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## Fire Prevention

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# Supervising Safety Newsletter

This year's annual Fire Prevention Week theme is one everyone should think about at work and at home, "Fire Won't Wait, Plan Your Escape." This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the annual Fire Prevention Week sponsored by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). This program aims to inform and educate everyone about the simple and important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from fires.

Today's fires burn hotter and faster than ever. Studies have shown that you may have as little as two minutes or less to escape. Thick black smoke can quickly engulf a room or work area, making it difficult to see or breathe, and temperatures can quickly rise past 1000 degrees. Smoke alarms play a crucial role in giving advanced warning in the event of a fire. Your ability to escape depends on early warning and advanced escape planning.

### **KNOW TWO WAYS OUT**

Plan an escape route for every assignment you are given and always have two escape routes for every area or job site you may be working. Reduce the risk of trips and/or falls during an escape by removing clutter in the hallways, stairways, and near exits and windows for a clear, safe path out of the area. Make sure all windows and doors are functional and able to open, avoid using elevators in the event of a fire, and be prepared to take the stairs in an emergency.

At home, develop an escape plan with your family and practice it at least twice a year. This can be done by drawing a map of your home and showing two ways out of every room. Make sure that all escape routes are kept clear and windows and doors open easily. Pick an outside meeting place for the family to gather at a safe distance from the family home. Once your family is out do not re-enter for any reason and call 9-1-1 from your meeting place outside the home.

### **SMOKE ALARMS**

Smoke alarms should be installed in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Make sure that everyone knows the sound of your smoke alarm and routinely test the alarm. Two slogans to remember and teach your families are:

**When you hear the beep, get on your feet!** Hearing the beep of the smoke alarm should get us up and out of our homes without delay.

**Hear a Chirp, Make a Change!** A chirping alarm needs attention. Replace the batteries every six months and the entire smoke alarm when it is ten years old. If you can't remember how old your smoke alarm is, then you should replace it.

IPSC is sponsoring Fire Prevention Week Activities this year and encourages everyone to participate. There will be an escape plan contest for kids and work area floor plans for employees to complete through the month of October. Employee names will be entered into a drawing for every work area escape plan turned in during the month. Packets for the kids escape plan contest and work area floor plans can be picked up from and returned to the Safety Office.

More information about Fire Prevention Week can be found online at:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Events/Events/Fire-Prevention-Week/About>

