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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Look, Listen, Learn – the best way to prevent household fires

October 5, 2018 – Flagler County fire officials are asking residents to "Look, Listen, and Learn" in keeping with the National Fire Protection Association's Fire Prevention Week message – a best practice for preventing household fires.

Fire Prevention Week is October 7 through 13.

"It's pretty simple," Flagler County Fire Marshal Jerry Smith said. "We, as individuals, need to look at our homes for anything that might start a fire, specifically flammable materials that are sitting too close to candles, the stove, or heaters as the weather gets cooler."

Residents should listen for their smoke alarms, which also includes testing them to ensure they work, and regularly changing the batteries. Working smoke alarms should be located on every level, in every bedroom, and near all sleeping areas.

"When you hear your smoke alarm sounding, activate your plan," said Flagler County Fire Rescue Chief Don Petito. "That plan is really the same for everyone – exit your home, make sure everyone is out, and don't go back in. Once you are out stay out."

Residents need to learn two ways out of their homes, and two ways out of every room – typically a door and window. Exits should be free of clutter and easily accessible.

"After you exit your home, go to a pre-arranged meeting place, like a light pole or a mailbox that is a safe distance away from your home," Smith said. "Remember that seconds count, so 'Look, Listen, and Learn' to keep yourself safe."

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