



# Midlothian Fire Department – Fire Prevention Bureau

*Martin Rita*  
**Fire Chief**  
*Michael Lonkar*  
**Fire Prevention Officer**

## October Fire Safety / Information

October is Fire Prevention Month! The goal of Fire Prevention Month (and week October 5th - 11th) is to raise fire safety awareness and help ensure your home and family is protected. In 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) named the second week of October Fire Prevention Week in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. Today, we celebrate Fire Prevention Week and Month by raising fire safety awareness and educating families, students and communities with help from our partners and local fire departments. This Fire Prevention Month, First Alert is also celebrating 65 years of being a trusted fire safety partner. They are dedicated to "Protecting the Moments" and encourage you to gather your family and discuss fire safety. Enjoy the moments and memories you create with your loved ones with peace of mind knowing you're protected.

The NFPA's 2023 campaign for Fire Safety Month is "Cooking Safety Starts with You." At the Midlothian Fire Department, we are proud to support their mission and this year's theme by helping to raise fire safety awareness in the kitchen. Learn more about [kitchen fire safety](#) and best practices.

### **About Fire Prevention Week**

Since 1922, the NFPA has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.



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## Importance of fire prevention

In a fire, mere seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy. Fire safety education isn't just for school children. Teenagers, adults, and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it important for every member of the community to take some time every October during Fire Prevention Week to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire.

## Holidays to Celebrate

10/13/25 - **Columbus Day** is a national holiday in many countries of the Americas and elsewhere, and a federal holiday in the United States, which officially celebrates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas. Columbus went ashore at Guanahani, an island in the Bahamas, on October 12, 1492

10/13/25 **Indigenous Peoples' Day** is a national holiday which is to celebrate Native American customs and heritage.

10/31/25 - **Halloween** or Hallowe'en is a celebration observed in many countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Saints' Day. It begins the observance of Allhallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints, martyrs, and all the faithful departed.

As always, if you have any questions about fire safety or fire prevention, you can always call the Midlothian Fire Department at (708) 489-4742. We are always happy to help! (Call for Fire Prevention Tips.)

*Michael Lonkar*

*Fire Prevention Officer*



**MIDLOTHIAN**  
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