

*For Immediate Release*October XX, 2019

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**October is National Fire Prevention Month**

October is National Fire Prevention Month, with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)—along with most U.S. fire departments—leading the month with Fire Prevention Week, which will take place October 6-12. This year’s campaign, *“Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!”* is designed to educate the public about the actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from fire. Since 1922, the NFPA has sponsored Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country.

Almost 100 years later, fire prevention is still a pressing concern in the United States. Due to modern construction methods and synthetic furnishings, today’s home fires leave very little time to escape. There is often only about two minutes to escape safely after a smoke alarm sounds! Having an escape plan for your family has never been more important. The NFPA provides step-by-step instructions for creating your family’s personalized escape plan. Remember to involve the entire family in this activity. Materials can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/getoutsafe19>. It’s an enjoyable and easy-to-follow project that every member of the family can participate in.

The meaning of this year’s theme is simple, not every hero wears a cape, but can also be someone who takes small but meaningful actions to keep themselves and those around them safe from fire. According to the NFPA, fire safety education isn’t just for school children. Teenagers, adults, and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it essential for every member of the community to take some time every October during Fire Prevention Week to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire.

Take the time to visit the NFPA Fire Prevention Week web pages! They’re full of great information, fun activities, little known facts, and tips to keep your family and your community safe from fire. Download and print the tip sheets and escape plan instructions, share them at work, at school, at community events and at home. You can make a difference, and the NFPA has made it simple for you to be a hero, whether you wear a cape or not! Go to <http://bit.ly/FPW19> for everything you need to get started today.

Insert your Department name relies on brave men and women to volunteer their time to serve as volunteer firefighters to ensure that every call for help is answered. Men and women with almost every skill set are needed. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Insert your Department name at Insert website or call Insert your Dept. phone number.

There are volunteer opportunities at your local volunteer fire department for citizens willing to work hard. To learn more about becoming a volunteer firefighter and joining your local volunteer fire department, please visit [www.VolunteerFireTN.org](http://www.VolunteerFireTN.org).

*About the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. (TFCA)
The TFCA provides leadership to career and volunteer Fire Chiefs, Chief Fire Officers and managers of emergency service organizations throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service and representation to enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities. The TN Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA) also encourages the professional advancement of the fire service to ensure and maintain greater protection of life and property from fire and natural or man-made disasters. The TFCA’s mission is to provide leadership to career and volunteer chiefs, chief fire officers, and managers of Emergency Service Organizations throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities. More information about the TFCA is located at* [*www.tnfirechiefs.com*](http://www.tnfirechiefs.com) *.*

*About Volunteer Workforce Solutions (VWS)
The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association was awarded a SAFER recruitment and retention grant in 2016 and partnered with the International Association of Fire Chiefs to identify recruitment and retention goals, strategies and marketing methodologies that would benefit not only participating departments, but all fire departments in the state. 19 departmental groups, consisting of 64 departments, were selected to participate in Phase I of the program. The VWS program is also operating in Virginia through the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association and Connecticut through the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association. There is also currently a National VWS effort focusing on diversity and new trainings. More information about the Tennessee VWS can be found at* [*www.VolunteerFireTN.org*](http://www.VolunteerFireTN.org)*.*

*(Insert info about your department in similar format to above)*