

For release on:
(October 1, 2005)
For more information call:
(Ken Herbert, Fire Marshal)
(760-337-4567)

**The El Centro Fire Department announces Fire Prevention Week activities
underway in El Centro October 9-15, 2005**

In an effort to battle home fires *before* they start in El Centro, the El Centro Fire Department is taking a lead role in the National Fire Prevention Association's Fire Prevention Week, October 9-15.

By hosting local activities and events that will both entertain and educate the public, the El Centro Fire Department hopes to raise awareness of key fire safety issues, helping attendees prevent fires and fire injuries, especially at home.

"Many people don't realize that they are at greater danger from fire at home than anywhere else," says Kenneth Herbert, Fire Marshal. "Fortunately, there are many things residents can do to turn that around and make their homes safer. Fire Prevention Week is the time when we reach out to the community one-on-one, teaching people of every age how to prevent fires. This year, we'll be focusing in particular on candle fires, a serious and growing part of the fire problem."

According to Herbert the El Centro Fire Department has lined up the following Fire Prevention Week activities for residents:

Station Tours for school aged children and a Fire Safety Awareness Fair scheduled for October 15 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Bucklin Park.

Fire Prevention Week has been sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for 83 years and is proclaimed by the President of the United States each year. The longest running safety commemoration is the premier fire safety program of the fire service, drawing the participation of El Centro Fire Department and other fire departments in the U.S. and Canada.

NFPA selected the 2005 Fire Prevention Week theme in order to highlight a growing home fire concern. The theme, "Use Candles with Care: When you go out, blow out!" is a memorable and effective safety message.

Home candle fires have risen steadily over the last decade.

In addition to using candles safely, El Centro residents are urged to ensure that smoke alarms are installed on every level of the home and kept working with monthly testing and annual battery replacement. All smoke alarms should be replaced with a new unit after 10 years. Each member of the household needs to know the fire escape plan, and all should practice it twice a year. El Centro residents can learn more about candle safety and all forms of fire prevention by visiting NFPA's official Fire Prevention Week Web site: www.firepreventionweek.org.

#