

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM FIRE!

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK IS OCTOBER 6-12, 2013



Bottom First Row, left to right: Assistant Fire Chief Van Pavleck, FF Clayton Bahr, FF Justin Chezick, EMT Dave McRoberts, EMT Kyle Rasmussen, EMT Brenda Luettjohann, EMT Charlene Harju, EMT Cara Taschuk, EMT Steffan Tveit, EMT Dan Sweney, EMT Larae Watson, FF Jesse Besch, FF Lonnie Butts, Chaplin Father Kris McKusky, Second Row, left to right: FF Miranda Sears, FF Dan Vohler, Paramedic Zach Scofield, Paramedic Matthew Zupke, Paramedic Nathan Myers, Fire Chief Jerry Jensen, Paramedic Shawna Bolstad, Paramedic Ben Horner, Paramedic Samantha Butts, Fire Engineer Jim Hultman, FF Mitch Lavern, Third Row, left to right: FF Jacob Harris, Fire Engineer Adam Mannausau, EMT Stacy MacIntyre, EMT Heather Nevalainen, EMT Bryanna Harmel, EMT Tracy Sinclair, EMT Lisa Hanover, EMT Tina Myers, EMT Lisa Mortenson, EMT Brooke Carlson, EMT Emily Luce, Fire Captain Dave Vohler, Fourth (Top) Row, left to right: FF Ryan Zub, Fire Captain Eric Norstad, Fire Engineer Rick Hougum, FF Mike Larson, Fire Safety Officer Andrew Eldien, Fire Engineer Bruce Bergstrom, FF Brady Fougner, FF Matt LaVigne.

Heating fires have been a leading cause of fires in Minnesota for the last several years. Nearly all of the death, injury and dollar loss could have been prevented with proper understanding and safe use of heating equipment. Safety should be your first consideration when heating your home. Here are some safety tips to remember:

Fireplaces - If purchasing a fireplace, select one that is listed by a testing laboratory and have it installed according to manufacturers' recommendations and local codes.

- Chimneys need to be inspected by a professional sweep prior to the start of each heating season and periodically throughout the year
- Have chimneys cleaned if there is a buildup of creosote. Creosote is a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up on the chimney wall, and is highly combustible.
- Fireplace screens should be firmly in place when you burn fires.
- Burn only clean, well seasoned, dry firewood in the fireplace.
- Make sure smoke detectors are installed and working.

Space/Portable Heaters - Portable heaters come in many shapes and sizes and use a variety of fuels or power sources. When purchasing or using a space/portable heater, make sure it carries a UL or FM label and is approved for the use you intended.

- Place any portable device **a minimum of 36 inches** from anything combustible, including: wallpaper, bedding, clothing, pets and people.
- Space heaters need constant watching and should be turned off when you leave your home and before bedtime.
- Drying mittens or other combustibles over a space/portable heater is a fire danger.
- Make sure all cords on electric heaters are in good shape and checked periodically for any frays or breaks in the insulation surrounding the wires.
- Check the cord and outlet occasionally for overheating; if it feels hot, discontinue use.
- Liquid-fueled heaters, such as kerosene, are not generally recommended for use inside the home for several reasons:
 - o They are a non-vented unit; extreme caution with proper openings to the outside is necessary to eliminate the possibility of asphyxiation.
 - o When using these types of heating devices, manufacturers' recommendations must be followed faithfully.
 - o Units must be cooled before refueling; this should take place **outside** of the structure. Fuel must be stored in a container approved by the fire department and clearly marked with the fuel name.

Our best recommendation is to use space/portable heaters cautiously and know the operating, maintenance and refueling procedures of your unit. Do not deviate from what is recommended.

Wood Stoves - Stoves should bear the name of a testing laboratory and meet local fire codes. Contact your local building or fire official if you have questions or concerns about a unit.

- Follow manufacturers' recommendations for proper use and maintenance.
- Maintain clearances around stoves, flue pipes, and floors according to manufacturers' recommendations.
- Check all connections at the beginning of the heating season.

If you have questions about fire protection devices, contact your local Fire Department.

This message of safety for you and your family is brought you by these local businesses:

Almost Lindy's 3003 Co. Rd. 20, Int'l Falls, MN www.almostlindys.com 286-3364	City Drug Downtown, Int'l Falls 283-3061	K&K Meyers Inc. dba & Meyers Glass 1201 3rd St., Int'l Falls 283-8446	Shannon's Plumbing & Heating 1919 Main Ave., Int'l Falls 283-9372	TruStar Federal Credit Union 601 4th St., Int'l Falls 283-2000
Dr. Benjamin Stone Optometrist 340 3rd Street., Int'l Falls, MN 283-4788	Farmers Insurance Group Carol Schumacher 211 3rd St., Int'l Falls 283-3814	Northern Lumber Yard Inc. Highway 53 & 7th St., Int'l Falls 283-2595	Shorewood Dental Thomas Herzig, DDS 1570 Hwy. 71, Int'l Falls 285-7078	UnitedHealth Group International Falls 285-7550
Boise Paper International Falls	Fletcher Heating and Air-HVAC 4110 Hwy. 11, Int'l Falls 283-2892	The Outdoorsman Headquarters Highway 53 & 11th St., Int'l Falls 283-9337	The Sports Shop Main Street District, Int'l Falls 283-6121	Voyageur Charter Coach County Road 97, Ericsburg 377-4343
Border State Bank 1414 Highway 71, Int'l Falls 283-5556	Good Samaritan Society Care Center, Home Care & River's Edge Villa - International Falls 1402 Hwy. 71, Int'l Falls 283-8313	Rainy Lake Houseboats 2031 Town Rd. 488, Int'l Falls 286-5391	State Farm Insurance - Charles Casanova 420 3rd St., Int'l Falls 283-2545	Waschke Family GM Center 2300 Hwy. 53. Int'l Falls, MN www.waschkegm.com 283-3471
Borderland Jewelry/ The Finery Gift House 324 Third Street, Int'l Falls 283-4701/285-9556	The Jug Highway 53 & 11th St., Int'l Falls 283-2883	Rainy Lake Medical Center Clinic Campus & Pharmacy Hospital Campus ServiceMaster International Falls 283-4775	Streiff's Floral & Gifts 200 4th Ave., Int'l Falls 283-4095	Wells Fargo Bank 419-421 3rd St., Int'l Falls 283-9871
Bremer Bank, National Association 345 4th Ave., Int'l Falls 283-9411			SuperOne Hwy. 71, Int'l Falls 283-8440	Wenber Transfer Hwy. 53, Int'l Falls 283-8011
			Wherley Motors 309 5th St., Int'l Falls 283-8486	