

Caldwell Perspective 10.20.2017

Caldwell Fire Department Update:

October was an exciting month in the fire department. We had Fire Pronation Week where we focused on enhancing our community's fire safety knowledge. We hosted several learning opportunities in our local schools teaching children about being fire safe.

Knowing that today's homes burn faster than ever, the [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA) announced "[Every Second Counts: Plan Two Ways Out](#)" as the official theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, October 8-14, 2017. Experts say you may have as little as two minutes (or even less) to safely escape a typical home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds.

"Modern home furnishings, along with the fact that newer homes tend to be built with more open spaces and unprotected lightweight construction, all contribute to an increased rate at which home fires burn," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. "These factors make home escape planning and practice critical."

Meanwhile, a national survey recently conducted by NFPA shows that Americans continue to have many misperceptions around home escape planning and practice:

- Less than half of Americans (48 percent) know that the correct components of a home fire escape plan include working smoke alarms, two ways out of each room and an outside meeting place.
- Nearly one quarter of Americans (23 percent) do not know that each room in the home should have at least two exits.
- Close to three in five Americans (57 percent) think that in a typical single-family home fire situation, once the smoke alarm sounds, the average person would have more than two minutes to escape safely.

"Home is the place people are at greatest risk of fire, but ironically it's the place they feel safest from it," said Carli. "That over-confidence may contribute to the public's continued lack of awareness around home escape planning and practice."

"Every Second Counts: Plan Two Ways Out" works to teach people about the true speed at which today's home fires can spread, and the vital importance of home escape planning and practice in the event of one. A home escape plan includes:

- working [smoke alarms](#) on every level of the home, in every bedroom and near all sleeping areas;
- two ways out of every room, usually a door and a window; and
- a clear path to an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) that's a safe distance from the home.

Home escape plans should be practiced by all members of the household twice a year.