



NORTH LAKE TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Michael D. Brown – Fire Chief

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NORTH LAKE TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Incline Village, NV
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
“Fire Prevention Week – Protect Your Family from Fire”

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Incline Village, NV - The North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) will be teaming up with schoolteachers and students to talk about fire safety during the month of October. Celebrated nationally the week of October 9th – 15th, 2011, the Fire District will be hosting tours of the fire station and visiting pre-schools the entire month of October. The theme this year focuses on protecting your family from fire. Fires can strike anywhere but household fires are often the most tragic and, the most preventable. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, 75% of all fire fatalities occur in home fires.

There are several things that families can do to protect their families: Installing smoke alarms on every level of your home and testing them monthly. Remember to change smoke alarm batteries twice a year, during the time change. Make and practice a family escape plan.

“Many homes in Incline Village/Crystal Bay may not have any smoke alarms, not enough smoke alarms, alarms that are too old, or alarms that are not working,” says Assistant Fire Marshal, Peter Mulvihill of the NLTFPD. “To ensure everyone’s safety, working smoke alarms are needed in every home, on every level (including the basement), outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. And, if a smoke alarm is 10 years old or older, it is time for replacement.”

According to NLTFPD Fire Chief, Mike Brown, “Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death in a fire, NFPA statistics show that working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire nearly in half. But they must be working properly to do so.” The association’s data shows that many homes have smoke alarms that aren’t working or maintained properly, usually because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries. Roughly two-thirds of all home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

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“Over the next several weeks our Fire District will be teaching our students the importance of not only smoke alarms but making a Home Fire Escape Plan and practicing the plan. Students can experience first hand in our smoke safety trailer how to properly exit a home, then call 9-1-1 from their safe meeting place, and once out, not to go back inside”, says Public Education/Information Officer, Tia Rancourt. Literature will be sent home with students for the entire family. Please take a few minutes to review the information with your children.

NFPA and the NLTFPD agree that interconnected smoke alarms offer the best protection; when one sounds, they all do. This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced to the point that it may not be loud enough to provide proper warning, especially for sleeping individuals.

“Most people have a sense of complacency about smoke alarms because they already have one in their homes. Fire Prevention Week provides an excellent opportunity to re-educate people about smoke alarms, new technologies and expanded options for installation and maintenance,” says Judy Comoletti, division manager for NFPA public education. “Ultimately, we want this year’s campaign to serve as a call to action for households nationwide to inspect their homes to ensure that their families have the full smoke alarm protection that’s recommended.”

These tips and others can help you and your family be fire safe and stay fire safe not only during Fire Prevention Week, but everyday.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and how to ‘Protect Your Family from Fire’, visit NFPA’s website at www.nfpa.org.

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