**October**

**Week 1 - Safety in the Laundry Room**

In 2010-2014 U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 15, 970 home fires involving clothes dryers or washing machines. These fires resulted in annual losses estimated 13 civilian deaths and 440 injuries. Majority of the fires started from clothes dryers. Owners failing to clean them caused about 1/3 of the fires, whereas electrical failures caused majority of them. The initial fires start because of something being dried (clothes) or a byproduct of the drying (lint). To prevent fires from dryers you should use a lint filter and clean it before each use. Clean lint out of the vent pipe to reduce the risk of fire. Dryers should be in good working condition at all times.

**Week 2 – Every Second Counts – Plan 2 Ways Out (Fire Prevention Week)**

Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health observance, according to the National Archives and Records Administration’s Library Information Center. President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week on October 4-10, 1925, beginning a tradition of the President of the United States signing a proclamation recognizing the occasion. It is observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls, in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began October 8, 1871, and did most of its damage October 9. The horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The Peshtigo Fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended. Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado, some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin, that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed. Because of these events President Woodrow Wilson signed the first National Fire Prevention Day. In 2017 the NFPA emphasized that in a fire every second counts. It’s important that you (and anyone else living with you) have 2 ways out and an emergency plan in case of a fire.

**Week 3 – Home Fire Sprinklers**

Fire sprinklers react so quickly, they can dramatically reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire. Properly installed and maintained fire sprinklers help save lives. Fire sprinklers have been around for more than a century, protecting commercial and industrial properties and public buildings. What many people don't realize is that the same life-saving technology is also available for homes, where roughly 85% of all civilian fire deaths occur. Automatic sprinklers are highly effective and reliable elements of total system designs for fire protection in buildings. According to an American Housing Survey, 4.6% of occupied homes (including multi-unit) had sprinklers in 2009, up from 3.9% in 2007, and 18.5% of occupied home built in the previous four years had sprinklers. Installing automatic fire sprinkler systems can reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by 80%. If you want a home fire sprinkler system you should have a qualified contractor install your home fire sprinkler system according to NFPA codes and standards and local fire safety regulations.

**Week 4 – Halloween Safety**

Halloween can be an exciting time for children. Unfortunately, these Halloween symbols and activities can also present lurking fire risks that have the potential to become truly scary. But by planning ahead, you can help make this Halloween a fire-safe one. Taking simple fire safety precautions like keeping decorations far away from open flames and using battery operated candles or glow-sticks in jack-o-lanterns can help ensure your holiday remains festive and fun! From 2009-2013, decorations were the item first ignited in an estimated average of 860 reported home structure fires per year. Nearly half of decoration fires in homes occurred because the decorations were too close to a heat source. These fires caused an estimated average of one civilian death, 41 civilian injuries and $13 million in direct property damage per year. Forty-one percent of these incidents were started by candles; one-fifth began in the living room, family room, or den. Kids are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year. Children under 12 should trick-or-treat and cross streets with an adult. Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross. Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don’t run, across the street. Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them. Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings. Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars. During Halloween it is important to be careful about the candy that they receive. Check treats for signs of tampering before children are allowed to eat them.