

## Safety News from Northport Fire Department

# Personal fire safety in lesson plan

By JIM MAHONEY

The Northport Fire Department has conducted fire safety and fire prevention programs at our local schools, senior citizen groups and civic organizations. One of the main concepts stressed over and over is personal fire safety. Namely, if there is a fire in your building—get out quickly and Stay Out. There are no exceptions to the rule. Pets, valuables and cherished mementos can be replaced; a human life lost in a fire cannot be replaced.

Earlier this month, in Crab Meadow, a homeowner safely evacuated her burning building. Unfortunately she apparently had great concern for her pet cats and she reentered the flaming building. She was unable to evacuate her home a second time and perished in the fire. Safety News offers its sincerest sympathy to her family, friends and neighbors.

Children are very aware of the “get out and stay out” rule in the event of a fire. Adults should be aware of this rule and adhere to it at all times.

### Holiday Safety

This time of year is the occasion of many people returning to Northport to enjoy the holidays with family and friends. Safety News again offers some basic safety suggestions to help insure a happy and safe visit. They include:

1) Take a few moments to discuss

with all guests the building evacuation plan. Every effort should be made to furnish a first floor bedroom for elderly and or handicapped guests.

2) Provide night lights in bedrooms, hallways and outside bathroom doors.

3) Remove any items placed on stairways.

4) Secure medications of all adults so that very young children will not have any opportunity to ingest them.

5) Any smoking by guests should be done outside of the home.

6) Lit candles should be extinguished when leaving a room. They should not be used as a light source in time of emergency. Rather, have flashlights with working batteries available.

Stay safe and enjoy the holidays.

### Resolutions for 2015

Traditionally, Safety News offers safety resolutions for the coming year. These are really suggestions to help keep you and your family members safe. There is little or no cost to implement them. However, the results will be most positive.

- Install and maintain smoke detectors throughout the home.

- Plan and practice your home evacuation plan with great emphasis on the “get out and stay out” rule.

- When exercising with jogging and/or walking after dark along roadways and/or sidewalks wear clothing with some illumination to make drivers

aware of your presence.

- Flu shots are still available at the Visiting Nurse Service on Main Street and at local pharmacies. The flu season does extend into late spring. Even at this time of year, flu shots can be beneficial.

- Check your home for proper and easily visible numbering. Emergency response can be delayed without proper home identification. Precious loss of time during a fire, sickness or medical emergency can have extremely negative effects.

- Germs are quickly spread by the hands. Frequent hand washing, especially at this time of year, will help to greatly reduce this spread.

There are a number of other resolutions that Safety News has offered for outdoor activities and pool

safety. We will present them to our readers in a mid spring column.

### Final opportunity

The final days of the Northport Fire Department's 125th anniversary year are fast approaching. Opportunities are available for a very limited time for our residents to be a part of the 125th anniversary history book. Page sponsorship credits to honor a family member or friend are still available. The fee for such sponsorship is \$250 per page. Each sponsor will receive a copy of the book.

Residents can be listed as a friend of the department with their name and address for a \$70 fee. They too will receive a copy of this historical work. A number of chapters have already been set in print. Sponsor and friends listings will conclude on January 23, 2015.

SafetyNews extends holiday greetings to all our readers with sincere wishes for a healthy and safe 2015. The January 2015 Safety News Column will include the annual listing of 2014 statistics and the leading fire and ambulance responders.