



Minnesota Fire Safety Educator

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

**February 2016
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[MnDPS_SFM - State
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Fire Prevention Group

The next meeting for the MN State Fire Chiefs Public Education group will be on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. at the Excelsior Fire District. The address is 24100 Smithtown Road, Shorewood, MN 55331.

This meeting will serve as a combined meeting of the MN State Fire Chiefs Public Education group along with the Minnesota Fire and Injury Prevention group. Everyone is invited to attend.

If you have any questions about the meeting contact Kellie Murphy-Ringate at 952-960-1692 or kmurphyringate@excelsiorfire.org

Mark your calendar for future MN State Fire Chiefs Public Education group meetings:
May 11 — 1 p.m. in Savage

State Fire Marshal Conference

The fifth annual Minnesota State Fire Marshal Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 26 and Wednesday, April 27 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Minneapolis.

What Can You Expect?

Classes will include fire code issues, fire investigations, fire sprinkler systems, fire alarms, fire safety education and youth firesetting prevention and intervention.

Who Should Attend?

This conference is great for fire chiefs, fire marshals, fire inspectors, fire safety educators, fire investigators, firefighters, building officials, building inspectors and other interested persons.

Watch for more information and registration forms. We will also have more information on the State Fire Marshal Division website when it's available. The website is sfm.dps.mn.gov.

For more information contact Deputy State Fire Marshal Kevin McGinty at 651-201-7219 or by email at kevin.mcginty@state.mn.us

Fire Extinguishers and 9 Other Items in Your House That Expire

The website Safe Bee from UL recently posted an article called “Fire Extinguishers and 9 Other Items in Your House That Expire.” The article talks about a fire extinguisher’s expiration date and also outlines some simple steps to maintain home fire extinguishers. Another fire safety item mentioned in the article is smoke alarms. The article gives simple directions to help consumers find the date on the back of the alarm along with when UL began adding the dates to the back of alarms.

The other items in the article include medication, batteries, motor oil, bleach, paint, cosmetics and sunscreen. This is another resource to use in communicating with your constituents on safety risks around the home. The Safe Bee website has a number of resources on a wide variety of topics including the recent Zika virus outbreak.

The article on “[Fire Extinguishers and 9 Other items in Your House That Expire](#)” can be found on the [Safe Bee website](#).

Message from National Fire Safety Council

FIRE PREVENTION MATERIALS

My name is Lisa Conway. I am the Minnesota representative for the National Fire Safety Council. We are a non-profit organization that provides fire prevention materials to departments across the county at **no cost** to the department. While we work with a number of departments across Minnesota, I know many departments are not aware of our program. If you would like more information on our program and materials, you can reach me at: 651-428-0676 or lisajconway@comcast.net. You can also view our website at: <http://www.nationalfiresafetycouncil.org/>

NFPA Updates

Just a couple of quick updates from NFPA!

- Be sure you take a quick peek at the [new Barn Safety Checklist](#). This is a great new resource for those in rural communities!
- The Rolf Jensen Educational Award and NFPA Educator of the Year Award application deadlines are Feb. 5 and 12. Details here: <http://www.nfpa.org/training/scholarships-awards-grants/for-public-educators/fire-and-life-safety-educator-of-the-year> and <http://www.nfpa.org/training/scholarships-awards-grants/for-public-educators/rolf-h-jensen-memorial-public-education-grant>. We have excellent candidates here in Minnesota. Don’t miss the chance to nominate a well deserving educator.
- Meet Captain Splash and help kids become a “Fire Safety Scout” on the new website to help educate kids on Home Fire Sprinklers! <http://www.sprinklersmarts.org/>
- Visit sparky.org for some new Valentine’s Day activities including a math skill challenge. Kids use math to find the missing number in each smoke alarm. The activity designed for grades 1-3 remind kids the sound of the smoke alarm and what to do when they hear it.

Risk Reduction Measurement

At some point when doing fire prevention education or community risk reduction programs you will likely be asked to prove your program is having an impact. In the January issue of Firefighter Nation, Jim Crawford addressed the topic of evaluation in community risk reduction. He begins the article by clarifying the difference between performance measures and evaluation. While it might be easy to count how many fire prevention programs the department is doing or the number of inspections done in a year it might seem more challenging to see the results we are producing from these activities. Jim next covers the types of evaluation and types of measurement which may be used. If you are looking for another way to strengthen your fire prevention program and show the value to the department and the community, evaluation is a powerful tool. The full article can be found on the [Firefighter Nation website](#).

Smart Enforcement Community

A message from NFPA and Vision 20/20:

This fall NFPA's Fire Protection Research Foundation facilitated a one-day workshop in Tempe, Ariz., for fire departments using a range of technologies and tools to accomplish data-driven smart enforcement. The idea was to provide a forum where different departments — of varying scopes and sizes — could share electronic tools, data resources, reporting methods, and engagement strategies that are improving local fire safety enforcement efforts. Stakeholders discussed simple-to-elaborate processes, identified risk reduction gaps, and shared fire prevention outreach opportunities. The audience was highly engaged; and by the end of the workshop attendees had clear suggestions for how NFPA, as the global leader of fire safety knowledge and information, can best help CRR advocates mitigate fire in their communities.

With the work group's recommendations in mind, the [Smart Enforcement Community](#) made its debut this month on NFPA's Xchange platform. Just as NFPA has done for more than 100 years, they have taken the lead in bringing together informed parties, gathering input and generating relevant information that will benefit fire safety stakeholders. Smart Enforcement Community members will benefit from peer interaction, established data capture programs, Q&A sessions, webinars, blogs and enforcement expertise. NFPA encourages members of the Vision 20/20 network to explore the new Smart Enforcement Community, share your professional insight, learn from peers and subject matter experts, and access the complete Smart Enforcement Workshop report that resulted from the November meeting.

To join the new Smart Enforcement Community, visit NFPA's online Xchange platform. Xchange allows you to connect with NFPA technical staff, explore content, submit technical standards questions, and network with like-minded professionals worldwide. The Xchange platform, and more specifically the new Smart Enforcement Community, is an interactive forum built for your comments, content and community perspective. Click on the link above, or access the NFPA Xchange Smart Enforcement Community by copy and pasting this url into your browser:

<https://community.nfpa.org/groups/smart-enforcement>

Sign up for updates from Vision 20/20

Reveal the Red

Here in Minnesota we have experienced a pretty mild winter with much of the state getting minimal snow cover. Of course, parts of the east coast are still digging out from record snow fall. It's important fire departments are aware of fire hydrant locations in their communities and make sure they are accessible, no matter the season. As we all know, winter isn't over yet and we too could experience a large snow event still this winter.

Winter poses its own challenges in responding to and working fire calls but heavy snow adds extra challenges. When arriving on a fire scene, no one wants to take the extra time away from battling a fire to dig out a hydrant. We all know how every minute counts on a fire scene and those minutes digging out a hydrant may cause the home to become a total loss. In at least one case this week, [residents who shoveled out a hydrant ultimately saved their own home](#) from a potentially devastating fire the very next day.

Here in Minnesota, there are several communities who have found great success with an Adopt A Hydrant program. Some of these departments offer prizes to residents who clear the hydrants through random spot checks while others give the adoptees the option to decorate and paint their hydrant. Other communities have found success through youth or civic organizations taking on the role of clearing hydrants. These are great ways to engage citizens in fire safety and worth exploring if there is not currently an organized way to clear hydrants in your community.

Let's Put a Freeze on Winter Fires

Winter is still hanging on here in Minnesota and people are at greater risk of a home fire in the winter season. You can help prevent winter weather-related home fires in your community by sharing these safety tips, social media messages, and public service announcements. Below is a few messages for preventing carbon monoxide poisoning. For additional messages visit the [USFA website](#).

Carbon Monoxide Kills

Nationally, more than 150 people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning occurring from products and equipment in their home. The key to protecting your family is to be aware of the signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. [Learn more about the dangers of carbon monoxide](#)

Share these carbon monoxide social media cards.

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

Generators should always be used outside the home.

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

Governor's Safety Award

Feb. 5 is the deadline to apply for the [Governor's Safety Award](#). The awards program recognizes Minnesota employers for excellence in occupational safety and is coordinated by the Minnesota Safety Council in partnership with the governor's office.

[Apply](#) for a **Governor's Safety Award** and get recognized at the [Minnesota Safety & Health Conference](#).

Who is eligible for an award?

The award criteria is here: [Governor's Safety Award](#).

Fire Prevention for the Big Game

While some people tune into the Super Bowl to see which team is triumphant, others just pay attention for the commercials. Another big part of game day is often the food. The United States Fire Administration has developed some cooking safety tips to share with fans so they can celebrate safely. Here are a few of the messages you can share with your community around the big game:

- **Kitchen Huddle**
 - Prepare your cooking area. Use back burners or turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Move things that can burn away from the stove. Keep a timer handy and use it when you're roasting or baking.
- **Penalty Flag**
 - Frying poses the greatest risk of fire. Keep an eye on what you fry. Start with a small amount of oil and heat it slowly. If you see smoke or if the grease starts to boil in your pan, turn the burner off. Even a small amount of oil on a hot burner can start a fire.
- **Defense**
 - Stay awake and alert while you're cooking. Stand by your pan. If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off. Keep a large pan lid or baking sheet nearby in case you need to smother a pan fire.
- **Touchdown!**
 - Keep safety in mind when serving on game day too. If you burn candles, position them out of reach of children and away from anything that can burn. Consider using flameless candles that are lit by battery power instead. Food warmers and slow cookers get hot. Place them toward the back of the serving table so they won't get knocked off. Provide hot pads to prevent burns. Light the chafing dish fuel can after it is placed under the warmer. Make sure nothing comes in contact with the flame. If young children are in your home, supervise them and keep matches and lighters locked away.

For more fire safety information, visit [USFA](#). Follow USFA on Twitter at [@USfire](#) and on [Facebook](#).

Wildfire Preparedness Day

The 2016 [National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day](#), sponsored by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) and State Farm, is scheduled for Saturday, May 7. State Farm is again providing grant funding to support neighborhood projects to reduce community wildfire risk.

Of all the projects submitted for funding, 125 will receive \$500 to cover the grassroots project expenses. Organizers interested in working toward this goal can browse project ideas and see detailed rules and guidelines, and once the project details are finalized, organizers can place them on the website's nationwide map. Project organizers must apply by Sunday, February 28th to be considered.

With more than 10 million acres burned, 2015 was the worst wildfire year in history. NFPA hopes this annual event will grow, as there is a need for better community involvement in wildfire risk reduction. This is a great opportunity for communities in the Wildland Urban Interface to begin new projects or expand on projects already completed. It is also a chance for a variety of community organizations to band together for a common goal with lasting benefits.

(Source: [WildfirePrepDay.org](#))

