



October, 2018

“Look. Listen. Learn.”

As Fire Prevention Week approaches, Fire Educators encourage residents to “Look. Listen. Learn.” What does that mean?

Today's home fires burn faster than ever. 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 Delaware State Fire School and your local Fire Departments are teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) - the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week™ for more than 90 years to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, **“Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere™,”** takes place October 7th thru 13th.

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.

“These numbers show that while we've made significant progress in teaching people how to prevent fires from happening, there's still much more work to do in terms of educating the public about how to protect themselves in the event of one,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. “This is particularly critical given the increased speed at which today's home fires grow and spread.”

Carli also notes that although people feel safest in their home, it is also the place people are at greatest risk to fire, with four out of five U.S. fire deaths occurring at home. That over-confidence contributes to a complacency toward home escape planning and practice.

“Working in the fire service for many years, we know that people often make choices in fire situations that jeopardize their safety or even cost them their lives,” said Mike Lowe, Senior Instructor, responsible for Public Education, at the Delaware State Fire School.

“We need to do a better job of teaching people about the potentially life-saving difference escape planning and practice can make and motivating them to action.” Senior Instructor Lowe says this year's **“Look. Listen. Learn.”** campaign highlights three steps people can take to help quickly and safely escape a fire:

- Look for places fire could start.
- Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Learn 2 ways out of every room.

“Situational awareness is a skill people need to use wherever they go,” said Bill Betts, President of the Delaware Volunteer Firefighters Association. “No matter where you are, look for available exits. If the alarm system sounds, take it seriously and exit the building immediately.”

The Delaware Fire Service is hosting a series of events in support of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Look. Listen. Learn.”

- Look for events taking place in your community;
- Listen for more information about Fire Prevention Week; and
- Learn about home escape planning.

Visit www.firepreventionweek.org.