

NY-SAFE President's Report  
Fall 2023 Meeting (10/27/23)

Attention Members, Directors, and Officers,

As we start to wrap up 2023, and move into the holiday season, we want to look at some of the facts that occurred thus far for the year. According to the most recent report through the US Fire Administration, there has been 121 home fire fatalities reported by U.S. news media from January 1<sup>st</sup> to October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Many of these fatalities' reported cause are still under investigation. New York State's first reported fire fatality was on January 13<sup>th</sup>, in Brownsville, NY. The victim was a 9-year-old female, and that fire is still reported to be under investigation.

This year's Fire Prevention message by the NFPA was "Cooking safety starts with you. Pay attention to fire prevention." We all know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and fire-related injuries in the home. Whether you're preparing a meal or making a quick snack, practicing safe cooking in the kitchen can help keep your family safe. According to NFPA, 49% of home fires that resulted in 21% of the home fire deaths and 45% of the injuries were caused by cooking equipment.

As the Holidays draw near, everyone will be starting their heating equipment for the first-time raising awareness of the importance of having working Carbon Monoxide alarms. This includes the importance of not blocking home exhaust pipes with the increasing snow accumulations. They will be hanging decorations what we need to stress the importance of not doing them on your own but with assistance from someone else, in they ever slip, trip, or fall. We need to remind everyone not to plug space heaters into extension cords but only directly into the wall outlet as well as not plugging multiple strands of lights continuously together. Reach out to your local communities as you do each year and remind everyone of the importance of fire and life safety.

Thank you everyone for all for your heard work spreading fire and life safety messages. My goal for 2024, is to have a group of us come together and help with the New York State Fair's House of Hazards exhibit. Each year thousands of fairgoers make their way through the exhibit, and I'd like to see NY-SAFE be there to help represent our organization. I'd like to see more involvement from across the entire state and Canada to make this exhibit one of the best. This year 900,000 people visited the NYS Fair and only 3% of the total number of fairgoers actually passed through the exhibit. Let's work together and bump that number up.

Respectfully,

Joe Nemier

NY-SAFE President

