

Fire safety is a vital tool that everyone can use to protect themselves and their loved ones in the presence of a fire. Being aware and prepared to avoid a fire is best exhibited by having multiple fire alarms in the home. This is the key message of Fire Prevention Week 2015; as many as 3 out of 5 home fire deaths happen from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Furthermore, these fires typically happen between 11 pm and 7 am when the family is asleep and unaware of a fire if no fire alarms are present or working in the household. The NFPA recommends installing a fire alarm in each bedroom of the house, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home.

Fire Prevention Week is commemorated every year on the week of October 9 in order to remember the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which resulted in tragedy and severe losses in human life and structures. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, it was decided that this event should be commemorated in order to keep the public informed about fire prevention and safety. Presently, it is the longest running public health and safety observance on record in the United States. The underlying message of this observance is that fires are a danger that may not be stopped before they start, but by being aware one may protect themselves and stay safe.

