



MEDIA RELEASE

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National Fire Prevention Week Oct. 7-13

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Wildfire is the greatest natural hazard we face in Lake County. However, home fires are more common and more preventable.

The most common causes of home fires are cooking, heating, electrical and smoking (which is the leading cause of fire deaths). Many safety tips are obvious: never put water on a grease fire, keep "ABC" class fire extinguishers, clean your dryer lint filter, don't smoke in bed, practice your escape plan. You can learn more fire safety tips at the National Fire Protection Association website, the MN State Fire Marshal's Office, the Red Cross, or FEMA.

Did you know you might only have 2 minutes to escape a home fire? Smoke alarms save lives, yet most homes lack them, or their alarms are over 10 years old. The American Red Cross will install fire alarms in your home for free. Simply call 612-460-3674 or text "Alarm" to 844-811-0100. Don't let your dreams go up on smoke.

In addition to lightning, wildfires are often caused by matches, campfires and home debris burning. You can help protect your home from wildfire by making sure your driveway allows clear fire truck access. Remove balsam fir trees and "ladder fuels" of tall grass and low branches within 30 feet of your home. Screen attic vents and under decks. Store firewood away from your home.

Finally, every firefighter in Lake County is a volunteer. Find an opportunity to thank them.