



SEMPER SAFE



“Fire Prevention Week”

Each year, Fire Prevention Week is held during the week in which October 9th occurs to commemorate the start of the Great Chicago Fire. The fire began on October 8, 1871, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9. In that short time the fire killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. It also changed the way public officials thought about fire safety. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and Fire Prevention Week has been observed since 1922. 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.

Here are some tips and Fast Facts about smoke alarms and fire from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Smoke Alarm Tips

- Install smoke alarms following manufacturer’s instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling.
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year.
- If an alarm “chirps,” warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly when tested.
- Larger homes may need additional smoke alarms to provide enough protection.
- For the best protection, (if possible) interconnect all smoke alarms so when one sounds they all sound.
- 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, both types of alarms or a combination alarm (photoelectric and ionization) are recommended.

Fast Facts

- Each year, nearly 3,000 people die in U.S. home fires.
- In more than half of the reported home fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate the batteries were missing or disconnected.
- Nuisance alarms were the leading reason for disconnected alarms.
- Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and injuries.
- Smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths.
- Heating is the second leading cause of home fires, fire deaths and fire injuries.
- Electrical Failures or Malfunctions are factors in roughly 50,000 reported fires each year.

As Marines, Sailors and Civil Servants we live by our ethos. So think before you jeopardize the safety of yourself, your fellow Marines, Sailors, civilian employees or family members, and remember SEMPER SAFE!