non-profit safety advocate NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), and long-time best friend to the fire service, turns 50 years old this spring.

That's 350 doggie years! Whoever thinks that Sparky is being put out to pasture or will be living, er, er, dog days is surely barking up the wrong tree. NFPA plans to celebrate Sparky's birthday all year long and has just announced that Sparky will continue to doggedly impart educational messages to children.

How did Sparky come to be? He got his start as a pup when he followed home two children from school. In the evening, when he awoke from a nap in their backyard, he saw the children's home engulfed in fire, so he ran for help, barking all the way to the local fire station. Firefighters rushed to the scene of the blaze, and fortunately the family was saved from the fire.

Sparky was recognized for his valiant effort in alerting firefighters, and subsequently was invited to live with them in the firehouse, where he became schooled in fire prevention. NFPA adopted the canine as its mascot in 1951.



To celebrate Sparky's 50th and to learn more about fire safety, visit www.sparky.org.

So what's Sparky doing for his special day? Celebrating with birthday cake and candles. But he wants to remind everyone that lit candles must never be left unattended by adults. Last year, there were more than 11,000 fires caused by candles, and many of them started when children were playing with lit candles.

To celebrate Sparky's 50th, and to learn more about Sparky and his safety messages, visit his Web site at www.sparky.org.

NFPA has been a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical and life safety to the public since 1896. Visit NFPA's Web site at www.nfpa.org.