



# Minnesota Fire Safety Educator

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

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## *NFPA 1035 certification survey*

NFPA has requested fire prevention educators and those interested in fire prevention to complete a short survey on NFPA 1035 (standard on Fire and Life Safety Educator, Public Information Officer, Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist, and Youth Firesetting Program Manager Professional qualifications). If you have already completed the survey, thank you very much. If not, please take a few minutes to do so now. Your insights are very important to NFPA.

The survey has only 14 questions and will take just minutes to complete. Your answers are confidential and will only be used in combination with responses from the other participants.

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

## *Do 1 Thing in October: Power*

Do 1 Thing is a 12-month program that makes it easy to prepare yourself, your family and your community for emergencies or disasters. The month of October focuses on being able to meet basic needs during an electrical outage. These tasks are not only important for general emergency preparedness but are important for fire safety during these emergencies.

### Tasks:

Have a flashlight ready in an easily accessible place and check the batteries in flashlights and radios. In an emergency, the safest way to provide emergency lighting is with a flashlight or battery-powered lantern.

Acquire and learn to safely use a portable generator. Using a properly connected generator of adequate size will reduce or eliminate the impact of a power outage. Of course, it is also important to place the generator outside and away from windows to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

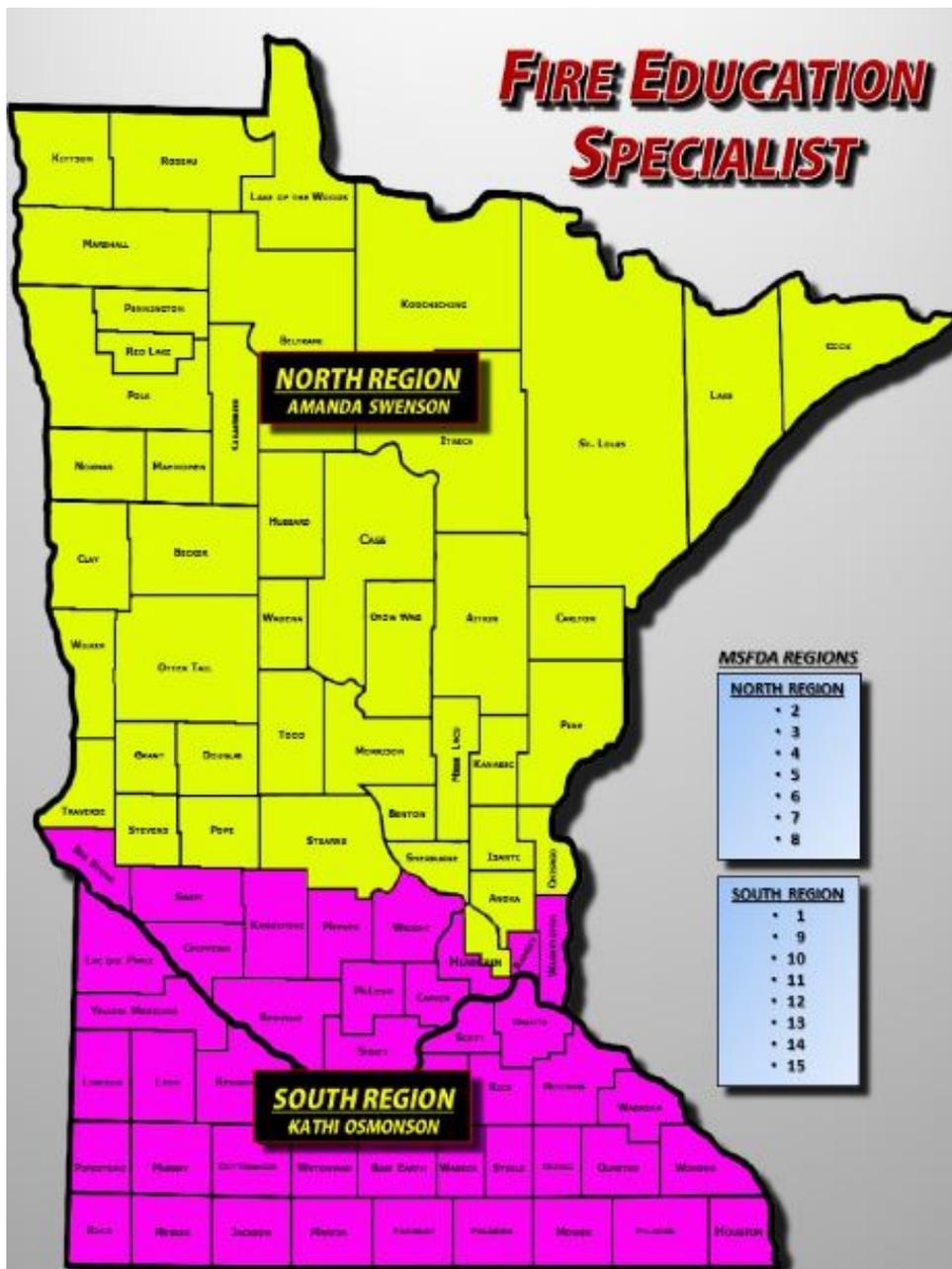
Create a power outage plan and decide what you can do before, during and after a power outage to minimize its effect on your household. Then share it with your community to ensure they are prepared for power outages too.

# Public education training

Looking to update your fire prevention programs? The State Fire Marshal Division Fire and Life Safety Educators, Amanda Swenson and Kathi Osmonson, are available to come to your department or region to work with you on updating fire prevention programs, fire prevention resources, trainings on working with the various audiences, youth firesetting intervention training, and updates of messaging in fire prevention. We are able to tailor the training to your department needs and training level.

A couple of upcoming trainings to take note of is Youth Firesetting Prevention Intervention (YFPI) Program Manager training in Duluth on September 19 and 20 and YFPI Specialist training in Mankato on September 27 and 28. Both of these trainings are free to attend, and registration can be found on the [SFMD website](http://www.sfmd.mn.us).

To schedule your training, email Amanda Swenson at [amanda.swenson@state.mn.us](mailto:amanda.swenson@state.mn.us) or Kathi Osmonson at [kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us](mailto:kathi.osmonson@state.mn.us). We'll bring fire prevention resources to share.



# Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week activities are already in full swing across the state. It's a great time to visit other department open houses, especially if you are looking for new ideas and activities to enhance your own department open house. The SFMD has accumulated a list of fire prevention open houses across the state. You can find the list on the [SFMD website](#).

We get requests for the list from around the state, and we're always looking to expand it. Each year SFMD starts putting it together in August. Be sure to send us the details for your event in 2017 so your department can be included!



## *How often do smoke alarms need to be changed? A national survey shows most Americans don't know (NFPA News Release)*

September 28, 2016 – How often should the smoke alarms in your home be replaced? If you don't know, you're not alone. A national survey conducted by the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) shows that nine out of 10 Americans don't know how often [smoke alarms](#) need to be replaced. The correct answer: every 10 years.

As the official sponsor of [Fire Prevention Week](#), NFPA is promoting this year's campaign theme, "[Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years,](#)" to better educate the public about this potentially life-saving message.

"While the public generally knows that smoke alarms play an important role in home fire safety, some smoke alarm messages are not as well understood," says Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy for NFPA. "Not knowing how often smoke alarms need to be replaced - or that they even have an expiration date - are among them."

According to Carli, that lack of awareness means some U.S. homes may have smoke alarms that have outlasted their full functionality, putting people at increased risk in the event of a home fire. NFPA statistics show that three out of five U.S. home fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or no working alarms.

### **Key Survey Findings:**

- Half of Americans (50 percent) have three or more smoke alarms in their current home
- Almost one in five Americans who have smoke alarms (19 percent) say the oldest smoke alarm they currently have in their home is 10+ years old
- Nearly one in five Americans who have smoke alarms (18 percent) are not at all sure how old the oldest smoke alarm they currently have in their home is
- When asked how often they should replace smoke alarms, nine in 10 Americans (90 percent) did not select the correct answer, which is once every 10 years

"Working smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire in half," said Carli. "That's why it's so important to make sure they're working properly."

For more information on smoke alarms and this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, visit [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

# ***Firefighter in your home***

Looking for a fun and interesting way to get people's attention when talking to them about residential sprinklers? Fresno Fire Department has created a short PSA that compares residential sprinklers to having a firefighter right in your own home (only better). Check out the video on [YouTube](#).

## ***Messages for public education***

It is not only important to provide educational opportunities to the public, but it is important to give consistent and clear messages in educational programs. The Minnesota SFMD, along with the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA) Public Education Committee, has developed a simple messaging guide to help departments give short and simple messages to the public when delivering public education programming. While this document is not designed to replace curriculum, it can enhance your teaching toolkit.

The messaging guide will be available at the MSFCA Public Education Committee booth during the MSFCA's annual Fire Chiefs' Conference in St. Cloud. If a member from your department is attending the conference, be sure to send them to the booth to pick up a copy. If your department is not attending the conference, there will be copies available through SFMD. Email Amanda Swenson at [amanda.swenson@state.mn.us](mailto:amanda.swenson@state.mn.us) for your copy.

Also available is the updated version of the NFPA Educational Messages Desk Reference – 2016. The Educational Messages Advisory Committee (EMAC) meets periodically to review NFPA's fire safety and prevention messages. These are the messages that are consistently used throughout the NFPA curricula, handouts and educational programs. New additions to the guide are clearly marked so you can keep up to date on messages. The Educational Messages Desk Reference is available for free download on the [NFPA website](#).

Be sure your department has both of these important tools on hand to assist with your fire prevention education programs.



## ***Take Action: Teens for Wildfire-Safe Communities***

A new resource is available for students in grades 6-12 to learn more about wildfires. NFPA and Young Minds Inspired (YMI) have teamed up to provide four virtual workshop videos and accompanying lesson plans for teachers to help students better understand wildfires and the necessity of helping lessen their risk. [These videos and downloadable lesson plans](#) meet Common Core requirements for English Language Arts and can be used by educators (teachers and fire and life safety educators in fire departments) to help students learn more about wildfire and wildfire-related risks.

The video series examines the aftermaths of three major wildfires in the United States and short- and long-term impacts. The purpose of the series is to help students understand why homes burn and learn what they can do to do to lessen their family's risk of loss due to a wildfire event.