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National Fire Prevention Week Begins

Many fire injuries, deaths preventable; Alaskans urged to check fire safety equipment

October 8, 2018 ANCHORAGE, Alaska – [National Fire Prevention Week](#) began yesterday, October 7, and runs through October 13. In the state of Alaska, fire is a serious public safety concern. [In 2017](#), there were 799 residential structure fires reported in Alaska, which resulted in 18 deaths, more than 50 civilians injured, and 31 firefighter injuries. Property losses were estimated at over \$33.6 million.

“The vast majority of the injuries and deaths experienced in Alaska due to fires were preventable and that is simply unacceptable. We can do better,” said Alaska State Fire Marshal David Taylor, Director of Fire and Life Safety. “It is imperative that Alaskans protect their homes and families by using simple fire prevention measures like supervising all their cooking and being cautious of electric heaters and wood burning stoves.”

The national slogan for the 2018 Fire Prevention Week is “LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere.” By following the advice of the slogan, we can heavily reduce the number of residential fires that plague this state.

“During the week, I encourage Alaskans to make sure that they have properly functioning fire safety equipment, such as smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers in their homes,” Tyler said. “Make sure they are in good working order. Going one step further, have an escape plan in place so if a fire does occur, you know what to do.”

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