

Redwood City Fire Department Kicks Off Fire Prevention Week on October 6th

The Fire Department's Kick-Off Focuses on Prevention of Kitchen Fires – #1 cause of home fires

Redwood City, Calif. -- The Redwood City Fire Department and the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) launch Fire Prevention Week (October 6-12) with a kick-off event that will focus on "Kitchen Fire Prevention." The event takes place on Sunday, October 6, 2013 from 11am to 3pm in downtown Redwood City in front of Fire Station 9 at 755 Marshall Street.

According to the latest NFPA research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries.

The goal of the event is to educate our community about the dangers of kitchen fires and teach local residents how to prevent kitchen fires from starting in the first place. The event will include live fire demonstrations, fire equipment display, children inflatable playland and other children activities, fire extinguisher training, free smoke alarm installation sign-up, and emergency & disaster preparation and information will be provided by several local, county and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations including CERT, American Red Cross, FEMA, Sheriff's Office OES, Peninsula Humane Society, San Mateo County Environmental Health, Redwood City Police Department and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

"Often when we're called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the residents tell us that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes," said Fire Chief Skinner. "Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will help us reach folks in the community before they've suffered a damaging lesson."

Safety tips that firefighters and safety advocates will be emphasizing include: Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking; if you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove; when you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer; if you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible, and keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.

The City thanks all of our generous partners and sponsors for making this event possible. In addition to our partners provide emergency and disaster preparedness information, Rebuilding Together Peninsula will provide a free smoke alarm installation program. Free hotdogs and water will be provided by the event sponsor SIMS Metal Management.

To learn more about how you can keep your family and community safe from kitchen fires, and to learn some basic tips for kitchen fire prevention, visit: www.redwoodcity.org/fire.