

Press Release – Peterborough Fire/Rescue

August 26, 2005

**For Immediate Release: Peterborough Fire & Rescue
Announces Fire Prevention Week Theme and Dates**

Peterborough– In an effort to battle home fires *before* they start, the Peterborough Fire & Rescue is taking a lead role in NFPA’s Fire Prevention Week, October 9-15, 2005. By hosting local activities and events that will both educate the public, PFR hopes to raise awareness of key fire safety issues, helping citizens 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 Peterborough Chief Joseph Lenox, III. “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.”

To kick off Fire Prevention Week, Peterborough Fire & Rescue will be sending personnel to area schools and childcare facilities to educate children about fire safety. This has become a tradition that Peterborough kids have looked forward to every fall for decades. During school visits, children will be able to meet members of PFR, see firefighting equipment, and maybe even sit on a fire truck. School visits will take place during the week of September 26-30.

According to Chief Lenox, PFR has altered the date of its Open House at the fire station. Traditionally, Open House has been held on the second Saturday of October. This year, in order to coincide with the “Peak Into Peterborough” festivities, the PFR Open House will be held on Saturday October 1.

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 PFR and other fire departments in the U.S. and Canada.

NFPA selected the 2005 Fire Prevention Week theme in order to highlight a 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, 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. You 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. You can learn more about Peterborough Fire & Rescue by visiting their website, www.firerescue.us

For More Information Contact:

Eric Bowman
Public Information Officer
Peterborough Fire & Rescue
eric.bowman@firerescue.us
(603) 924-1954 (home)
(603) 924-8090 (fire station)