



**Snohomish County**  
**Office of the Executive**  
**Aaron Reardon**  
*County Executive*

## **News Release–October 1, 2007**

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### **October 7-13: Fire Prevention Week time to “Practice Your Escape Plan”**

October 7-13, 2007 is Fire Prevention Week, and Snohomish County is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents to 'Practice Your Escape Plan.'

Fire Prevention Week has been actively supported by fire departments across the country for 85 years, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

“During this year's Snohomish County fire safety campaign, firefighters and safety advocates will emphasize preparedness,” Executive Aaron Reardon said. “We hope that Fire Prevention Week will prompt residents of our community to plan and practice a home fire escape plan.”

The latest NFPA research indicates 3,030 people died in 2005 in home fires – approximately eight people every day. Being alerted to a fire and knowing what to do to escape from one are extremely important, yet only 23% of households have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan.

Are you prepared for a fire? County Fire Marshal Tom Maloney urges inclusion of the following recommendations in your escape plan:

- Install working smoke alarms on every level; and inside and outside of each sleeping area.
- Develop a fire escape plan that identifies two ways out of each room and a family meeting place outside.
- Make sure your plan allows for any specific needs in your household. If everyone knows what to do, everyone can get out quickly.
- Practice using the plan, at least twice a year.
- Some studies have shown that some children and adults may not awaken to the sound of a smoke alarm; they may need help waking up.

- If the smoke alarm sounds: Go to your closest exit, and if you run into smoke, turn and use another way out. If you must exit through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit. Don't take time to pick up belongings; just exit and help others get out. Move fast but stay calm.

For further information contact the Office of the County Fire Marshal at 425.388.3557, or visit the County web page, [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org). Enter **Fire Marshal**.