



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Melissa Volunteer Fire Department – 2010 Fire Prevention Week Participation

Melissa, TX – The Melissa Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) commemorated 2010 Fire Prevention Week by reaching out to over 900 adults and children about the importance of fire safety and prevention at various events throughout the week.

The week kicked off with a morning visit to Mudpies and Lullabies where firefighters spoke on using 9-1-1 and what to do in a fire or medical emergency. The kids were taught how to stop, drop, and roll. Melissa VFD provided materials for each family on how to develop and implement a home fire safety plan. The event was capped off with a tour of the Melissa Fire Engine.

Following their visit at Mudpies and Lullabies, firefighters Brad Wells and Steve Huth attended the Melissa ISD Wellness event to promote fire safety with an emphasis on family safety in the event of a fire. Firefighters also provided handouts on common household fire dangers and how to avoid them. Later that evening in celebration of National Night Out, the Melissa VFD stopped by Hunters Ridge and the Boy Scout Pack 413 for fire engine tours.

On October 6th, Firefighter Steve Huth participated in judging the 2010 Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest at McKillop Elementary School. Participants from each of the grades competed for their posters to be displayed at the Melissa Fire Station.

The next day the MVFD returned to McKillop with the Melissa fire explorers welcoming parents and kids to school and helped the Collin County Fire Marshal Office setup for their Fire Prevention Week Clown Program. Firefighters again spoke on the importance of being prepared for a fire or medical emergency. At the end of the program the winners of the Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest were announced as follows: Kindergarten - Addyson King, 1st grade - Hagen Donley, 2nd grade - Ellie Schaeffer, 3rd grade - Brenna Sheriff, and 4th grade - Dion Galbreath. The winners were then treated to a ride in the fire engine. Throughout the day the MVFD gave tours of the fire engine and tool demonstrations to each of the classrooms.

In addition to their other activities for Fire Prevention Week, Firefighters Brad Wells and Steven Huth participated in a very special story time at the Melissa Public Library on Friday, October 8th. They showed the children the protective gear that is worn with their hats and jackets and boots. "The children realized that the 'decked-out' firefighter was not someone to be afraid of and even enjoyed trying on the boots and hats", said Library Director Lorelei Perkins, "Outside, children were able to sit in the truck and aim the fire hose, it was a lot of fun for everyone."

"The 2010 Fire Prevention Week was one of our most successful ever with five volunteer firefighters attending seven different events enabling us to speak to over 900 children and adults on the importance of fire safety in the home," said Fire Inspector Brad Wells. "Even with the

success that we had, we can't stop our efforts after just one week. We have plans for more educational activities over the next year and are looking into new ways of reaching the public."

About Fire Prevention Week:

"Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" was National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) official theme for Fire Prevention Week 2010, which took place October 3-9. If you're wondering why NFPA, the official sponsor of FPW for nearly 90 years, is focusing on smoke alarms when most homes already have at least one, you've come to the right place!

This year's campaign was designed to educate people about the importance of smoke alarms and encouraged everyone to take the steps necessary to update and maintain their home smoke alarm protection. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. Each year nearly 3,000 people die in U.S. home fires. Having a working smoke alarm cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half.

Here are some helpful safety tips regarding smoke alarms:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Test smoke alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

Those who survived the Chicago fires never forgot what they'd been through; the blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. But the fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

"Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week Web site, www.firepreventionweek.org. ©2010 NFPA."

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Parents and Children listen to Melissa Volunteer Fire Fighter Steve Huth at the Melissa Public Library in commemoration of 2010 Fire Prevention Week



MVFD Firefighters Brad Wells and Steve Huth help a young boy demonstrate how to aim the fire hose at Melissa City Hall in commemoration of 2010 Fire Prevention Week