

FIRE SAFE

OREGON FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION PLAN



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SEPTEMBER

FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION PLAN

It's back-to-school season and time to go back to the basics. For the month of September, let's help communities refresh their memory on core fire prevention messages everyone should know.

BACK TO SCHOOL, BACK TO THE BASICS

SEPTEMBER



NOTABLE DATES

- **September 5** - Labor Day
- **September 10** - Suicide Prevention Day
- **September 11** - 9/11 Remembrance Day
- **September 22** - First Day of Fall
- **September 18- 24th** - Fall Prevention Awareness Week
- **September 27** - National First Responders Appreciation Day
- National Preparedness Month
- National Campus Fire Safety Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15- October 15)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

September 14, 2022

Fall Prevention

[Register Here](#)

September 28, 2022

Home Escape Planning with Kids

[Register Here](#)



Available Resources:

[Fall Prevention Tool Kit](#)



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

503-934-8228 | OSFM 3565 TRELSTAD AVE SE SALEM, OR 97317

BACK TO SCHOOL, BACK TO THE BASICS

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August 28 - September 3: Reporting an emergency

Most adults know to call 911 in the event of an emergency, but there are additional reminders that can be helpful when an immediate response is required.

- Know your address, including street direction (N, S, E, and W), as well as cross streets and landmarks nearby. While a phone number's location can often be tracked by dispatch, it may take additional time and is not always available.
 - Even older children and teenagers sometimes struggle to remember their address so encourage them to memorize it in addition to important phone numbers.
- Know the difference between an emergency and a nonemergency situation. A nonemergency does not require immediate intervention, but still needs to be taken care of, while an emergency is urgent and needs a quick response. In addition to 911, have nonemergency phone numbers available.
- Plan ahead. Ensure a charged phone is nearby that can be grabbed quickly during an immediate escape.
- Expect to stay on the line and provide information to the dispatcher while emergency services are en route.

September 4 - 10: Know the sounds of your smoke alarm

Smoke alarms save lives, but some people do not understand the meaning of the sounds they make.

Common *misconceptions* about smoke alarm sounds include:

- chirping as an indicator the alarm is working or is properly installed
- smoke alarm beeps indicating it is time to stop, drop, and roll
- if their alarm isn't making sounds, it's in good working order



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September 4 - 10: Know the sounds of your smoke alarm

Important messages:

- When a smoke alarm chirps, it is time to replace the battery or the entire unit is expired.
- When a smoke alarm beeps (three consecutive beeps), the alarm senses smoke and it is time to get out and stay out.
- Smoke alarms should be checked regularly.
 - Remove dust or debris that could interfere with the sensors.
 - Ensure the battery is working.
 - Replace smoke alarms as instructed by the manufacturer or every 10 years.

September 11 - 17: Matches and lighters are tools, not toys

Matches and lighters are helpful tools when used and stored appropriately, but can pose a significant fire danger when in the wrong hands. Whether they are used for lighting the barbecue or a wood stove, matches and lighters should never be left lying around.

- Store matches and lighters in a designated area, out of reach of children.
- Consider storing them in a locking box or cabinet.
- When there is a need to carry a lighter with you, ensure it is in a secure pouch or somewhere it will not fall out. A misplaced lighter can easily find its way into the wrong hands.

NFPA messaging: matches and lighters are tools, not toys

- Keep matches, lighters, and novelty lighters up high out of the reach of children in a locked cabinet.
- Purchase and use only child-resistant lighters.
- Lighters that look like toys can confuse children and cause fires, injuries, and death. Do not buy or use them. These items are illegal in Oregon.
- Teach children to tell a grownup when they find matches or lighters and to never touch matches or lighters.



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September 18 - 24: National Fall Prevention Week

Falls in the home continue to be a concern across the state, leading to increased call volumes and risk to the public and emergency responders. Older adults and those living with mobility issues are at an increased risk, making prevention a top priority for these households.

Removing trip hazards and response planning can save lives.

- Maintain clear pathways in the home. Eliminate rugs that may move or curl, creating a tripping hazard. Avoid running cords across pathways and ensure they are securely contained. Reduce clutter where possible.
- Install grab bars in showers and other areas where assistance may be needed.
- Ensure stair railings are sturdy and kept in good working order.
- A home safety check can be beneficial to both residence and fire service.
 - Fire service can point out potential hazards in the home.
 - A plan can be made between fire service and those living in the home for entry if a fall occurs and responders need to enter the home.

September 25 - October 1: Candle safety

While the scent of pumpkin spice may seem appealing this time of year, there are safer ways to create that fall feeling. Encourage people to switch to battery-powered candles to reduce fire risk.

Alternatives to burning candles include:

- Battery-operated candle
- Wax warmer
- Reed or stick diffuser
- Liquid oil diffuser
- Potpourri



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September 25 - October 1: Candle safety

NFPA messaging: candle safety

- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell, and feel like real candles.
- When using candles, place them in sturdy, safe candleholders that will not burn or tip over.
- Never leave a candle unattended.
- Never burn a candle on or near anything that can catch fire. Keep burning candles away from furniture, drapes, bedding, carpets, books, paper, flammable decorations, etc.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets. Do not place lighted candles where they can be knocked over by children, pets, or anyone else.
- Never touch or move a candle while it is burning or while the wax is liquefied.



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