



Fire Prevention Week – October 9th - 15th, 2005



Once again, the fall season is upon those of us who call Western New York "Home". The leaves are changing and temperatures are getting cooler as we begin the annual ritual of preparing our homes for winter.

The members of the Alfred Station Fire Company would like to remind community members that October 9th is the beginning of National Fire Prevention Week which runs through October 15th. Each year, the National Fire Protection Association recognizes the calendar week in which October 9th falls as *Fire Prevention Week*. On October 9, 1871, the Great Chicago Fire started, killing 250 people and causing more than \$160 million dollars in property damage.

Fire Prevention Week is an excellent opportunity to teach – and re-teach – children and family members about the dangers of fire, how to prevent fire and fire-related injuries. The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week is Candle Safety, and the official slogan chosen by the National Fire Protection Association is "Use Candles with Care". The NFPA chose this theme to increase candle safety awareness after recognizing an increase in fires caused from candles over the past decade.

Fire Company members emphasize that this is also a great time for some standard fire safety reminders as well.

- Always use extreme caution when handling candles or any other source of open flame in the home.
- Ensure working smoke detectors are properly installed throughout your homes.
- Ensure working Carbon Monoxide detectors are properly installed throughout your home.
- Change the batteries in all of your smoke and CO detectors and test them.
- Ensure each family member knows your emergency numbers (in the Alfred area dial 911 for emergencies)
- Plan escape routes from the home in case of fire and ensure that each family member knows how to safely exit the home and where to meet once outside the home. You can even conduct "fire drills" in the home. Remember, once you have safely exited the home - never go back into the home.

- Review personal fire safety behaviors such as, "Stop, Drop and Roll" and "Crawl Low Under Smoke"

Members of the Alfred Station Fire Company encourage community members to learn more about fire prevention and fire safety in the home and workplace. Remember, "Fire Prevention is our Strongest Fire Fighting Tool."