



her to the pupils.



A child from UCSI Child Development Centre covers his nose and mouth as he crawls away from a "fire" during a fire safety demonstration.

Haryati advises the curious children at UCSI Child Development Centre during the fire safety session.

Other efforts just as crucial

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) piloted a programme called *Safe Kids At Home: Preventing Fire and Burns with Honeywell* last year.

Safe Kids At Home is based on the Global Burden of Disease 2016 study conducted by Safe Kids Malaysia UPM, which found that one child dies from a fire or burn every two weeks in Malaysia.

Therefore, it is designed to help prevent fires, burns and scalds among primary schoolchildren.

"A large number of children were involved in fire incidents, but they escaped unhurt."

"The study conducted in 2016 showed that 6.4% of parents reported fire in their home in the last two years."

"More alarmingly, 54% reported that their children suffered at least one form of burn."

"The same study found that while 51% of parents are worried that their children are more likely to suffer a burn or scald than any other injury, only one in three parents consistently teach their kids about fire safety," shares Safe Kids Malaysia executive director Assoc Prof Dr Kulanthayan K. C. Mani.

The objective behind the programme is simple - Dr Kulanthayan, who is also from the UPM Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, says they hope to raise awareness on the sources of burn in a home and risky places where such sources are located at which can cause a fire and burn to happen.

He says the top five causes of burn or scald injuries are contact with a hot utensil, hot iron, water heater, motorcycle exhaust pipe and firecrackers.

The pilot programme was started in nine primary schools in Sentul, Kuala Lumpur, he shares.

SK Kiaramas, one of the nine schools, has been carrying out the programme for a year.

Zulfadli Saji, an English teacher in SK

What to do when a fire breaks out

Escape to a safe place

Shout for help and call 999

If trapped, find a safe passage to exit the building

Use the staircase if you are trapped in a high rise building

Grab a blanket (wet it if possible), wrap your body around it and crawl out

If doors are on fire, wet some clothes and place them under the door - it will stop smoke from entering the room

Do not run if your body catches on fire as running increases oxygen, thus enlarging the fire

Stop, drop and roll to put out the fire

Avoid using remedies such as toothpaste to treat burns on the body

Wash with tap water for 10 minutes

Seek medical help

Source: Safe Kids at Home UPM, as advised by the Fire and Rescue Department Kuala Lumpur



Firefighters from Cheras Fire and Rescue Station douse a fire under the watchful eyes of the children from UCSI Child Development Centre, during a fire drill and safety demonstration.

Kiaramas, says the pupils find the programme fun and educational. Some even show a keen interest in becoming fire-fighters, he adds.

"Our pupils are more aware today and some are even able to teach their peers and parents on fire safety!"

"It is very important for them to learn from a young age as it may come in handy in the future, not just to save their lives, but people around them."

"More programmes like these should be implemented because it is not only about making our neighbourhood a safer place to live in, but it brings us together as one multiracial country," he adds.

Dr Kulanthayan says they hope to empower and arm schoolchildren with knowledge on the sources of fire, how to identify, manage and avoid them.

It is our vision that Safe Kids Malaysia UPM reaches every child in the country, he adds.



A child from the centre "Stops, Drops and Rolls" during the fire safety demonstration.