

# OCTOBER 2020

## EVENTS:

- National Fire Prevention Week™ /Month
- SFMO Fire Prevention Week™ Kick-off Event
- SFMO Poster Contest
- Firehouse Expo-tentative
- Halloween
- National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Weekend

## MONTHLY THEME: "Elements of a Fire-Safe Home"

**EDUCATOR TIP:** Join forces with your local Domino's store to deliver pizzas aboard a fire engine. Customers with working smoke alarms will get their pizza free, and customers without working alarms can have new alarms or batteries replaced for free. Found out more: <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/partners-in-safety/dominos-pizza>

## CUSTOMIZABLE SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES



From [NFPA's website](http://www.nfpa.org): This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!™" works to educate everyone about the simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves, and those around them, safe in the kitchen. **Did you know?** Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen.

## October 2019 Topics

Week 1 – Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!™

Week 2 – Home Fire Escape Planning

Week 3 – Home Fire Sprinklers

Week 4 – Halloween Safety

### **State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) Annual Poster Contest**

State officials and local fire departments across Tennessee will be promoting participation in the fire prevention poster contest. Local community school children will be creating posters based on the national fire prevention theme of the year. This year, they will be turned into the state for online judging in December. Four state winners for each grade group (K-3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) will be chosen. All winners and their families will be invited to attend the state awards banquet held in 2021.

### **State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) Fire Prevention Week™ Kick-off**

Fire departments and safety organizations from around the state will take to social media to kick off National Fire Prevention Month. Safety messages, activities, and contests through Facebook will be held throughout the week. Fire departments are encouraged to promote Fire Prevention Week in a way that will best fit their community's needs and abilities.

### **National Fire Service History**

- October 19, 1857 – Chicago Building Collapse (10 firefighter deaths)
- October 8-9, 1871 – Great Chicago Fire (300 deaths)
- October 8, 1871 – Great Peshtigo Fire (1,152 deaths)
- October 28, 1954 – PA Chemical Tank Explosion (12 firefighter deaths)
- October 26, 1962 – New York Building Collapse (6 firefighter deaths)
- October 17, 1966 – New York Mercantile Building Fire (12 firefighter deaths)

### **Tennessee Specific History**

- October 22, 1930 – Tennessee Fireman's Association formed
- October 2019 – Fire Investigation Services (FIS) transferred from the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
- October 31, 2019 – Barry Brady passes away from cancer, leading to the creation of the Barry Brady Act

## **OCTOBER: WEEK 1— Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!**™

### **Overview:**

#### **Why cooking safety matters:**

- Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen.
- Scald burns are the second leading cause of all burn injuries. Hot liquids like coffee and even microwaved soup can cause devastating injuries.

#### **Resources:** The following resources are available:

- [Tools from NFPA for Fire Prevention Week™](#)
- Fire Prevention Week™ kick-off talking points
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week/-/media/77E09FAC373543D1BC1F4AB64F433C48.ashx>

#### **Media Tools:** Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to spread the cooking safety message:

- **Customizable press release**
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week/-/media/5F8E82EB5BCA4221924BF37602CFB7FD.ashx>
- **Logos**
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/FPW/Logo/2020/FPW20EnglishJPGs.ashx>
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/FPW/Logo/2020/FPW20SpanishJPGs.ashx>
- **Twitter**
  - It's #FirePreventionWeek! Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen! <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
  - Keep an eye on what you fry! Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires. #FirePreventionWeek <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
  - Keep kids safe! Have a 3-foot child-free zone around hot food and drink. #FirePreventionWeek <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
  - Careful in the kitchen! Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the US. #FirePreventionWeek <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
- **Facebook**
  - "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!" That's the theme for #FirePreventionWeek, October 4-10, 2020. <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
  - Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires. Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave, even for a second, turn the stove off. <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
  - Keep an eye on what you fry! Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires in Tennessee and the US. <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>
  - Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove. Remember: cooking fires are the #1 cause of home fires and home injuries. <https://bit.ly/3gVA1Wl>



**Educator Tip:** Giveaways are very popular during Fire Prevention Week™. Whether you are hosting an event at your fire station or visiting a school as part of a fire prevention outreach event, you should always have something free to give out to kids, parents, and teachers. NFPA has a number of FPW branded giveaways that can be purchased on their website (link: <https://catalog.nfpa.org/Fire-Prevention-Week-and-Fire-Safety-Education-Materials-C8.aspx?icid=D914>) or you can give out items that are branded with your fire department's emblem. Popular giveaway items include:

- Fire hats
- Coloring books/activity books
- Pens/pencils/crayons
- Stickers
- Magnets
- Badges
- Toy basketballs/softballs/soccer balls/footballs
- Slinkies
- Slap bracelets
- Frisbees
- Yo-yos

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### *Cooking*

##### *Stay Alert*

**8.1.1** To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol, or have taken medicine or drugs that make you drowsy.

##### *Watch What You Heat!*

**8.2.1** The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.

**8.2.2** Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.

**8.3.1** Keep anything that can catch fire—oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, and curtains—away from your stovetop.

##### *What to Do If You Have a Cooking Fire*

**8.4.1.1** Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire.

**8.4.1** Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled.

## **OCTOBER: WEEK 2— Home Fire Escape Planning**

**Overview:** Escape planning is something that every resident should understand and practice. Fires can happen anywhere at any time, so it is important to plan your escape ahead of time.



**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Escape planning grid (NFPA)
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week/fpw17/fpw17escapeplangrid.pdf?la=en>
- Fire escape planning (USFA)
  - <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/escape.html>
- Basic fire escape planning (NFPA)
  - <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Escape-planning>
- “Home Fire Escape Plan” template from Red Cross
  - [https://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA\\_CustomProductCatalog/m38640160\\_Home\\_Fire\\_Escape\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m38640160_Home_Fire_Escape_Plan.pdf)
- Home fire escape plans (YouTube video from Spokane Fire)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2H6y40hnrc4>
- Fire safety – have two ways out
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9KSFRq4rXA>

**Media Tools:** Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote home fire escape planning:

- **Twitter**
  - Look for places in your home where a fire can start. Here are leading causes of home fires: <https://bit.ly/3iXiEpW>
  - Do you know what your smoke alarm sounds like? Know what to do if you hear it! <https://bit.ly/3gVimOG>
  - Look for two exits from every room in your home - usually a door and a window. <https://bit.ly/38QEQxk>
  - Download the @NFPA home escape planning tip sheet & keep your family safe! <https://bit.ly/38QEQxk>
- **Facebook**
  - Look for places home fires can start and minimize those risks: Keep cooking areas clear of clutter, keep anything that can burn well away from heat sources, and make sure electrical outlets aren’t overloaded. <https://bit.ly/3iXiEpW>
  - Do you know what your smoke alarm sounds like? If you hear it, take it seriously – whether you’re at home or any other location! <https://bit.ly/3gVimOG>
  - Make sure you have adequate smoke alarm protection! You should have at least 1 smoke alarm on every level of your home, in each bedroom, and near all sleeping areas.
  - Test smoke alarms once a month to make sure they’re working! For more info, and to request a free smoke alarm, go to [www.tn.gov/fire](http://www.tn.gov/fire).

**Educator Tip:** Contact your local library to see if they provide free literature on home fire escape planning. If they do not, see if you can provide copies of NFPA or Red Cross's fire escape plan to the library to give away. Another option may be to host a "fire safety hour" in which your department teaches a session on fire escape planning library visitors.

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Home Fire Escape*

**4.1.2** Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of each level of the home. Show all doors and windows. Go to each room and point to the two ways out. Practice the plan with everyone in your household, including visitors.

**4.1.7** Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open.

*If There Is a Fire*

**4.3.1** When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Go to the outside meeting place. Call 911.

## **OCTOBER: WEEK 3—Home Fire Sprinklers**

**Overview:** Home fire sprinklers provide the best fire protection currently available. They protect lives and property by keeping fires small and allowing more time for escape. If you're building, buying or remodeling a home, consider the installation of home fire sprinklers. If you are looking to rent an apartment or condo, look for one that is fully sprinklered.



**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- “NFPA Safety Tips – Home Fire Sprinklers” YouTube video
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g73IQBFf0vE>
- National Fire Sprinkler Association website
  - <https://nfsa.org/>
- Burn demonstration videos from Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0vjfxO-2yc>
  - <https://homefiresprinkler.org/fire-sprinkler-demonstration-video/>
- Fire Sprinkler Initiative website
  - <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/>
- Fire Sprinkler Initiative newsletter
  - <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/advocacy-tools/newsletter.aspx>
- “Sprinkler Saves” website
  - <http://sprinklersaves.com/>
- Home fire sprinklers “In the News” via NFPA Xchange
  - <https://community.nfpa.org/community/home-fire-sprinkler-initiative>
- Home fire sprinkler fact sheet from HFSC
  - <https://homefiresprinkler.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/HomeFireSprinklerFacts.pdf>
- Fire sprinkler display banners
  - <https://homefiresprinkler.org/fire-department-banners/>
- “Fast Facts About Home Fire Sprinklers”
  - [http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/~/\\_media/fire%20sprinkler%20initiative/files/advocacy%20tools/fact%20sheets/sprinklers%20fast%20facts.pdf?la=en](http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/~/_media/fire%20sprinkler%20initiative/files/advocacy%20tools/fact%20sheets/sprinklers%20fast%20facts.pdf?la=en)
- “Fire Sprinklers Protect Your Pets”
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzSSBIL3C4A>

**Media Tools:** Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote home fire sprinklers:

- **Twitter**
  - Fire departments are quick, but not that quick. Add sprinklers to the list for your current or new home! #fastestwater @NFPA\_FSI @HSFCorg
  - #FireSprinklers are designed to contain/extinguish a fire in its early stages and reduce fire damage by around 90%. #fastestwater @NFPA\_FSI
  - Residential fire sprinklers can cut fire losses by 70% compared to properties without sprinklers! #fastestwater @NFPA\_FSI @HSFCorg

- **Facebook**

- Fire departments are quick, but not that quick. Add sprinklers to the list of required amenities for your current or new home! #fastestwater
- Fire sprinklers save lives, reduce property loss, and can even help cut homeowner insurance premiums. Sprinklers are highly effective because they react so quickly in a fire. They reduce the risk of death or injury from a fire because they dramatically reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced, allowing people the time to evacuate the home. Check out more at NFPA: <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/>
- Fire sprinklers also help protect your pets from fire. If a fire were to break out in your home when you were away, any pets in your home would be in danger. Fire sprinklers would protect your pets as well as your home. For more info, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzSSBIL3C4A>

**Educator Tip:** The need to spread the word about fire sprinklers has never been more apparent. NFPA has organized a Fire Sprinkler Initiative advocacy toolkit for any member of the fire service that wants to get involved. You can download the toolkit here: <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/advocacy-tools.aspx>

Included in the toolkit is:

- PowerPoint presentation on lightweight construction
- Sprinkler Myths & Facts handout
- Fire Sprinklers fast facts
- Sprinkler Media Guide
- "Making the Case for Sprinklers" infographic
- "Faces of Fire" video

**NFPA Messaging:**

*Home Fire Sprinklers*

*General Tips*

**2.1.1** Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. Sprinklers can reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire, allowing people more time to escape.

**2.1.3** A home fire sprinkler can control or put out a fire with a fraction of the water that would be used by fire department hoses.

**2.1.5** Home fire sprinklers can be installed in new or existing homes. If you are remodeling or building your home, install home fire sprinklers.



## **OCTOBER: WEEK 4—Halloween Safety**

**Overview:** Special emphasis on Halloween safety includes safety with candles, decorations, and costumes. It is also important to stress fire safety regarding haunted houses that may be operating in your area. Visit the SFMO website to learn more about the safety requirements for haunted houses operating in Tennessee:

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire\\_prevention/posts/FireCodesHauntedHousesMemo.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/commerce/documents/fire_prevention/posts/FireCodesHauntedHousesMemo.pdf)

**Resources:** The following resources are available:

- Halloween fire safety tips:
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/public-education/resources/safety-tip-sheets/halloweensafetytips.pdf?la=en>
- “Halloween Safety Tips For Children” YouTube video:
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf\\_G0OHkih0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf_G0OHkih0)
- Report on structure fires that began from decorations:
  - <http://www.nfpa.org/~media/files/news-and-research/fire-statistics/factsheets/decorationsfactsheet.pdf?la=en>

**Media Tools:** Use the following pre-written media releases and social media posts in your efforts to promote Halloween Safety:

- **Twitter**
  - Make Halloween a little less scary. If you use candles, don't leave them unattended! #SafeHalloween @TNCommerceInsur
  - Don't be scared to be safe! This Halloween, make sure nothing blocks your escape--always keep exits clear of obstacles! @TNCommerceInsur
  - Flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper are very flammable! Keep them away from all heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters @TNCommerceInsur
  - Battery operated candles look just as spooky as flame candles and are much safer! @TNCommerceInsur
- **Facebook**
  - Make Halloween safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips...<http://www.nfpa.org/~media/images/public-education/by-topic/holidays/halloween/halloweensafetytipinforgraphic.jpg?as=1&iar=1&&h=465&w=600&la=en>
  - Need some safety tips for this Halloween? Let NFPA help! [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf\\_G0OHkih0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kf_G0OHkih0)
  - Battery operated candles look just as spooky as flame candles and are much safer! You can find different options at your local store.

**Educator Tip:** Share these tips with your community regarding Halloween costumes and decorations:

- When choosing a costume, avoid billowing or long, trailing fabric. If you are making your own costume, choose material that won't easily ignite if it comes in contact with heat or flame. If your children wear masks, make sure eye holes are large enough to allow unobstructed views.

- Dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters.
- It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candles in a jack-o-lantern. If you use a flame candle, use extreme caution and keep them well attended at all times. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long fireplace matches or a long-nozzled candle lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters and such high-traffic areas as doorsteps, walkways, and yards.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Tell children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop, and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their faces with their hands, and rolling over and over.)
- Use flashlights or other battery-operated lights as alternatives to candles or torch lights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting.
- When attending a Halloween party, look for ways out of the home/venue and plan how you would get out in an emergency.
- If you have a Halloween party, check for cigarettes under furniture cushions and in areas where people might have smoked, before you go to bed.

### **NFPA Messaging:**

#### *Candles*

##### *General Candle Safety*

**14.1.1** Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell, and feel like real candles.

**14.1.2** When using candles, place them in sturdy, safe candleholders that will not burn or tip over.

**14.1.4** Keep candles at least 12 inches (30 centimeters) from anything that can burn.