

PFPD October PSA

Contributed by: Pagosa Fire Protection District

October is Fire Prevention Month. FPM is designed to bring fire safety and prevention to the forefront of everyone's minds and to serve as a reminder to do your part in providing a safe environment for all those around you. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) creates an annual theme designed to encourage these messages. The 2018 theme is: **Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can be anywhere.**

Look.

Look around your home and property for potential fire hazards. Almost half (47%) of all home fires are linked to cooking activities. Remove clutter in your cooking area; always stay in the kitchen while cooking.

Heating related fires are responsible for 15% of all home fires in the U.S. Make sure all heating devices have a three-foot area clear of all flammable materials. Never leave a space heater unattended. Clean heating equipment and chimneys annually.

Cigarettes, pipes and cigars are major contributors in home fires; Most smoking related deaths result from fires that started in living rooms, family rooms and bedrooms. Ensure lighting devices (lighters, matches) are secured from youngsters that could inadvertently start fires.

Listen.

Listen to the sound of your smoke alarms. Listening, and heeding the warning, will save valuable time in a potentially life-threatening situation. Test smoke alarms monthly and install smoke alarms in every sleeping area as well as each floor.

Learn.

Learn two ways out of every room. All doors and windows should be easily assessable and easy to open. Practice your home escape plan monthly to confirm all residents know and understand how to quickly evacuate if needed. Establish a meeting place outside the residence where everyone can meet after they exit the home. Once you have exited the structure, NEVER go back in!