



Minnesota Public Educator

A Resource for Fire Safety and Youth Firesetting Intervention Educators from the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division

August 2017
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[MnDPS_SFM - State Fire Marshal](#)

Fire Prevention Week webinar

During the month of August you'll have your choice of two webinar dates to learn all about this year's [Fire Prevention Week \(FPW\)](#) campaign.

NFPA Public Education Division Regional Education Specialist Jeff Donahue will give a presentation on the topic from 3-4 p.m. (PT) on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

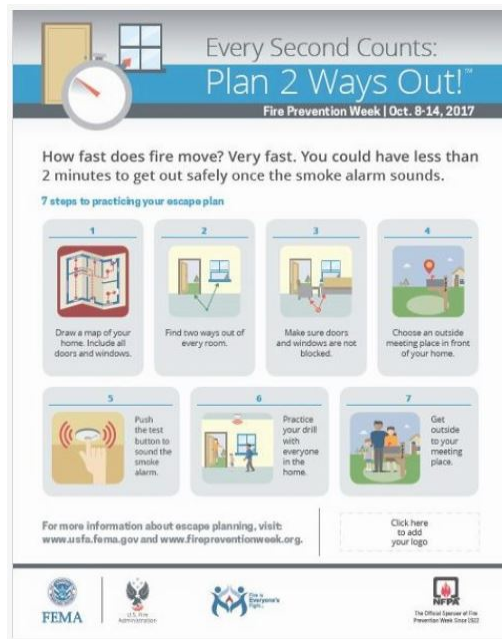
Regional Education Specialist Meredith Hawes will give her presentation from 1-2 p.m. (ET) on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

Both Jeff and Meredith will conduct a 40-minute presentation with time allotted for questions discussing key elements of the 2017 FPW theme: Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out! Both will provide a virtual tour of the FPW website, and an overview of the great web resources and products available to support your local campaign, including [Fire Prevention Week in a Box](#) and the FPW [T-shirt decal pdf](#).



Fire Prevention Week infographic

Introduce your community to this year's (FPW) theme: Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out! with the FPW infographic. This colorful visual includes easy-to-follow illustrations outlining seven steps for practicing an escape plan. The infographic is available in both English and Spanish and you can personalize it with your department logo. Place the infographic on your website, blog or other social media sites. The infographic can be used as an introduction to other FPW materials that provide additional details about the escape planning theme, including the [Prevent Fire in Your Home Booklet](#) and the Fire Prevention Week Kids' [Activity Posters](#).



Educators save a life in Minnetonka

Minnetonka Fire Department educators offer hands only CPR demonstrations to community members throughout the year and were recently at a local fitness center demonstrating this life-saving training. Days after offering the hands only CPR demo a lady called the fitness center to say thank you because it saved her husband's life! She thought he was dead but did six compressions and that's all that it took to revive her husband. She said if she wouldn't have put down her workout bag to talk to Jim Lundeen, Minnetonka firefighter and educator, she wouldn't have known what to do. Her husband had a 99 percent blockage and was recovering from surgery when she called. Thank you to Minnetonka Fire Department for sharing this story and how your efforts are making a difference in your community!

If you have a save story to share or a story about a recent fire or life safety program from your community send information to Amanda Swenson at amanda.swenson@state.mn.us or Kathi Osmonson at Kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us.

NFPA updates

NFPA Today blog

- Marine Gas Hazards Control Program - Marine Chemist Program
- How to Become a Marine Chemist and the Role of the Marine Chemist Qualification Board
- NFPA 1: Location and placement requirements for portable fire extinguishers, #FireCodefridays
- The Columbus Workshop: The growing momentum around the problem of firefighter cancer
- A better understanding of NFPA 70E and its "elimination" risk control
- Soliciting public comments on proposed Tentative Interim Amendments to NFPA 70, National Electrical Code

Safety information

- Register for upcoming webinar about Fire Prevention Week
- Fire Prevention Week Infographic presents theme in a visually engaging way in Safety Source

Fire sprinkler initiative

- The California Fire Sprinkler Coalition is hosting two symposiums that will address common questions related to home fire sprinklers
- The Connecticut Fire Sprinkler Coalition urges CT residents to take action in support of passing a fire sprinkler requirement
- Why home fire sprinklers should be a serious consideration in rural communities
- Keeping home fire sprinklers on media's radar, couple hosts more than 40 demonstrations

Fire Break Newsletter

- Payson, Arizona code fight highlights challenges for wildfire prone jurisdictions
- Washington state Firewise liaison joins NFPA wildfire team
- NFPA and partners talk community resilience on capitol hill
- (Video): Wildfires across Mediterranean force thousands to flee
- New FEMA Administrator, Brock Long shares insights about preparedness success with FEMA Youth Preparedness Council Reduce ember ignitions by screening attic and crawl space vents

Change Your Clock Change Your Batteries

Each year Energizer generously donates 9V batteries to fire departments across the country as part of the Energizer Change Your Clock Change Your Batteries Campaign. This year requests for battery and banner donations can now be made directly on the following website: www.cmgestores.com/energizer/cyccybfirehouserequests.html. The deadline to request batteries and a banner is Friday, Sept. 8, 2017, at 11:59 pm (EST).

The request includes basic information such as organization name, address, email, and phone number as well as any comments. It should only take a few minutes to fill out the form.



Play Safe! Be Safe!

Play Safe! Be Safe! training will be offered in Minnesota on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at New Brighton Fire Department. The training will be from 9 a.m. until noon. Play Safe! Be Safe! Is an award-winning fire safety education program created especially for children ages 3-5.

The workshop is a fascinating and entertaining look into the preschool child's perception of fire, the surprising frequency of children's misuse of fire, practical approaches to teach young children fire safety, and introduction to the Play Safe! Be Safe! Kit.

All participants receive a free Play Safe! Be Safe! Kit. The multi-media classroom fire safety kit includes:

- A 20-minute DVD featuring "Firefighter Dan" in English and Spanish.
- Four sets of colorful story cards.
- Two activity boards.
- Keep Away! card game.
- Comprehensive teacher's manual with materials for parents in English and Spanish.

American Red Cross launching Sound the Alarm campaign

The American Red Cross wants to recruit 35,000 volunteers in 100 cities to help install 100,000 smoke alarms between Sept. 23 and Oct. 15. Their goal is to install 1 million smoke alarms since the program began in 2014.

Please share this information and help them reach this goal! The American Red Cross has prepared news releases, social media messages and more to help you in this effort.

In our Minnesota Region, the Red Cross and partners have installed 6,600 smoke alarms, 660 alarm batteries and helped families make 2,200 fire escape plans. Events to increase these efforts during the Sound the Alarm campaign are planned for Melrose, Hutchinson, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Goodhue and Rochester.

For more information or to volunteer, go to the [Sound the Alarm website](#) or contact your local American Red Cross office.

Department of Public Safety blog

Have you checked out the [Department of Public Safety blog](#) recently? If not, you are missing out on some great information. Take for example the statistics in a recent post titled "Role reversal: fire prevention and your parents."

"The numbers show that adults over age 60 are a demographic particularly vulnerable to fires: in 2015, for example, people 60 and over accounted for over 45 percent of all fire deaths; so far this year, that percentage has climbed to 48. And when you consider that, in about three years, adults over age 65 will outnumber K-12 schoolchildren for the first time in history, fire prevention and safety for seniors becomes even more important."

Along with fire prevention and safety topics, you will also find stories on storm recovery, traffic safety and much more. Please share the information in the posts with your communities.

Three and out

The phrase three and out might conjure up images of the ballpark. But as Chief Darryl Kerley writes in FireRescue1, maybe it's time that phrase has a new meaning. In his article titled "Three and out: Educating the public on fire protection," Chief Kerley discusses how our residents might be looking to the fire service for fire protection not just suppression.

In his article, Chief Kerley talks about how the public sees firefighters and fire. The fire department shows up on television to a home that has flames coming from every window and somehow a firefighter goes in and carries the residents out. Further he writes "While that makes for great TV, many citizens believe that is the way fires and firefighters really behave. What are we doing to tell them different?" Along with what the public sees on television shows we also tout how great our departments are when our ISO rating is lowered. While prevention is a portion of the points for an ISO rating more points are given for suppression related functions such as training, water supply, and equipment.

The article goes on to discuss how it is time to teach residents their own responsibility on fire protection and that the fire department is bringing fire suppression when they call 9-1-1. "We are teaching our firefighters about the changes which have taken place with modern furnishings and new home construction, now let's begin providing the public with the same disturbing but real information. Three and out! We all know the slogan, so let's teach the public they have three minutes to wake up and find a way out during a fire."

The entire article can be found on the [FireRescue1 website](#).

Youth firesetting intervention specialist course

This course provides the skills and tools necessary to become a juvenile firesetting intervention specialist I. The class will address NFPA 1035 Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I including: primary prevention; identification and intake; who sets fires and why; and interviewing and intervention strategies. Students will be introduced to the NFPA 1035 Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I Professional Standard. Students will learn to conduct an interview with a firesetter and their family using prepared forms and guidelines.

Some topics covered will include: identifying national and local trends, discussing how mass media effects youth, assessment tools and intervention strategies.

Dates: Oct. 26 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
Oct. 27 from 8 a.m. until noon

Certification: Oct. 27 from 1-4 p.m.

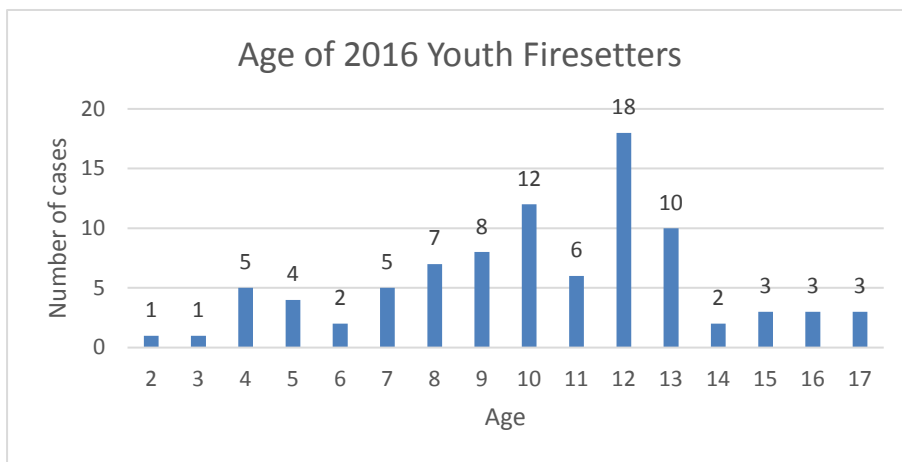
Location: Bemidji Fire Station 2
312 Lake Ave SE. Bemidji, MN 56601

Register at sfm.dps.mn.gov

2016 youth set fires

The Minnesota fire service reported 160 youth-set fires in 2016. These fires were identified by simply searching for “age as a factor” and “playing with heat source” as contributing factors. Fires that were not identified as youth-set by these means were not counted. The Youth Fire Intervention Repository and Evaluation System (YFIRES) identified another seven cases not included in the Minnesota Fire Incident Reporting System. As you can see in the cart below, 12-year-olds followed by 10-year-olds and 13-year-olds start the most fires. This small sample of data is similar to the results found in the State Fire Marshal Division five-year report from 2011–2015. These numbers make it clear that middle school-aged kids still need fire prevention messaging. If we can teach kids in this age range about fire science they may be less likely to experiment by actually starting fires.

One of our recent cases involves a youth, older than 18, going through the intervention process. This individual has a learning disability, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and a host of other mental disorders. He is going into 12th grade, however his mother says he has a learning level of a 15-year-old. The local fire and police departments are working with Jerrod Brown and the county attorney to have this individual charged so that he will go through the intervention process. The intention is not that he spend time in jail, but he will be required to go through the program, including getting the mental health care he so desperately needs. Since he has reached biological adulthood, he decided to quit going to counseling and soon will get back in.



It is encouraging that more than half of the youth firesetting cases entered into YFIRES received fire science educational intervention. Another 16 percent received intervention but mental health or juvenile justice took the lead for intervention services. Of the 26 percent not seen by the program, some firesetters may not have been charged for the fire. Those not charged are not required to go through the youth fire intervention program, and may choose to abstain. Others may simply have not confessed to starting the fire. Youth Fire Intervention Program Manager Sarah Mann goes the extra mile for the non-mandatory cases and provides fire science education to the firesetter’s class without singling them out and educates the entire school when it is appropriate and her schedule allows. All kids, whether they are starting fires or not, can benefit from fire science education. However, kids at high risk of repeating the dangerous behavior can benefit from other professional disciplines taking the lead on intervention and letting us know when fire science education is appropriate.

