



## REPORT/RECOMMENDATION

<b>To:</b> <b>MAYOR AND COUNCIL</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b> <u><b>Item No. V. B.</b></u>
<b>From:</b> <b>Marty Scheerer</b>  <b>Edina Fire Department</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Action</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Discussion</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Information</b>
<b>Date:</b> <b>October 2, 2012</b>	
<b>Subject:       Proclamation Declaring October 7-13, 2012 Fire Prevention Week</b>	

### INFORMATION/BACKGROUND:

Fire Prevention Week was established by President Woodrow Wilson in 1920 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, which killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,400 structures on Oct. 8-9, 1871. It also commemorates another large fire, the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American History. The fire, which also occurred Oct. 7, 1871, burned 16 towns, killing 1,152 people and destroying 1.2 million acres in Wisconsin.

Fire Prevention Week has been observed every year since 1922, spanning Sunday through Saturday of the week in which Oct. 9 falls. Fire Prevention Week is reportedly the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme is "Have Two Ways Out," and stresses the importance of fire escape planning and practice. In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to 369,500 home structure fires, resulting in 2,640 deaths and \$6.9 billion in damage.

The Edina Fire Department recommends the following tips for planning a family's escape:

- Make a map of your home. Mark a door and a window that can be used to get out of every room.
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home. This is where everyone can meet once they've escaped. Draw a picture of your outside meeting place on your escape plan.
- Write the emergency telephone number for the fire department on your escape plan.
- Have a sound the smoke alarm and practice your escape plan with everyone living in your home.
- Keep your escape plan on the refrigerator and have your family practice the plan twice a year.

Visit [www.FirePreventionWeek.org](http://www.FirePreventionWeek.org) for more information and tips about home escape planning and practice.



## **A PROCLAMATION FOR FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

WHEREAS, the City of Edina is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our state; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, home fires killed more than 2,600 people in the United States in 2010, according to the latest research from the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to more than 369,000 home fires; and

WHEREAS, residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS, only one-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan, and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of Americans do have an escape plan; however, less than half have actually practiced it, and

WHEREAS, one-third of Americans households who made one and estimate they thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. The time available is often less, and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and

WHEREAS, Edina's first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, Edina's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Have Two Ways Out!" effectively serves to remind us to develop and practice a home fire escape plans during Fire Prevention Week and year-round.

THEREFORE, the City Council of Edina does hereby proclaim October 7-13, 2012, as Fire Prevention Week throughout this state, and urges all the people of Edina to practice their home fire escape plan during Fire Prevention Week 2012, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Edina's fire and emergency services.

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James B. Hovland, Mayor