



FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK *OCTOBER*
4-10, 2015

American Red Cross offers smoke alarms to Holt County

The biggest disaster threat in the United States isn't floods, hurricanes or tornadoes; it's fire. Locally, the American Red Cross of NW Missouri responds to over 100 house fires each year. Home fires happen quickly, devastating lives and property but unlike other disasters, most home fires can be prevented.

Fire experts agree that people may have as little as two minutes to escape a burning home before it's too late to get out. The Red Cross recommends two easy steps to help protect your home to increase your chances of surviving a fire: get a smoke alarm and create a fire escape plan.

Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half:

- Place smoke alarms on every level of your home, including bedrooms.
- Change the batteries in your alarms at least once a year. Install new batteries immediately if an alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear it.
- Never disable a smoke alarm
- Test smoke alarms once a month and replace batteries at least once a year.

You may only have two minutes to escape when a fire occurs, but most people mistakenly believe they have more than twice as long to get out.

- Home fire plans should include at least two ways to escape from every room of your home.

- Select a meeting spot at a safe distance from your home where family members can meet after a fire.

- Discuss the plan with everyone in the household and practice it at least twice a year. Make sure that you practice that plan until every member of your household can escape in less than two minutes.

The Red Cross is launching a nationwide campaign to reduce the number of home fire deaths and injuries by 25% over the next 5 years.

If you are physically or financially unable to provide yourself a smoke alarm, please contact the American Red Cross at 816-232-8439 or visit the new online registry for smoke alarms at www.getasmokealarm.org.

The alarms will be provided by the American Red Cross of NW Missouri and installation will be by the Mound City and Oregon fire departments.



- Local Fire District Photos
- Fire Safety Rules & Checklist
- Home Hazards
- Facts About Fires
- Devising a Fire Escape Plan



Mound City
NEWS
Special Section • October 8, 2015



Northwest Holt Fire Protection District

Northwest Holt volunteers - That serve in Craig are, from left to right: front row - Rhonda Hunziger, Stephen Wright, Chief Steve Hunziger, Ronnie Haer and David Trauernicht. Back row - Wyatt Drewes, Trevor Drewes, David Drewes, Mitchell Longcor, Pam Haer and Eric Krutz. Not pictured is Lynn Thurnau.

Steve Hunziger had served the Craig Fire Department/Northwest Holt Fire District since 1992, the last two years serving as Chief. Steve was also an EMT and a First Responder. Steve passed away at his home on October 2, 2015.

Steve Hunziger
1951-2015

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October 4-10, 2015

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Graham Fire Protection District

Volunteers in the Graham area - Are pictured left to right: Darrell Johnson, Kirby Evans and Garrett Rauch. Other volunteers not pictured are Kevin Rosenbohm, Matt Rosenbohm, Nick Rosenbohm, Randy Hankins, Chief Bryan Brashears and other community volunteers.

About Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

Commemorating A Conflagration

According to popular legend, the fire broke out after a cow - belonging to Mrs. Catherine O'Leary - kicked over a lamp, setting first the barn, then the whole city on fire. Chances are most people have heard some version of this story; people have been blaming the Great Chicago Fire on the cow and Mrs. O'Leary for more than 130 years, but recent research by Chicago historian Robert Cromie has helped to debunk this version of events.

The 'Moo' Myth

Like any good story, the 'case of the cow' has some truth to it. The great fire almost certainly started near the barn where Mrs. O'Leary kept her five milking cows, but there is no proof that O'Leary was in the barn when the fire broke out - or that a jumpy cow sparked the blaze. Mrs. O'Leary herself swore that she'd been in bed early that night, and that the cows were also tucked in for the evening.

If a cow wasn't to blame for the huge fire, however, what was? Over the years, journalists and historians have offered plenty of theories. Some blamed the blaze on a couple of neighborhood boys who were near the barn sneaking cigarettes. Others believed that a neighbor of the O'Learys may have started the fire. Some people have speculated that a fiery meteorite may have fallen to earth on October 8, starting several fires that day - in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as in Chicago.

The Biggest Blaze That Week

While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating

forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8, 1871, and roared through northeast Wisconsin, burned down 16 towns, killed 1,152 people, and scorched 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado', some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin, that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

Nine Decades Of Fire Prevention

Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they'd been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. The fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals' Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals' Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally official over the years.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. According to the National Archives' and Records' Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925. This year's Fire Prevention Week is Sunday, October 4, through Saturday, October 10.

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Mound City Rural Fire Protection District

Mound City volunteer firemen - Are, from left to right: Captain Glen Nauman, Jr., Chris Krueger, Cory McDonald, Cliff Robbins, Jason Hall, Lieutenant Chris Russell, John Brook, Thomas Shifflett, Matt Stiens, Chief J.R. Rother and Larry Farr (standing on truck). Not pictured are Assistant Chief Randy Miller, Jason Acton, Dakota Barnes, Greg Biermann, Chad Derr, Jeff Holstine, Drew Ireland, Scott Johnson, Billy Keiffer, Mark Sitherwood, Clayton Townsend, Garold Kurtz, Richard Ward and Eddie Young. Board members are: Jason Hall, Garold Kurtz and Cliff Robbins.

Volunteer firemen in Mound City respond to more than 60 calls per year

According to numbers recorded by the Mound City Rural Fire Protection District, the volunteer firemen respond to an average of over 60 calls per year. These calls may include anything from structure fires to grass fires to motor vehicle accidents to grain bin entrapments to flooding assistance and more. These calls may be within the city limits or outside the city in the rural areas of Holt County. Firemen are also on call to assist other fire departments when the need arises.

In 2014, the Mound City Fire Department responded to 61 calls. Six of those calls were within the city limits while 55 calls were in the rural area. The local firemen responded to nine structure fires; four automobile fires; 35 grass fires; four motor vehicle accidents; two motor vehicle extractions; three mutual aid calls with other fire departments; one medical call; one loading zone call; one rescue for grain bin entrapment; and one

call for assist during flooding.

So far this year, the Mound City Fire Department has responded to 60 calls as of Friday, September 25, 2015. According to Fire Chief J.R. Rother, there have been 11 calls within the city limits and 49 rural area calls. Volunteer firemen have responded to three structure fires; three automobile fires; 31 grass fires; two motor vehicle accidents; five motor vehicle extractions; one mutual aid call; two medical calls; three loading zone calls; two tree fires; two electric pole fires; and three false alarms.

The local firemen are quick to respond when needed. What they do stress each year, however, is that area residents take precaution when burning during extremely dry weather. Grass fires can easily get out of control, especially when dry conditions exist.



Hear the beep where you sleep

"Hear the beep where you sleep. Every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm." That is the theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week, Sunday through Saturday, October 4 through 10. Did you know that roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep?

Smoke alarms save lives. If there is a fire in a home, smoke spreads fast and occupants need smoke alarms to give them time to get out. In fact, having a working smoke alarm cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half!

When it comes to smoke alarms, it's about "lo-

cation, location, location".

The key message of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, October 4-10, is to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is excited to share this important information so everyone better understands the life-saving value of home smoke alarms. Visit NFPA's "Smoke Alarm Central" for more information.

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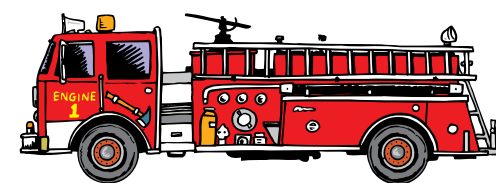
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Fire Prevention Week October 4-10, 2015

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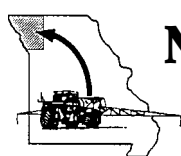
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Fire Prevention Week October 4-10, 2015

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Southern Fire Protection District of Holt County

Volunteer firemen serving southern Holt County - Are pictured left to right: Kevin Conard, Richard Wilson, Jeff Leach, Kent Bohart, John Oppenlander, Don Schaeffer, D.A. Greiner, John Mackey, Loyd Russell and Troy Cotton. Those not pictured are Bill Killin, Rick Dozier, Rex Reynolds, Dave Cotton, Gene Bradley, Pat Greife, Josh McAfee, Bill Gordon, Matt Kreek, Rex Jackson, Brian Bowness, Randy Mendenhall, Chris Davison, Isaac Miller, Carson Harrison, Brenten Hughes and Kodee Schaeffer.

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National Fire Prevention Week
October 4-10, 2015

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Division of Fire Safety urges Missourians to avoid dangers posed by space heaters and supplemental heating sources

The Missouri Division of Fire Safety (DFS) is urging Missourians to understand the dangers posed by portable heaters and supplemental heating devices and take actions to prevent fire deaths and injuries as the home heating season begins. In February, 2015, as temperatures dipped, seven Missourians died within five days in fires caused by supplemental heating devices.

“Space heaters are dangerous and potentially deadly if they are not used properly, and many Missourians do not understand the dangers these devices pose when they are not used properly,” said Acting State Fire Marshal Greg Carrell. “If you choose to use an electric or propane space heater or some other supplemental heating device, it’s absolutely essential that you follow the necessary precautions, especially around children and at night, when people are sleeping. This is a matter of life and death.”

Each year in early October, National Fire Prevention Week is observed. This year it runs Oct. 4-10 with the theme, “Hear the beep where you sleep: every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm.” Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are also essential fire safety devices for all homes and are even more important when using supplemental heating devices.

Carrell urges the public to follow these safety precautions whenever heating equipment is used:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment. The three-foot safety zone includes furniture, drapes, and electronics – anything that can burn.
- Have a three-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.

- Turn off portable heaters whenever leaving the room or going to bed.
- Do not overload extension cords or outlets. Many extension cords and power strips are not designed to handle the load of an electric heater. Never place an electrical cord under a rug.
- Never use an oven or other cooking devices to heat your home.
- Make sure your home has working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms by testing them monthly.

Carrell said home fires often grow so quickly and produce so much smoke that people are often overcome before they can respond. Working smoke alarms can alert family members to the danger, providing enough time to safely escape.

Everyone who uses space heaters should understand the following:

- 300 deaths and 25,000 fires each year are attributed to space heaters, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Space heaters account for about one-third of home heating fires and 80 percent of home heating fire deaths each year, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

The Division of Fire Safety suggests creating and practicing a family fire safety plan that includes home fire escape routes and establishing a location outside the home where family members are to meet if they become separated.

For more safety information about safely using space heaters go to: <http://dfs.dps.mo.gov/safetytips/space-heater-safety.php>.

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National Fire Prevention Week
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October 4 - 10

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Make sure your family has a plan in case of a fire!
National Fire Prevention Week • October 4-10, 2015



Volunteers for the Maitland Fire Department - Are, left to right, Howard Barnard, Lisa Hurst, Chief Bryan Markt, Jake Horn, Nick Haer Donnie Kirk, Remington Long and Fred Bachman. Not pictured is Zeke Smith.

Fast facts about fires

Home fires
Half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Only one in five home fires were reported during these hours.
One quarter of home fire deaths were caused by fires that started in the bedroom. Another quarter resulted from fires in the living room, family room or den.
Three out of five home fire deaths happen from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
In 2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 369,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 2,755 deaths, 12,200 civilian injuries, and \$7.0 billion in direct damage.
Home fires killed an average of eight people every day in 2013.
Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fire injuries, followed by heating equipment.
Smoking materials are the leading cause of home fire deaths.
Most fatal fires kill only one or two people. In 2013, 12 home fires killed five or more people resulting in a total of 67 deaths.
During 2007-2011, roughly one of every 320 households had a reported home fire per year.
Smoke Alarms
Three out of five home fire deaths in 2007-2011 were caused by fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half.
In fires considered large enough to activate the smoke alarm, hard-wired alarms operated 93% of the time, while battery powered alarms operated only 79% of the time.
When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected, or dead.
An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, or where extra time is needed, to awaken or assist others, both types of alarms, or combination ionization and photoelectric alarms are recommended.
Escape Planning
According to a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) survey, only one-third of Americans have both developed and

practiced a home fire escape plan.
Almost three-quarters of Americans do have an escape plan; however, more than half never practiced it.
One-third (32%) of survey respondents who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. The time available is often less. Only 8% said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!
Cooking
U.S. Fire Departments responded to an estimated annual average of 156,600 cooking-related fires between 2007-2011, resulting in 400 civilian deaths, 5,080 civilian injuries and \$853 million in direct damage.
Two of every five home fires started in the kitchen.
Unattended cooking was a factor in one-third of reported home cooking fires.
Two-thirds of home cooking fires started with ignition of food or other cooking materials.
Ranges accounted for almost three of every five (57%) of home cooking fire incidents. Ovens accounted for 16%.
Children under five face a higher risk of non-fire burns associated with cooking and hot food and drinks than of being hurt in a cooking fire.
Microwave ovens are one of the leading home products associated with scald burns. According to the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, two out of five of the microwave oven injuries seen at emergency rooms in 2012 were scald burns.
Clothing was the item first ignited in less than 1% of home cooking fires, but these incidents accounted for 15% of the cooking fire deaths.
Fifty-five percent of people injured in home fires involving cooking equipment were hurt while attempting to fight the fire themselves.
Failure to clean was a factor contributing to ignition in 17% of reported home fires involving ovens or rotisseries.
Heating
The leading factor contributing to heating equipment fires was failure to clean. This usually involved creosote build-up in chimneys.
Portable or fixed space heaters, including wood stoves, were involved in one-third (33%) of home

heating fires and four out of five (81%) home heating deaths.
Just over half of home heating fire deaths resulted from fires caused by heating equipment too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding.
In most years, heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires, fire deaths, and fire injuries.
Smoking Materials
Smoking materials started an average of 17,900 smoking-material home structure fires per year during 2007-2011. These fires caused an average of 580 deaths, 1,280 injuries and \$509 million in direct property damage per year.
Most deaths in home smoking-material fires were caused by fires that started in bedrooms (40%) or living rooms, family rooms or dens (35%).
Sleep was a factor in roughly one-third of the home smoking material fire deaths.
Possible alcohol impairment was a factor in one in five (19%) of home smoking fire deaths.
One out of four fatal victims of smoking-material fires is not the smoker whose cigarettes started the fire.
Electrical
About half (48%) of home electrical fires involved electrical distribution or lighting equipment. Other leading types of equipment were washer or dryer, fan, portable or stationary space heater, air conditioning equipment, water heater and range.
Electrical failure or malfunctions caused an average of 47,800 home fires per year in 2007-2011, resulting in an average of 450 deaths and \$1.5 billion in direct property damage.
Candles
During 2007-2011 candles caused 3% of home fires, 4% of home fire deaths, 7% of home fire injuries, and 6% of direct property damage from home fires.
On average, there are 29 home candle fires reported per day.
More than one-third of these fires (36%) started in the bedroom; however, the candle industry found that only 13% of candle users burn candles in the bedroom most often.
Nearly three in five candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.
Falling asleep was a factor in 11% of the home candle fires and 37% of the associated deaths.

Every bedroom should have
a working smoke alarm!



Always remember the importance of fire safety.
Judge William S. Richards



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October 4-10, 2015

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NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
October 4-10, 2015


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Skidmore Volunteer Fire Department

Skidmore volunteer firefighters - Are, from left to right, back row: Kenny Shewey, Training; Cody Shewey, Chief Rick Allen, Tom McMahon, Travis Greerer, Assistant Chief Rodney Allen and Kaiden Vance. Front row: Aaron Saxton, Truck Officer; Tracy Shewey, Ali Shewey, Michelle Allen, Dakota Allen, Shellie Woods, Samantha Abrams, Secretary; Ryan Allen and Tasha Abrams. Not pictured are Coby Langford, Dustin Jenkins, Karlene Jenkins, Richard Boles and Andy Woods.



Check your smoke alarms often to make sure your family is ready in case of a fire.



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October 4-10, 2015



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October 4-10, 2015

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Fire Prevention Week
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