

<b>October – Element of a Fire Safe Home”</b> .....	123
1. Safety in the Laundry Room .....	124
2. Serve Up Fire Safety In The Kitchen (Fire Prevention Week) .....	126
3. Home Fire Sprinklers .....	129
4. Halloween Safety .....	131
<b>November – “A Fire Safe Thanksgiving”</b> .....	134
1. Prepare for Winter Storms .....	135
2. Electrical Hazards .....	137
3. Thanksgiving Fire Safety .....	139
4. Home Heating .....	142
<b>December – “Celebrating a Safe Holiday”</b> .....	145
1. Vehicle and Fuel Safety .....	146
2. Christmas Tree Safety .....	148
3. Winter Holiday Safety .....	150
4. Call 9-1-1 for Emergencies .....	153
<b><u>Appendices</u></b>	
Appendix A: Creative Prevention Ideas .....	155

## **The biggest blaze that week**

- The Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history, was the biggest blaze that week, but drew little note outside of the region—in and around Peshtigo, Wisconsin— because of the attention drawn by the Great Chicago Fire.
- 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.

## **Nine decades of fire prevention**

- Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they'd been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. But the fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally official over the years.
- In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.
- Each year NFPA offers a lot of different resources, including teaching materials for Fire Prevention Week at <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week>

## **2020 CAMPAIGN**

### **SERVE UP FIRE SAFETY IN THE KITCHEN**

Whether you're talking to the media, a community group, or residents, these talking points will help you stay on message with your remarks. Use these safety messages as they are, or as a starting point for a larger discussion.

#### **Cooking**

- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Thanksgiving is the leading day for fires involving cooking equipment.
- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. • Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly and stay in the home.
- Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off

the burner. Leave the pan covered until it's cool.

- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.
- Loose clothing can hang down onto stove burners and catch fire. Wear short, close-fitting, or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking.
- Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet (1 metre) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

## **Smoke Alarms**

- Smoke alarms detect and alert people to a fire in the early stages. Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire.
- Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Make sure everyone in the home understands the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to respond.

## **Home Fire Escape Planning and Practice**

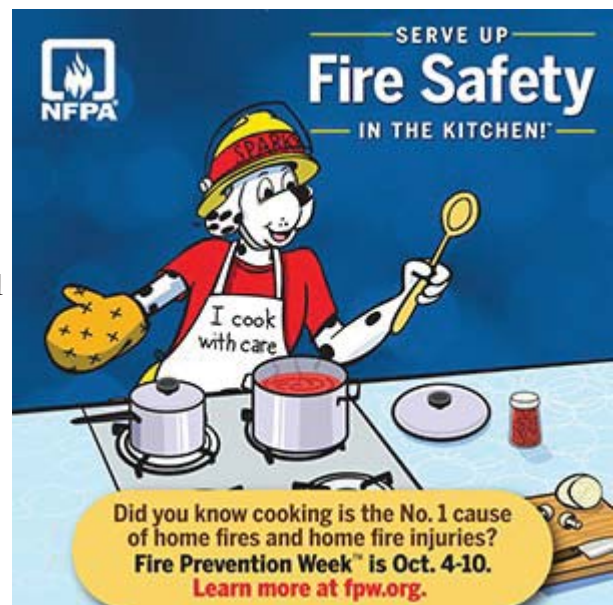
Home fire escape planning should include the following:

- Drawing a map of each level of the home, showing all doors and windows
- Going to each room and pointing to the two ways out
- Making sure someone will help children, older adults, and people with disabilities wake up and get out
- Teaching children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them
- Establishing a meeting place outside and away from the home where everyone can meet after exiting
- Having properly installed and maintained smoke alarms
- Pushing the smoke alarm button to start the drill

Practicing what to do in case there is smoke:

- Get low and go. Get out fast.
- Practicing using different ways out and closing doors behind you as you leave
- Never going back for people, pets, or things
- Going to your outdoor meeting place
- Calling 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a cell phone or a neighbor's phone

Information and additional resources provided by NFPA  
<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week/Educate>



# APPENDIX A

## CREATIVE PREVENTION IDEAS

### Schools

- Use the Georgia Unified Community Risk Reduction guide on [www.georgiafire.org](http://www.georgiafire.org) to fit school education into the curriculum. Work with the school and Zoom or Skype into Classrooms
- Have a video but then have Interaction during Q and A through Zoom or Skype
- If classroom is on a lower level go to their window and call into the teacher, especially if doing friendly firefighter be careful of other windows that can see as well.
- Try to go into the schools. May have to only be one person inside and others can still show engine outside. No large assemblies.
- Flat Sparky to send to school and take pictures – NFPA <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week/Educate>
- School Fire Drill – instead of being inside, talk to the group outside after it is over and compare school drill to what they need to have at home.

### Community

- Use the marquee from different local theaters
- Safety coloring Sheets with Kids Menus or Safety info with delivery service bags
- Safety info that banks can hand out
- Fire Prevention Parade
- Driveway Safety Art Contest – Winners get certificate and goodies
- Firefighter Cookbook and have educational information mixed in
- Live weekly event highlighting a safety message like Theo Thursday with DeKalb Fire on Facebook.
- Send safety info and activities with lunches for kids that go out through rec departments and schools
- Drive thru educations with different stops that safety messages given to each vehicle (touch a truck)
- Reading books virtually
- Drive in Movie night in vehicle or outdoor movies
- Modified tours for smaller groups, sign up online for more personalized tours. Could just have engine outside and explain what they could see through the windows if want to leave group outside.
- If your department doesn't have something, another department may and could swap assistance.

### Home

- Virtual Home Inspections – Facetime or Webex that homeowner can use on their phone and go room to room talking about potential hazards, including smoke alarms
- Safe Sitter <https://safesitter.org/> including Safe@Home program for grades 4-8
- Red Cross Babysitting course <https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/babysitting/babysitting-child-care-training/babysitting-classes>
- Pillowcase Project with the American Red Cross has virtual offerings <https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/babysitting/babysitting-child-care-training/babysitting-classes>
- Emphasize practicing Fire Drills in the Home

### Ring Neighbors App

The FREE Neighbors Public Safety Service from Ring allows your agency to connect with citizens using the Neighbors App. Unlike social media, you, as the fire department, can share hyper-local, critical info via push notification as an official identified source. For investigators, we offer the ability to enlist the help of the community by sending a request for video to specific neighborhoods.

- Neighbors App: [<https://store.ring.com/neighbors>](<https://store.ring.com/neighbors>)
- Neighbors Public Safety Service: [<https://shop.ring.com/pages/neighbors-public-safety-service>](<https://shop.ring.com/pages/neighbors-public-safety-service>)
- For additional info: [<https://communityprograms.ring.com/ps>](<https://communityprograms.ring.com/ps>)