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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Fire Station No. 2 Grand Opening/ Open House is Saturday, Oct. 11 at 3906 Station Pl. NW, at the intersection of County Rd. 21, Fountain Hills Dr. and Enclave Ave. in Jeffers Waterfront. The event will include presentations beginning at 10 a.m. followed by fire truck rides and displays, an ambulance display, blood pressure checks, station tours, treats and beverages until 2 p.m.

The Open House is the culminating event for Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 5-11) in Prior Lake and a chance to see first-hand this tremendously important tool in maintaining the fire department's quality of service and the quality of life for current and future residents.

### **Station Facts**

Fire Station No. 2 was approved by a two-to-one margin of those voting on a \$3.7 million referendum: \$900,000 was used for a 100-foot aerial platform truck and \$2.8 million for the station. The City received the 1.3 acre parcel upon which the building is built (worth about \$130,000) at no cost to taxpayers. In exchange, the station's exterior is designed to fit with current and planned residential and commercial properties to the north, south and west.

The station was completed \$500,000 under budget; as a result, the Prior Lake Council will be able to consider purchasing a rescue truck to be assigned to the station, resulting in a savings of tax dollars used to upgrade future equipment.

The station provides an office for the police department and includes Allina ambulance service, improving ambulance response time, providing additional revenue to the city and allowing the fire department to cut back on minor medical calls.

### **Fire Prevention Week**

Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 5-11) also is a great opportunity to think about home safety. Your home should be a safe haven from fire. But do you regularly check for home fire hazards? If not, there is the potential for danger from cooking, heating, electrical and smoking-materials, all leading causes of home fires. The Prior Lake Volunteer Fire department responded to 145 fire calls last year. Fire departments around the country respond to nearly 400,000 home fires each year. That is why "It's Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Home Fires" is the theme of Fire Prevention Week this year.

Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record and was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that killed more than 250 people, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. It was decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and how to keep your home and family safe, visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) or call the Prior Lake Fire Department at (952) 440-3460.

### **From the Desk of Prior Lake Fire Chief Doug Hartman**

The fact is we have made progress in housing materials, in fighting fires, in preventing fires and alerting home occupants. So house fires seem like a thing of the distant past. But they clearly are not. And fire is an indiscriminate killer. We all can be victims. And if a person is lucky enough to survive, recovery from disfiguring personal injuries are painful, expensive and long term.

I urge you to do a few simple things to make your house safer. If you can't do them for yourself, then do them for your loved ones. This is by no means a complete list. You can visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) for more information:

1. Don't let Fire Prevention Week go without buying and installing new batteries for your smoke alarms and CO alarms. Then test the alarms and play 20 questions about what you would do if they go off.
2. When cooking in the kitchen or on the grill, don't ever leave the source unless you turn the heat off and move hot pans out of reach.
3. Pay a few dollars up front and have your gas furnace and water heater checked for safety and efficiency. You'll save money later and breath easier now.
4. Don't overload your circuits with extension cords or added outlets. If your circuit breakers trip, call an electrician at once and have the source of the problem corrected.
5. If you must smoke, do it outside the house. Your home sale will go better, you won't expose others to second hand smoke and there will be one less source of ignition in doors.
6. Use candles, matches and heaters carefully.
7. In the event of fire, get out, meet at your prearranged place, call 911 and stay out.

If you are sitting in your favorite chair reading this, look around the room. What can you most afford to lose? By being informed and taking these simple steps, you will go a long way to never having to answer that question.