

NEWS RELEASE

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SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE REMINDS RESIDENTS TO LOOK, LISTEN, LEARN AND BE AWARE DURING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Suffolk, VA (October 4, 2018) –Fire Prevention Week is recognized from October 7th through October 13th, and Suffolk Fire & Rescue is joining forces with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents of this year’s theme “*Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware – fire can happen anywhere*”. As a matter of fact, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

Fire Prevention Week aims to educate about essential steps to reduce the likelihood of having a fire and how to escape safely in the event of one.

Lieutenant Chuck Chapin, Fire Marshal, would like to remind citizens of the essential three ‘Ls’ of fire prevention and safety:

LOOK for places that fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

LISTEN for the sound of the smoke alarm. You may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

LEARN two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter. After leaving the home, go to your family's designated meeting spot established when you set up a home fire escape plan.

Fire Marshal Chapin further advises that, "Developing and practicing a home escape plan helps to ensure that you and your family feel more confident in your ability to snap into action and escape as quickly as possible in the event of a fire".

A home escape plan includes working smoke alarms on every level of the home, in every bedroom, and near all sleeping areas. It also includes two ways out of every room, usually a door and a window, with a clear path to an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) that's a safe distance from the home.

The NFPA and Suffolk Fire & Rescue offer these additional tips and recommendations for developing and practicing a home escape plan:

- Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Make sure the address number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the Fire Department to find.
- Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

In recognition of the week, and to serve as reminders to the community, banners will be displayed at all Fire Stations in the City of Suffolk. An information table is also set up in the City's Peanut Fest tent, and the Fire & Life Safety House will be in operation

at events during the month allowing children to learn firsthand how to crawl out of a burning building, in addition to providing other important fire safety information.

Fire prevention safety is a priority for the men and women of Suffolk Fire & Rescue throughout the year – not just during Fire Prevention Week – and Fire Marshal's Office staff and Firefighters are available for scheduled special presentations at schools, daycares, churches, civic groups, and other organizations. To schedule a presentation, or for more information, call 757-514-4550, or email fireprevbureau@suffolkva.us.

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