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2018 Fire Prevention Week – October 7- 13, 2018

This year's theme is, "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere"

WACO, TEXAS (October 5, 2018) – Today's house fires burn faster than ever. In a typical house 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 Waco Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere," which works to educate the public about basic but essential ways to quickly and safely escape a home fire.

NFPA statistics show that the number of U.S. house fires has been steadily declining over the past few decades. However, the death rate per 1000 house fires was 10% higher in 2016 than in 1980. These numbers show that while the fire service has made significant progress in teaching people how to prevent fires, there's still much more work to do in terms of educating people about how to protect themselves in the event of a fire in their own homes.

"Working in the fire service for many years, I know that people often make choices in fire situations that jeopardize their safety or even cost them their lives," said Fire Chief Bobby Tatum. "We need to do a better job of teaching people how to develop home escape plans and the benefit of practicing them."

Remember the three critical steps people can take to help quickly and safely escape a house 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. No matter where you are, look for available exits. If a fire alarm sounds, take it seriously and exit the building immediately. Check out www.firepreventionweek.org for more information about fire prevention week.

The Waco Fire Department will be hosting a series of events in support of Fire Prevention Week:

- October 6, 2018 – Fire Safety Event at Home depot
Location: 5605 W. Waco Dr., Waco TX. 76710
Time: 9 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

There will be a Kids Workshop which usually has about 100 to 150 kids along with their parents. The City of Waco Fire Dept. will be available to share fire prevention with customers, (i.e. smoke alarms, changing out smoke detectors batteries, fire extinguishers and fire safety). The kids and parents enjoy climbing on the fire truck and trying on firefighters' gear.

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