Firefighter Ryan Delay checks with a student who, along with his classmates, was asked to detail a plan on paper for escaping a fire at each of their homes. After finishing the exercise, the student receives a fireman's hat. Liberal Fire Department personnel were on hand during Fire Prevention Month teaching students the dangers of fire and how to escape from their homes and buildings. The activities will be presented at numerous schools throughout Liberal. L&T photo/Chris Linenbroker

Fire safety starts at young age

By CHRIS LINENBROKER

• Leader & Times

Liberal Fire Department personnel spent time with Lincoln Elementary School second- and third-graders Thursday afternoon. More than 100 kids learned about what to do in case a fire ever happened in their home.

The firefighters asked the kids questions on what they would do if their house was on fire. One third-grader gave a fast response of breaking a window.

The firefighters instructed that getting low – down by the floor and crawling to find the safest way out.

Each student then got time to go over their family's evacuation plan of their own house with a firefighter and they got a fire hat or firefighter badge for completing this.

Sparky, the firefighting dog, was also on scene giving out a few high fives and hugs.

The students finished the day with some hands-on-training. This gives them an idea of what it could be like if a fire broke out and a smoke alarm went off while they are asleep.

Not every student liked the idea of rolling out of bed and crawling through a dark smoke-filled tunnel then having to check the door and finally jumping through a window.

The Liberal Fire Department will be going to many more schools throughout the month of October teaching many more students fire safety.