



# West Side Informer

Copies are available at the Ask Us Desk and at [wcl.library.tamu.edu](http://wcl.library.tamu.edu). The newsletter is written and published by the West Campus Library Staff.

## Visit our website:

[wcl.library.tamu.edu](http://wcl.library.tamu.edu)

<http://tamu.libcal.com/booking/WCLStudyRooms>



## National Fire Prevention

By Miguel Salazar

October brings cooler weather, fall colors and plenty of festivities. Though the ubiquitous Halloween stores and Oktoberfest promotions tend to link this month to costume parties and bar outings, it is worth mentioning a more serious topic.

October is host to National Fire Prevention week which is a result of a presidential proclamation from President Calvin Coolidge in response to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire. At the time of the proclamation, President Coolidge noted that approximately 15,000 lives were lost in the previous year, a startling figure.

Through the efforts of firefighters throughout the country, the tragic loss of lives due to fires has diminished, with 3000 civilian deaths occurring in 2011. However, the loss in property damage is staggeringly high with over \$11 billion in damage reported.

It is worth noting that fires are largely preventable, and following safety precautions could greatly reduce the possibility of a fire. Since the majority of the student body lives in close quarters such as dormitories or apartment complexes, this would be especially prudent. According to the National Fire Protection Association, the common scenarios that lead to house fires include: cooking equipment, heaters, holiday decorations, and candles.

## Bibliography:

*Bureau of Labor Statistics.*  
(n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/images/p20-to-p21/p211-4-jpg.jpg>

*Fire Prevention Week.*  
(n.d.). Retrieved from Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire\\_Prevention\\_Week](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire_Prevention_Week)

*National Fire Prevention Association.* (2013). Retrieved from <http://www.nfpa.org/>