***Sample News Release***

*Contact your media outlet to find out how far in advance you need to submit a news release prior to your activities. Fill in the blanks where noted and send it to your media contacts. Follow up with a phone call or email to make sure contacts received the release and answer any questions they may have.*

For release on:

**(MONTH, DATE, YEAR)**

For more information contact:

**(NAME, TITLE)**

**(TELEPHONE NUMBER)**

**(E-MAIL ADDRESS)**

**(TOWN/CITY) Fire Department Encourages Multigenerational Households**

**to Practice Fire Safety**

**(YOUR TOWN/CITY, STATE/PROVINCE), (MONTH, DATE, YEAR)**

Multigenerational households are on the rise. The number of Americans living under the same roof with at least three generations has doubled since 1980 and it’s not uncommon for three and four generations to share a home.

“Here in **(TOWN/CITY)** many of our residents benefit from this living arrangement,” says **(YOUR NAME, TITLE)**. “Older adults are cared for, babysitting duties and household costs are shared, a job loss is more manageable, and money can be put into savings. Home is a haven for families and a growing number of extended families. But it is also the place where people are at greatest risk of fire.”

According to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), there are roughly 360,000 home fires every year in the United States, and roughly 2,500 people die in these home fires.

**(YOUR NAME)**, NFPA, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) urge members of multigenerational households to work together to ensure everyone follows fire safety practices.

* Make sure your home has working smoke alarms. You need a smoke alarm on every level, inside each sleeping room, and outside each separate sleeping area. Interconnect the alarms so when one sounds, they all sound.
* Install smoke alarms and alert devices to help family members who are deaf or hard of hearing. Alert devices, such as strobe lights, flash when the smoke alarm sounds. Pillow or bed shakers may be useful to wake a person who is sleeping. The shakers are triggered by the sound of the smoke alarm and shake people awake to warn them of a fire.
* Test your alarms at least once a month. Press each test button to make sure it is working.
* Practice your fire drill. Plan your home escape. Share the plan with everyone in the family and guests.
* The plan should include two ways out of every room and an outside family meeting place.
* Smoke alarms may not wake up children. Older adults may not hear the smoke alarm. Assign someone to help children, older adults and people with disabilities escape.
* Make sure your home has bright lighting in stairways to prevent falls.
* Remove clutter to prevent trips and falls and allow for a quick escape.
* Install handrails along the full length of both sides of the stairs.
* If there is a fire, get outside quickly and stay outside. Then call 9-1-1.
* If you can’t get outside call 9-1-1. Let the fire department know you can’t get outside. Wave a light-colored cloth or a flashlight from the window.
* If there is smoke, use your second way out. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke.

Additionally, **(YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT)** will **(EVENT)** on **(DATE/TIME/LOCATION)** to get the word out about home fire safety.

For more fire safety tips, please visit nfpa.org/public-education, cpsc.gov/safety-education or**(YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT’S WEB SITE)**.