VFW Safety Newsletter

Monthly Safety Information
October 2026

On a monthly basis we will provide our post members with significant safety events that could be useful to you and your family.
In addition to the newsletter, please look on our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/VFW3103) for additional links.

The month of October is where we acknowledge two major safety themes: ***National Fire Prevention Month*** (01-31 October) and ***Halloween Safety Month*** (01-31 October).

National Fire Prevention Month: National Fire Prevention Month 2026 emphasizes a range of measures to prevent and limit fire hazards at home and in the workplace. Here are some simple, high-impact actions for individuals, families, and organizations to take throughout October.

- Test every smoke alarm. Press the test button on each alarm and replace any batteries that are weak. Alarms older than ten years should be replaced entirely, as sensors degrade over time.
- Create a home escape plan. Map two ways out of every room and agree a meeting point outside. Practicing the plan so everyone can get out in under two minutes turns knowledge into instinct.
- Check your kitchen habits. Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Stay in the kitchen while frying, keep flammable items away from burners, and never leave pans unattended.
- Inspect heating and electrical equipment. As temperatures drop, give space heaters ample clearance (~1 yard/meter), avoid overloading sockets, and check cords for fraying or damage.
- Charge lithium-ion batteries safely. Use the charger supplied with the device, avoid charging e-bikes or scooters near exits overnight, and stop using any battery that swells, leaks, or overheats.
- Teach children about fire safety. Show them how to recognize the smoke alarm sound, how to stop, drop, and roll, and how to call the emergency services. Many fire departments run open days and school visits during the month.
- Visit your local fire station. Many fire departments host community events, demonstrations, and free smoke alarm fittings during Fire Prevention Week (03-09 October) and the wider month.
- Share the message online – Posting a reminder or the NFPA's resources can prompt friends and family to carry out their own checks.

Halloween Safety Month: Halloween Safety Month 2026 emphasizes preparation, visibility, and community awareness to ensure a safe and enjoyable Halloween season. Here are several areas which everyone (adults and children) should pay attention to, for neighborhood and group activities:

Post 3103
2701 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA
Veteran Non-Profit
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- Pedestrian Safety: Drivers should slow down, stay alert, and watch for children crossing streets. Children are more than twice as likely to be struck by vehicles on Halloween, as most incidents occur between 5–9 p.m.
- Costume Visibility: Use reflective tape, bright colors, and flashlights or glow sticks.
- Fire-resistant Costumes: Choose flame-resistant materials and keep loose fabrics away from candles.
- Pumpkin Carving & Decoration Hazards: Supervise children and avoid unsafe tools.
- Home Safety: Ensure walkways are well-lit and free of tripping hazards.
- Neighborhood Events: Plan safe trick-or-treat routes and set curfews.
- Education & Awareness: Attend community safety workshops & share safety tips on social media using #HalloweenSafetyMonth.

Important dates:
October 1: National Crime Prevention Month / National Cybersecurity Awareness Month
October 2: International Day of Non-Violence
October 4: Mental Illness Awareness Week
October 5: National Do Something Nice Day
October 7: International Day of Peaceful Communication
October 15: Conflict Resolution Day
October 18: National Retirement Security Week
October 25: National I Care About You Day

For more information about National Fire Prevention Month, Halloween Safety Month, and other tips and resources, please visit:

https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/national-fire-prevention-month/
https://www.nfpa.org/events/fire-prevention-week#six-safety-tips
https://nationaltoday.com/halloween-safety-month/
https://nationaldaycalendar.com/celebrations/halloween-safety-month-october

More Safety Observance information:
https://www.nsc.org/events/safety-observance-calendar

October National Daily Holidays:
https://nationaltoday.com/october-holidays/#oct-11