



Minnesota Fire Safety Educator

**A Resource for Fire Safety Educators
From the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division**

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**MnDPS SFM - State
Fire Marshal**

Dennis Stark Named Educator of the Year

Congratulations to Dennis Stark of Alexandria, winner of the 2015 *Public Educator of the Year* Award. Nominated by Alexandria Fire Chief Jeff Karrow, Dennis was presented with the award during the June Conference of the Minnesota State Fire Department Association in St. Cloud.

Stark has touched the lives of thousands with his fire prevention education efforts. He has been in the fire service for 37 years, and has always believed the most important thing is to teach people to prevent fires.



Stark (left) accepting award from MSFDA Board Member Ed Hoffman

We Prepare Every Day

The Ad Council and FEMA recently released a public service announcement on the importance of being prepared for emergencies. While the campaign is designed to reach all communities, the *We Prepare Every Day* videos show people with disabilities taking charge of their own safety by preparing for emergencies. Along with the videos, there are fact sheets to help residents prepare a communications plan, make arrangements for service animals and more. This public service announcement is part of the Ready.com campaign and builds on the four foundational pieces of preparedness — be informed, make a plan, build a kit and get involved. To learn more about the We Prepare Every Day campaign visit www.ready.gov/myplan.

Run for 811

As public safety professionals, you know the importance of calling 811 before any digging project, whether it is big or small. The 811 Run-Walk on Saturday, Aug. 18, continues to promote that behavior. The 5k run/walk will take place around Lake Calhoun starting at 8:11 a.m., followed by a Kids' Fun Run. After the race, there will be an awards ceremony, prize giveaway and safety fair for the family. Whether you're a runner, a walker or a safety-minded supporter of the cause, stop out and help us save lives and property!

To learn more and to register visit www.imathlete.com/events/811RunWalk

Red Cross Smoke Alarm Program

You may be aware of the American Red Cross commitment to reduce death and injury from home fires by 25 percent in five years, but have you looked at their [Home Fire Preparedness Campaign](#)? Click on the resources tab for disaster/hazard education material, a home fire-risk mapping tool, fire safety education resources and coalition resources. The risk mapping tool is a simple, GIS-based map that uses NFIRS data to give you an easy-to-read map of fires, fire deaths and injuries. Under the training tab, find guides for alarm installer, documentation, home visit record and a number of training videos.

If you haven't yet partnered with the American Red Cross to do a smoke alarm installation program, you can connect with Red Cross through the website and see if that's a possibility in your community.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week 2015 is October 4-10. I am sure most of you are already making plans for special events, trainings and open houses. Once again I will collect and publish a list of fire department open houses around the state. Send me your date, time, location and event details to be included on the list.

This year's NFPA theme is "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm." The focus is on the key message of having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home. NFPA has lots of resources on their website to assist in using the Fire Prevention Week theme.

Also, NFPA wants to see how you are using the Fire Prevention Week products. Just snap a photo using NFPA products during an open house, classroom visit, sporting event or any other event you're hosting for Fire Prevention Week. Next, complete an online application, which will be posted on the website this fall. Once you complete the online form you will be entered to win one of 10 Sports Safety Boxes from NFPA (valued at over \$400). I will send out full details once the forms are posted on the NFPA website.

Upgrades and Transitions in 9-1-1 Webinar

State and local 9-1-1 professionals, along with 9-1-1 stakeholders, are invited to attend a webinar entitled “State of 911.” The webinar will be Tuesday, August 11, 12-1 p.m. Eastern Time.

Topics to be included are:

- Similarities and differences between Nationwide Public Safety Broadband (FirstNet) and Next Generation 911 (NG9-1-1)
- Opportunities for interconnectivity between FirstNet and NG911
- Updates from Indiana’s implementation of Text-to-911
- Q&A session

If interested in attending the webinar you must [pre-register](#). “State of 911” webinars are scheduled every other month and archived at 911.gov. These are national webinars, so be sure to check with your local jurisdictions for the current trends in your area.

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month. This year’s theme is: “Don’t Wait. Communicate. Make your emergency plan today.” The campaign is asking everyone to take action to make a plan with their communities, families and pets. Plan ways to stay safe and communicate during the types of disasters that could affect any community.

On the [ready.gov](#) website you will find National Preparedness Month logos, social media tools and planning resources. Each week has a hazard-focused theme:

Week 1 (September 1-5): Floods

Week 2 (September 6-12): Wildfire

Week 3 (September 13-19) Hurricane

Week 4 (September 20-26): Power Outage

Week 5 (September 27-30): Lead up to National PrepareAthon! Day on September 30th

Stove Top Fire Stops

I’ve heard a lot of great stories about “Stove Top Fire Stop” saves across the state! A fire prevention educator from Winston-Salem Fire Department recently shared this YouTube video they created to educate people about kitchen fires and Stove Top Fire Stops.

The Winston-Salem Department does use the video to offer the Stove Top Fire Stops for sale through their department or Amazon. As with any resource, it’s a judgment call — consider department policy before implementing it.

The video is located at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2VYrIbSqQI&feature=youtu.be>

Lending Library

When you need additional fire prevention resources, check out the Fire Marshal Division lending library. Need a Sparky the Fire Dog costume or a Sparky video? Both are available to be checked out. Other items in the lending library include children's books with a fire department, fire truck or fire prevention message. Videos cover topics from safe use of fire extinguishers to evacuation and carbon monoxide. The library also has a spinning wheel that can add some "fun and games" to your next event.

One new addition is a photo backdrop that can be set up for selfies, or for photos taken by someone from the fire department. The backdrop, when set up, is approximately 8 feet tall and 6 feet wide. It does roll down into a small case for easy transport. While there are lots of great spots to take a picture of kids at a fire station this one includes the reminder for kids to leave fire alone.



Governors Fire Prevention Day

Governors Fire Prevention Day at the Minnesota State Fair is Friday, August 28! Once again it will be a full day of fire prevention education, activities and events. Make sure you don't miss it!

For full details visit <http://governorsfirepreventionday.org/>

National Campus Fire Safety Month

September is National Campus Fire Safety Month and the Michael H. Minger Foundation has produced a series of free videos titled, “Did You Know?” to help schools and communities i reach college students. Each of the videos is about a minute long, and features students providing fire safety information such as, “Did you know that smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths?” along with messages on exits, cooking and smoke alarms.

The videos and other free resources can be found on the [Minger Foundation website](#). There are posters, fact sheets, an RA Guide to Fire Safety, and a teaching guide on working with students with disabilities.

Safety Tip Sheets

Are you looking for some tip sheets to hand out? There is a variety of tip sheets on the State Fire Marshal Website and the NFPA website. Both offer tip sheets in several languages, and some can be customized. I encourage you to download the sheets you need and add your own department logo and contact information. This is a great way to add resources with only the cost of printing! The [State Fire Marshal fact sheets](#) can be found on the website under the public education tab. The [NFPA tip sheets](#) appear in English; [other languages](#) can be found by clicking a link at the bottom of the [safety tip sheet page](#). Many are designed with limited reading required and more illustrations to suit varying levels of literacy.

NFPA Mini-Lessons

Another resource you might find useful on the NFPA website is [the10-minute mini-lesson plans](#). There are currently six different mini-lessons that include cooking fires, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, preventing carbon monoxide poisoning, calling 9-1-1 from a mobile phone and “Hear the beep where you sleep.” Each of these lessons directs you on who the audience should be, the lesson objective and simple steps to teach the topic. If there are other topics you’d like to see added, let me know and I will pass that along to NFPA — they want to know what educators need to do their jobs better!

Wildfire Preparedness Toolkit

The National Preparedness Community through FEMA has developed a [downloadable Wildfire Preparedness Toolkit](#). The kit includes social media messages, tip and resources.

According to The National Preparedness Community, the top three ways to prepare for a wildfire are:

- Design and landscape your home with wildfire safety in mind. Select materials and plans that help contain fire rather than fuel it.
- Teach each family member how to use a fire extinguisher (ABC type) and show them where it’s kept.
- Regularly clean roof and gutters.