

## Stay Fire Smart – Don't Get Burned

By Mark Damrau, Director of Response & Technology, North Central WI Chapter  
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October 4 – 10, 2009 marks this year's fire prevention week, as declared by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). The focus for 2009 is "Stay Fire Smart – Don't Get Burned!"

Fire departments responded to nearly 399,000 residential fires in 2007 with an average home fire cost of \$17,000 (NFPA, 2009). The American Red Cross assisted at nearly 69,000 of the reported fires.

### Fast Facts:

- Every 79 seconds a home fire is reported;
- Cooking continues to be the leading cause of home fires;
- Heating fires are the second leading cause of home fires followed by electrical and intentional.

An ounce of prevention goes a long way. Be safe, follow these simple tips:

- Remain in the kitchen when cooking, frying, grilling or broiling food;
- Keep an oven mitt and lid nearby in case of a small stove fire. Carefully slide the lid onto the pan or pot to extinguish the fire;
- Make sure your fire extinguisher(s) are charged and accessible;
- Never leave burning candles unattended;
- Keep live Christmas trees watered on a daily basis.

Additional American Red Cross fire safety and preparedness ideas can be found at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). Help carry the message of fire safety all year round.

### References

**Fast Facts** (2009). *National Fire Protection Association Website*. Retrieved online September 3, 2009 from:

<http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=1203&itemID=28255&URL=Safety%20Information/Fire%20Prevention%20Week%202009/Fast%20facts%20about%20fire>

**Preparedness Fast Facts** (2009). *American Red Cross Website*. Retrieved online September 3, 2009 from:

<http://www.redcross.org/portal/site/en/menuitem.86f46a12f382290517a8f210b80f78a0/?vgnextoid=5e06a5f0f013b110VgnVCM10000089f0870aRCRD&vgnextfmt=default>

The Red Cross helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. Last year, almost a million volunteers and 35,000 employees helped victims of almost 75,000 disasters; taught lifesaving skills to millions; and helped U.S. service members separated from their families stay connected. Almost 4 million people gave blood through the Red Cross, the largest U.S. supplier of blood and blood products. The American Red Cross is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An average of 91 cents of every dollar the Red Cross spends is invested in humanitarian services and programs. The Red Cross is not a government agency; it relies on donations of time, money, and blood to do its work.

*For more information about the American Red Cross, contact the North Central Wisconsin Region at (800) 939-4052 or visit our website at [redcrossncwi.com](http://redcrossncwi.com).*