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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13**

This year's theme focuses on how to prevent fires and escape in the event of one

CLARKSTON, WASH. – October 7-13, 2018 is Fire Prevention Week. The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) theme this year is "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere." The campaign works to educate people about three basic but essential steps to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire—and how to escape safely in the event of one.

NFPA statistics show that the number of U.S. home fires has been steadily declining over the past few decades. However, the death rate per 1000 home fires that are reported to fire departments was 10 percent higher in 2016 than in 1980. That's because materials and contents of homes burn faster than 40 years ago. In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Knowing how to use that time wisely takes planning and practice.

The first step is to "LOOK" for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them. Suggestions include: removing or recycling piles of old newspaper; cutting back foliage from your home's perimeter; or looking for overloaded power outlets to fix or frayed cords to remove.

Next, the campaign encourages people to "LISTEN" for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.

Lastly, make sure everyone in your family "LEARNS" two ways out of every room. Also confirm that all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

For more information on planning and practicing how to escape from your home, please visit [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org). You can also visit [www.sparky.org/activities](http://www.sparky.org/activities) to download fire safety activity worksheets for your children.

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*Asotin County Fire District 1 provides fire suppression and prevention, emergency medical service (EMS), river rescue, oil spill response and wildland fire protection to 14,000 people over 120 square miles of land and 35 miles of shoreline. Thirty-two volunteer firefighters, 28 emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and 35 paramedics (through a partnership with Lewiston) respond to an average of 2,600 calls per year. The fire district operates under a balanced budget and has passed all financial and accountability audits by the state. Learn more about Asotin County Fire District 1 by visiting their web site [www.acfd1.org](http://www.acfd1.org) or Facebook page [/asotincountyfd1](https://www.facebook.com/asotincountyfd1).*