

Safety Newsletter

Fire Prevention Week: Oct. 9-15, 2022

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) has announced [“Fire Won’t Wait. Plan Your Escape™”](#) as the theme for Fire Prevention Week™, October 9-15, reinforcing the critical importance of developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly. In addition, this October represents the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week, the nation’s longest running public health observance on record.

“This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign capitalizes on its milestone anniversary, celebrating all we’ve accomplished in reducing the public’s risk to fire over the past hundred years,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of the NFPA Outreach and Advocacy division. “At the same time, the theme, ‘Fire Won’t Wait. Plan Your Escape,’ addresses challenges that remain.”

According to NFPA data, home – the place people feel safest from fire – is actually where they are at greatest risk, with three-quarters (74 percent) of all U.S. fire deaths occurring in homes. When a home fire does occur, it’s more likely to be serious; people are more likely to die in a home fire today than they were in 1980.

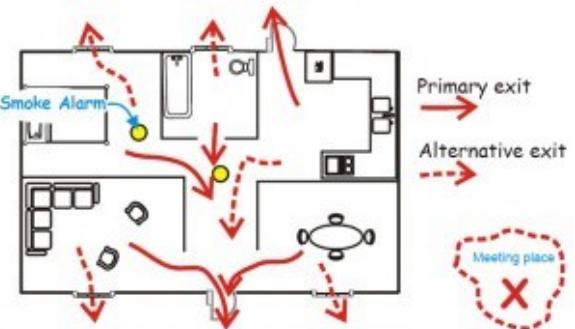
The Fire Prevention Week 2022 theme, “Fire Won’t Wait. Plan Your Escape,” promotes potentially life-saving messages that can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. Developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly ensures that everyone knows what to do when the smoke alarm sounds and uses that time wisely.

Following are key messages behind this year’s “Fire Won’t Wait. Plan Your Escape” theme:

- Make sure your home escape plan meets the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home where everyone should meet.
- Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the household, including guests. Practice at least once during the day and at night.

As the biggest annual campaign at NFPA, Fire Prevention Week works to educate people about the leading risks to home fires and ways they can better protect themselves and their loved ones. Local fire departments play a key role in bringing Fire Prevention Week to life in their communities each year and spreading basic but critical fire safety messages.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week, its 100th anniversary, and this year’s theme, “Fire Won’t Wait. Plan Your Escape,” visit www.nfpa.org/fpw.



Defensive Driving

Robin Stephens from the ND Department of Transportation has scheduled two Defensive Driving Courses at NDSU.



Fleet Services requires those who operate fleet vehicles, on at least a monthly basis, to take the National Safety Council Defensive Driving Course (DDC) as soon as practical after accepting employment, and every four years thereafter. Training for those who operate fleet vehicles less than monthly is at the discretion of agency trainers or risk managers. Fleet Services also requires those who have been involved in a motor vehicle accident with a State Fleet vehicle, or those who have received a traffic citation while operating a State Fleet vehicle in the past 12 months, to attend the DDC course within the calendar year of the accident or citation.



The University Police and Safety Office (UP&SO) encourages those who operate State Fleet vehicles less than monthly to attend the DDC class also, keeping in mind that priority will be given to those who meet the requirements above.

While the UP&SO recommends that individuals attend the DDC class in person, in instances where this is not feasible an online version is available. Please contact Monty Botschner at montgomery.botschner@ndsu.edu or 231-5637 for access to the online version.

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Prairie Rose, Memorial Union

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Prairie Rose, Memorial Union

Registration closes Friday, October 14, 2022.

Baseline Safety and Supervisor Safety Trainings



Baseline Safety training is a mandatory training for all NDSU employees. Staff, faculty and student employees including any part-time, temporary or seasonal positions are required to complete Baseline Safety training annually. Employees are asked to complete their safety training between July 1 and September 30 of each fiscal year. Supervisors are to complete both the Supervisor Safety training and Baseline Safety training within the same timeframe. Both courses are delivered online in Blackboard, in-person and on Zoom. Credit is provided for completion of the trainings either online or by in-person/Zoom attendance. The Safety Office will provide trainings for groups/departments upon request.

The Safety Office would like to remind employees who haven't completed their obligated Baseline Safety and Supervisor Safety trainings to please view our training website for links to the online trainings and also dates and times of upcoming trainings: https://www.ndsu.edu/police_safety/training/baseline_supervisor_safety/.

Home Heating System Check

As we move into autumn with the days getting shorter it's a good idea to get your home heating system ready for the coming winter. Prepping this now could save you from unexpected breakdowns and repairs down the road. State Farm Insurance offers the following tips to best prepare your home heating system for the coming winter months.

Your HVAC is central to keeping your home warm during the winter. Face the challenges of winter with these [simple furnace tips](#).

- Change the air filter in your furnace and check its efficiency before the cold weather begins. A clogged air filter can cause your furnace to work harder than it needs to and may even lead to the furnace not functioning.
- Stock up on several air filters for the winter, and change them every month.
- Call in an HVAC contractor to test the heating output and give the system a tune up. This technician can also check for and correct possible hazardous [carbon monoxide](#) levels generated by your heating system.
- After your furnace has been tuned up to its maximum efficiency, take a moment to inspect your heating ducts and vents. Dust them off and clear away anything that may have gotten into them over the summer.
- Related to heating efficiency, be sure to check your [windows and doors for drafts](#):
 - Check your windows for any leaks that may compromise your heating efficiency. If you feel cold air coming in, purchase a plastic sealing kit from the hardware store and place the plastic around the window to keep the heat from escaping.
 - Be sure to check your doors as well, and replace the weather stripping if needed.
 - An efficient heating system will not only keep you reliably comfortable, but could also save you money in reduced heating costs.

Daylight Savings & Smoke/CO Detectors

This year Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 6, 2022 at 2:00AM. When preparing to set your clocks back an hour, it is the perfect opportunity to check and replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. These detectors should be checked monthly to ensure they are functioning properly in order to provide you and your family with notice should an emergency occur. These detectors should be placed on every floor of your home and outside each sleeping area.





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