

A Firefighter's Lessons for America's Youngest Citizens

How One Boston Veteran Turned Classroom Curiosity into a Life-Saving Children's Book

FIRE SAFETY TIPS FROM FIREFIGHTER MIKE



MICHAEL VENTEROSO

Middleboro, Massachusetts Nov 19, 2025 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - When Boston firefighter and Marine Corps veteran [Michael Venteroso](#) first stepped into his daughter's elementary school to speak about fire safety, he expected a simple classroom visit. What he did not expect were dozens of eager hands shooting up, and the wide-eyed curiosity that would follow.

"They wanted to know everything," he recalls the alarms, the smoke, the trucks, the gear, even the dogs. "Kids aren't just listening they're absorbing. They want to be brave."

That realization planted the seed for a project that would soon extend far beyond a school hallway. After nearly two decades in fire service and later as a **Boston Fire Investigator, Venteroso saw a gap: We teach adults about emergency preparedness, but we rarely speak directly to the children who depend on them.**

His new book, *Fire Safety Tips from Firefighter Mike*, answers that need with uncommon clarity and warmth. Written in language designed for early readers, it distills life-saving knowledge into reassuring, practical guidance: get low to avoid smoke, know your family's meetup spot, never hide from firefighters, and yes, leave the toys behind.

"[Fire](#) is confusing and scary," he says. "But when children understand it, fear turns into confidence. Knowledge protects."

A Mission Rooted in Service

Venteroso is not a children's writer by profession. He is a father to his daughter, Gianna, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, and a firefighter who has crawled under smoke-filled ceilings and knocked on frightened doors.

His dedication is personal, but also patriotic in the quiet way public-service work often is: **to teach, to protect, to stay human in the face of danger.**

In his classroom visits, he saw more than curiosity, he saw future citizens.

"Kids are thoughtful. They want to help. They want to be responsible," he says. "Firefighters look for heroes and sometimes, they're four feet tall."

With playful illustrations, straightforward language, and an emphasis on empowerment, his book turns children into active participants in household safety. It also honors the emotional landscape of childhood including the instinct to hide when scared and meets it with compassion.

A Series for America's Everyday Heroes

[Fire Safety Tips from Firefighter Mike](#) is only the beginning. Venteroso is developing a series introducing young readers to the work of **first responders and everyday community heroes** from EMTs to police officers to military service members.

In an era when disaster awareness, emergency readiness, and community trust are urgently needed, his mission feels both timeless and timely.

“Kids ask big questions,” he says. “They deserve real answers and real guidance.”

Teaching Courage in Uncertain Times

Children’s books often trade in whimsy and wonder. Venteroso offers something just as valuable: **grounded hope.**

His message to young readers is simple, but profound:

- Learn.
- Prepare.
- Trust the helpers.
- And when fear comes, don’t hide **ask questions, use your voice, and be brave.**

Perhaps that’s why children listen to him. Not because he fights fires, but because he sees them not as fragile, but as capable.

In a world that asks children to be resilient, he chooses to make them **ready.**

<https://www.amazon.com/FIRE-SAFETY-TIPS-FIREFIGHTER-MIKE/dp/B0FTYCRHNQ>



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Source : USA Publishing Hub

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