



September 01, 2005

October 9th to 15th has been declared as Fire Prevention week. This annual event is set aside to promote fire safety awareness in our citizens locally and across the nation.

Half of those who died in fires started by candles in homes were under the age of 20, according to a study released today from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The study, which reports on findings for the year 2002, dovetails with this year's Fire Prevention Week theme, "***Use Candles with Care: When you go out, blow out.***" (Fire Prevention Week is the yearly public safety campaign, sponsored by NFPA for more than 80 years.)

The use of candles in the home has grown substantially over the past few years. Statistics indicate that fire fatalities and property loss is increasing due to the improper use and handling of candles. This is especially important with the younger age group. You are encouraged to use candles with extreme care and keep them out of the hands of children

With the introduction of residential fire alarm systems, the Fire Department is responding to many false calls. All too often, careless cooking, lack of maintenance, failure to notify the alarm company when the system is being worked on, and humid weather are activating these systems. These unnecessary calls tie up equipment and personnel resources needlessly. Most of these calls are received during the night and our volunteer firefighters have to leave their homes to respond. These calls are totally preventable. I ask that anyone who has a monitored fire alarm system to please ensure that accidental activations are eliminated.

I remind all citizens that Fire Prevention is our best weapon against the needless loss of life and property. Take part in this year's Fire Prevention Week activities at home, school and in the workplace. Feel free to call or drop by the Fire Department for any information that you require.

Richard Murphy,
Fire Chief
Conception Bay South Fire Department