



**Author Firefighter Dayna Hilton,
Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog
and Spanner**



Firefighter and nationally recognized fire safety expert, Dayna Hilton, known as “Firefighter Dayna” to millions of children and their caregivers, is the author of the critically acclaimed award-winning children’s fire safety book, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*. Hilton and her book have been credited with helping save several lives.

Inspired by her work as a firefighter and her four-legged friend, Sparkles, author Firefighter Dayna Hilton created a heart-warming story about Sparkles.

As children learn of the adventures of Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog, they learn valuable fire safety tips enabling them and their families to help keep fire safe. These tips include recognizing the firefighter as a helper and a friend, knowing the sound and purpose of a smoke alarm, learning how to crawl low under smoke, and understanding the importance of practicing a home fire drill using an escape map. *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* is not only fun, but educationally sound and based on the latest fire safety research for young children.

Contact Information

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Children's Author Firefighter Dayna Hilton



About the author

Dayna Hilton, a volunteer firefighter and a member of several national fire service committees, has authored articles for numerous fire service publications. A leading fire and life safety education expert, Hilton has appeared on *PBS KIDS Sprout* and *FOX and Friends*. Her award winning children's fire safety book, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*, was honored to have been mentioned on the Floor of Congress and was mentioned in a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Community Preparedness Sub-Committee. To date, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* has been credited with saving the lives of two adults and seven children.

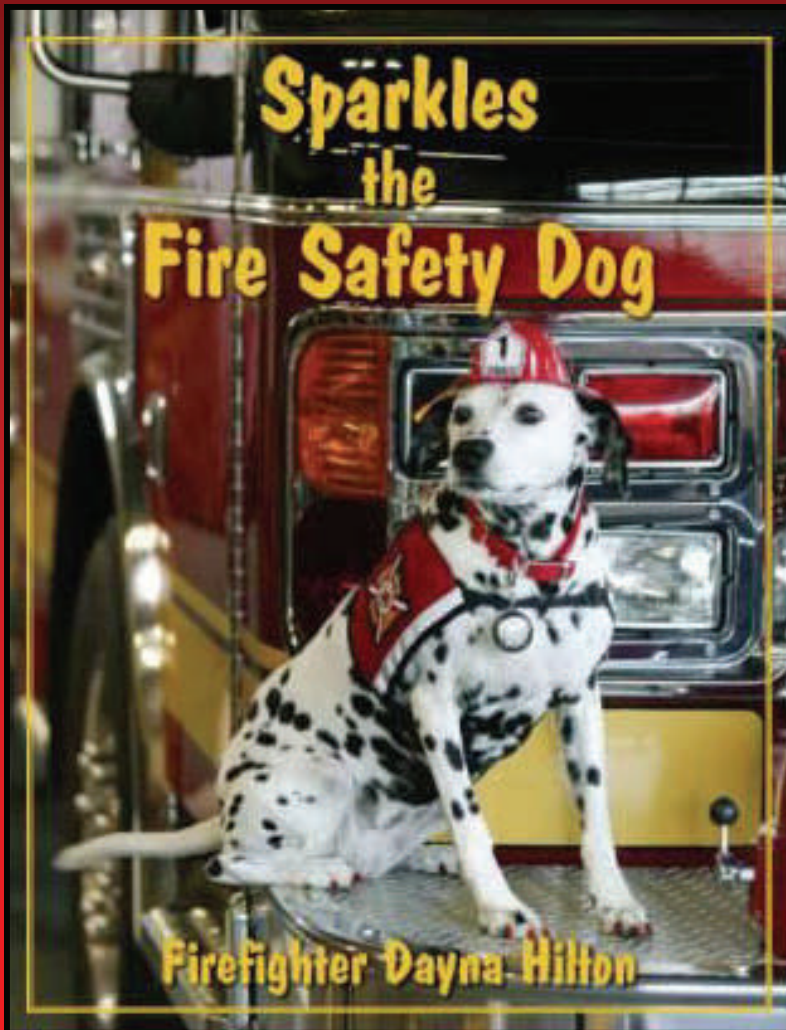
Hilton has been awarded numerous national awards for her fire safety efforts, including the *2009 National Fire Protection Association's Educator of the Year Award*, the *2006 National Volunteer Fire Council's Fire Prevention Award* and the *2009 Alpha Xi Delta Woman of Distinction Award*. She was recognized as a *Dunkin' Brands Community Foundation Hero* in July of 2007.

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Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog Fact Sheet



Genre: Children's Picture Book

Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog

Children's Book

ISBN: 978-0-9814977-0-9,

Cover Price \$4.99

Available at: keepkidsfiresafe.org,

Amazon.com, Target.com

Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog

Audio Book

ISBN: 978-0-9814977-1-6

Cover Price \$5.99

Available at:

Firehousedogpublishing.com

Two children from two families knew what to do in a fire and attribute their actions to what they learned from *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*.

Inspired by her work as a firefighter and her four-legged friend, Sparkles, author Firefighter Dayna Hilton created a heart-warming story about Sparkles.

As children learn of the adventures of Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog, they learn valuable fire safety tips enabling them and their families to help keep fire safe. These tips include recognizing the firefighter as a helper and a friend, knowing the sound and purpose of a smoke alarm, learning how to crawl low under smoke, and understanding the importance of practicing a home fire drill using an escape map. *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* is not only fun, but educationally sound and based on the latest fire safety research for young children.

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Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog Book Reviews

"Sparkles the Dalmatian has her paw on the pulse of fire safety as she helps teach children how to prevent and escape a house fire."

Michael Tercha, Chicago Tribune webpage

"Two paws up and a tail wag for *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog!*"

Jenni Glenn, PBS KIDS Sprout

"Dayna Hilton is providing an invaluable service that is as kid safe as it is kid friendly. Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog is charming on paper or read aloud and an excellent tool in furthering the hugely important crusade of children's fire safety."

Alan Brunacini, Retired Phoenix Fire Chief

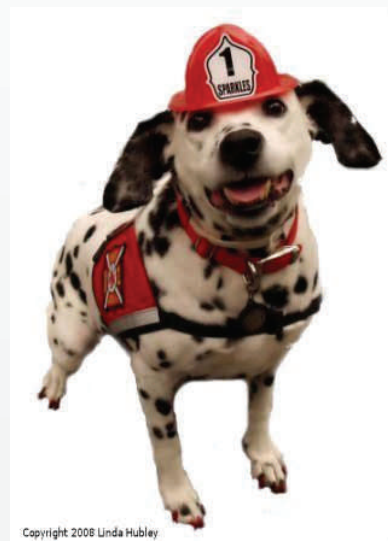
"Sparkles is a Fire Safety Dog from Clarksville, Arkansas that travels with firefighter Dayna Hilton teaching fire safety messages to children all across the United States. Together the two have reached millions of children and their caregivers. The National Fire Protection Association, in 2007, stated that there were more than 1.5 million fires reported in the United States, with 3,430 civilian deaths and 17,675 civilian injuries and Sparkles and Firefighter Dayna hope to change these statistics, one presentation at a time. Sparkle's tail wags in excitement about learning and teaching fire safety together and riding in the big red fire truck! Dayna begins this book by highlighting important words or phrases that should be explained to children much like she begins her presentation when visiting local elementary schools. This book teaches the most important fire safety information that children should be learning at a young age to be prepared in case of a fire emergency. The photos help to illustrate what is being taught and Sparkles participates as well, crawling and getting low. Children are also taught how firefighters will keep them safety and why they wear "special clothes" in a fire. This is a wonderful learning tool for children! *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* literally is a brilliant quick and easy read for children. Not only will they learn the importance of fire safety, but also by using the beautiful Dalmatian dog in colorful pictures throughout the book, it almost guarantees this becoming a child's favorite book to read and re-read all the while re-learning the importance of fire safety. Reading gives children skills in handling complex thoughts, ideas and teachings. *DogSport Magazine* recommends every classroom investing in bringing this book into elementary schools to help in teaching fire safety." ***DogSport Magazine***

"It's so AWESOME!"

Steven Peltier, age 5

"Children love reading the same books over and over. A fire safety book is one way to provide the repetition needed for young children to master home fire safety messages. Firefighter Dayna, Firefighter Michael, and Sparkles give us a book to enjoy while we learn!"

Nancy Trench, Oklahoma State University, Fire Protection Publications/IFSTA



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Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog Book Reviews

"Written by firefighter Dayna Hilton, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* is a wonderful, flat-spined children's picture book about the basics of fire safety - as taught with assistance from Sparkles, a friendly female dalmatian. Illustrated with full-color photographs of the real Sparkles and her friends on virtually every page, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* tells young readers what to do if they hear the noise from a smoke alarm: "In case of fire, be sure to crawl low under the smoke on your hands and knees. The air is cleaner and cooler there. Get low and go to your outside meeting place." A great way for parents to introduce their children to doing fire drills, especially sure to appeal to young dog lovers." **The Midwest Book Review / Children's Bookwatch (Reviewer's Choice Review)**

"Instilling fire safety in young children is vitally important. *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* and Firefighters Dayna and Michael make learning these important safety messages fun, and easy to understand so that our children will be able to know what to do in the event of a fire. Congratulations on a wonderful book!"

Heather Schafer, Executive Director, National Volunteer Fire Council

"In a fun, simple and easily understandable format, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* presents to children of all ages keen insights on fire safe behaviors certain to be remembered should the need arise. Such could mean all the difference in a safe and healthy life." **Wayne Powell, Fire/Life Safety Specialist, Marriott International**

"Young children will love *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*...a spotted dog, friendly firefighters, and safety lessons designed just for them! The book is a great tool to help kids learn – without scaring them -- how to be safe from fire, a leading cause of accidental death at home." **Meri-K Appy, President, Home Safety Council**

"I can't wait to share it with my two grandkids!"

Chief Dennis Compton, International Fire Service Training Association

"My 3 year old daughter loves this book and CD. In a matter of 2 readings, she knows the theme song, what a smoke alarm does, and how to stay low and go like Sparkles!" **Lesla, a mom and former firefighter-10 yrs**

"Each night that we have read *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*, Cole continues to tell ME how HE will get out of the house in case of fire." **Carrie, mother of Cole, age 3**

"This book is a great educational tool for the public education officers. Children and elderly are the most vulnerable age groups when it comes to fire. In this book, Sparkles has done great to educate our children"

Azarang (Ozzie) Mirkhah, P.E., EFO, CBO, Fire Protection Engineer, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue

"I think the book is very well done and will be a significant job aid for fire safety educators of children. It also provides an opportunity for the fire safety educator, school teacher or maybe even the fire chief to read to children. I think this will be a tool that should be in every fire safety educator's tool box."

**Division Chief Mike Love, Division of Community Risk Reduction Services,
Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, Rockville, MD**

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Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog Book Reviews

"Our family loves Sparkles... my son first met her while watching Sprout and so when we heard she had a book, we of course had to go and get it. Sparkles and Firefighter Dayna make fire safety fun and not scary. My son knows what to do if there is a fire - Get low and go!!! For fire safety month, we donated this book to all the classrooms at my son's daycare. All the teachers love it!! The large pictures make it easy to read to a class so everyone can see. Thanks Sparkles and Firefighter Dayna for keeping our kids safe!!!" **Kiyoko Czech, Chicago**

"This Labor Day weekend is a marvelous time to introduce a memorable working dog. Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog is a delightful Dalmatian who travels with Firefighter Dayna Hilton to teach children about fire safety. Dalmatians are energetic and fun loving dogs; originally bred to run in front of horse drawn fire wagons and clear the street. They have been closely connected with firefighters ever since.

The book follows a typical day as Sparkles and Dayna get ready and present their fire safety demonstration to a group of school children. Safety tips are well presented in a way to which children can relate. Ms. Hilton and her dogs donate their time and energy to fire safety. Together, they have given hundreds of demonstrations to children throughout Arkansas. *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* is highly recommended.

Sparkles appears to be Ms. Hilton's life changing dog. They are lucky to be able to work and live together; each one enriches the other. This little Dalmatian is the connection that draws children and is entertaining enough to hold their attention. Pictures throughout this book show the deep bond that Dayna and Sparkles have. Sparkle's face has such a sweet expression as Dayna slips the vest over her shoulders. Particularly, I love the shot of Sparkles smiling into the camera, her tail wagging so vigorously it's a blur. What a great idea it was to teach Sparkles to crawl in order to demonstrate crawling under the smoke layer of a burning building. Kudos to Dayna.

Sparkles is an excellent example of how dogs can be a service to the community. She is a wonderful ambassador for her species and her breed. Animals reach children in ways no human will ever touch. They bridge a much needed connection not by demanding, cajoling or threatening, but just by being themselves. I wish the very best success to Dayna, Sparkles and all of the others who represent one of the noblest occupations one can have."

Charlotte Mielziner, Children's Dog Book and Review

"Sparkles, the part I like of your book [*Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*] is were you teach the people about fire safety..... I appreciate you teaching us how to be fire safe. Keep teaching people fire safety Sparkles."

Patricia, Age 9

"I wish that you can come back to our school again to teach us fire safety skills. The book [*Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*] that you gave me , I learned to crawl on my knees when there is a fire in the house and you always have a meeting place by the mailbox or by a the fence." **Ron, age 9**

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Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog Book Reviews

"I certainly would recommend it for your fire and life-safety education program for primary school children."

Janet Wilmoth, Editorial Director, Fire Chief Publications

"They [the class] LOVED the book!! They were so impressed with Sparkles, she is all they talked about! They all want a fire dog now!! I think the book looks great!!!! I love the real pictures that really made it believable!!"

Mrs. Kelli Grigsby, Kindergarten Teacher

"Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog by Dayna Hilton teaches children all about fire safety. Dayna is a firefighter and currently serves as a Public Fire and Life Safety educator in Clarksville, Arkansas. With the help of her father and son who are also firefighters, she developed a complete package of fire safety information that's sure to delight children as it teaches.

Her book walks you through a day in the life of Sparkles as she helps Dayna teach children fire safety. The photographs in the book show Dayna, her son Michael and Sparkles get ready for the day and how they help children learn what to do in case of a fire.

For little ones who can't read yet, Dayna has an audio CD available where the story is read with and without page turning prompts. Included on the CD is a song about Sparkles." **Zooprise Party Blog**

"I liked the book [Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog]. I liked the good meeting places and how to get out of the house on time also how to get out of the house. I will show it to my family." **Mark, Age 9**

"I like the book a lot. It showed me a lot of stuff. Like if I was in a real fire and a smoke alarm would make noise like beep beep beep and would tell you fire fire fire a fire because my smoke alarm does that too."

Brenda, Age 10

"Sparkles I like [Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog] because Sparkles help kids have fire safety. Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog is a great book. My mom and dad love it. I love that Sparkles can do things and fire safety."

Aaron, Age 10

"I liked the picture when Sparkles was crawling low to demonstrate to us how to crawl low.... Also I liked the picture when Sparkles was in the bed LOL!!!" **Rebeca, Age 9**

"I liked the book [Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog] because it taught me what I have to do if there was a real fire. Oh, and to change my batteries in my smoke alarm. Your book taught me a lot of things." **Nisea, Age 9**

"I learned from the book [Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog] is that having a fire alarm is important. Dayna I think that Sparkles is glad to have you as a mom and I like your book very much so thank you." **Kayla, Age 9**

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Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog Book Reviews

"If you have a little firefighter-in-the-making, like my son Seth, no doubt he or she will adore Sparkles. And, you as a parent, will applaud the message of this book that is really a must-read for every child. There is also an entertaining CD available, which features Sparkles barking and story narration by Firefighters Dayna Hilton and Glenn Trembley.

"Sparkles visits schools to help children learn about fire safety. Together, with real-life Firefighters Dayna and Michael, smoke alarms are explained, and instruction is given re: how/why to crawl low under smoke in case of a fire, why we should practice fire drills, etc. Sparkles watches Firefighter Michael put on his protective clothing, and thanks him by wagging her tail, for being a firefighter. Big, colorful photographs of Sparkles in action hold a child's interest, and tips are outlined in language easily-understandable for children. This is a powerful learning tool, yet it capably offers information in a fun manner. I know my son would love Sparkles and Firefighter Dayna to pay a visit to his school. "

Robin Gorman Newman, *Motherhood Later than Sooner* Founder

"*Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* turns a scary subject into a fun learning experience. Sparkles and Firefighter Dayna show children and adults how to be safe during a fire or suspected fire. The real life photos of Sparkles demonstrating fire safety to children are fun to look at as well as instructional.

My six year-old son loved Sparkles so much that we had to read it to his kindergarten class. His classmates were captivated by Sparkles. They wanted me to read about Sparkles again and again. We even went back and discussed every picture. Their favorite picture was Sparkles in his own bed! The fun pictures kept all eyes and attention on the book. The kindergarteners wanted to know if Sparkles was a real dog and if he could come visit them.

Thanks Firefighter Dayna for sharing your special dog with children all over the world. Fire safety has never been so fun!"

Pamela Maynard, Freelance writer and mother of Justin, Age 6

"*Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* by Dayna Hilton teaches children all about fire safety. Dayna is a firefighter and currently serves as a Public Fire and Life Safety educator in Clarksville, Arkansas. With the help of father and son who are also firefighters, she developed a complete package of fire safety information that's sure to delight children as it teaches.

Her book walks you through a day in the life of Sparkles as she helps Dayna teach children fire safety. The photographs in the book show Dayna, her son Michael and Sparkles get ready for the day and how they help children learn what to do in case of a fire.

Dayna has taken this book beyond reading in many ways. First she has an audio CD available where the story is read with and without page turning prompts. There is also a song about Sparkles. ... This is a must have book for all families with young children. You never know, these lessons could save your life."

Joy Delgado, *Books Beyond Reading Blog*

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Author Dayna Hilton

Questions and Answers

Questions with answers from Author Firefighter Dayna Hilton

Q. Tell us about yourself.

A. I am a firefighter, fire safety educator and children's book author. My Dalmatians, Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog, Spanner and Tango, help me teach fire safety. I live and breathe fire and life safety education and hope to help keep everyone fire safe.

I joined the fire service in 2000 and became interested in fire safety education after attending a class at the National Fire Academy (NFA) in Emmitsburg, Maryland. It was at that time that I realized that my state (Arkansas) ranked 7th in the nation in fire related deaths and injuries. While at NFA, I vowed to do whatever I could to help change those unfortunate statistics. Since then, I have made it my life's goal to help keep children and their caregivers fire safe throughout the United States.

The opportunity at the National Fire Academy opened my eyes and provided the foundation for everything that I am and do today. I am forever grateful to the National Fire Academy, to my fire department, my Fire Chief, the firefighters on my department and to my mentor, Emily McGlaughlin, for helping make me the fire safety educator that I am today.



Award-winning, critically acclaimed children's author, Firefighter Dayna Hilton

Q. What are the fire safety tips included in the book?

A. The fire safety tips include: (1) Recognizing the firefighter as a helper and a friend, (2) Knowing the sound and purpose of a smoke alarm, (3) Learning how to crawl low under smoke, and (4) Understanding the importance of practicing a home fire drill using an escape map. These are very critical fire safety messages for young children and their families to know and understand.

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Author Dayna Hilton Questions and Answers

Q. You also have a *Sparkles the Fire Dog* audio book that accompanies the book and features three generations of firefighters. Tell us more.

A. The audio book is a perfect complement to the book, and it is designed to help children learn to read in addition to learning how to stay fire safe. One of the most popular audio book features is the bonus "Sparkles Theme Song." Children love hearing this song again and again. Three generations of firefighters worked on the audio book project including: my dad, Glenn Trembley, my son Michael, and me. Michael wrote and engineered the audio book and composed "Sparkles Theme Song."

Q. You recently learned that two children who were at one of your book readings and watched your fire safety presentation helped save their two families during a real life fire situation. Tell us more.

A. In November 2008, Sparkles and I went to Tulsa, Oklahoma to read our book and to make a fire safety presentation for almost 450 students at Celia Clinton Elementary. Each child that day was given a copy of my book, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*, courtesy of the Tulsa Rotary Club. Subsequently, I have learned that two children in the audience that day were involved in fire situations. Separately, both children volunteered that they knew what to do to get their families out of their homes because of what "Sparkles taught them." Indeed, Sparkles has made a significant impact on the lives of these two young children and their families through her fire safety demonstrations and the book. Not a day goes by that I don't think of these two young children and the positive impact Sparkles has made in their lives. To learn more, visit www.sparklesthefiresafetydog.com/saves.

Q. That must have been an amazing feeling when you found out that your book has actually helped save lives.

A. The day that I received the call from Principal Davis is a day that I will never forget as long as I live. Since that day, Sparkles and I have made a trip back to Celia Clinton Elementary to meet the children and their families. It was truly amazing hearing the stories from the children of how they were able to get their families out safely.

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Author Dayna Hilton Questions and Answers

Q. You and Sparkles have several websites and blogs, also aimed at keeping children and their caregivers fire safe. What are they like?

A. The web provides a valuable avenue to share not only information about our book, but fire safety messages. Both Sparkles blog and webpage are interactive. They include fire safety tips, activity sheets and videos.

Q. What are the sites?

A. www.sparklesthefiresafetydog.com
www.firefighterdayna.com
www.sparklesthefiresafetydog.blogspot.com
www.childrensbookauthordaynahilton.blogspot.com



Author Firefighter Dayna Hilton, along with Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog and Angelica, age 5. Angelica knew what to do in an actual fire-related situation because of what she learned from Sparkles and her children's fire safety book, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog*.

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