



## NEWS RELEASE

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For more information contact:  
John Harkness  
Fire and EMS Chief  
(540) 406-1271

### **ORANGE COUNTY FIRE & EMS AWARDED NFPA TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP**

ORANGE, VA – The County of Orange Department of Fire & EMS and Aging Together have been awarded scholarships to participate in a training conference dedicated to *Remembering When™: A Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults*, developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Assistant Chief Tom Joyce of the County of Orange Department of Fire & EMS and a representative of Aging Together will travel to Boston, Massachusetts for the workshop, which will be held December 2-4, 2012. The awarded scholarships provide for travel expenses, *Remembering When* curriculum materials, and all training. Following the workshop, the County of Orange Department of Fire & EMS will conduct a minimum of five group presentations and at least two train-the-trainer sessions for Aging Together. Aging Together will integrate materials from the *Remembering When* program into its outreach through home visits.

John Harkness, Orange County Fire and EMS Chief stated, “Receiving this scholarship will enable a specialized area of training, which could not otherwise be afforded. This training offers strategies that we can share with our community to help prevent fires and falls among our older adult residents.” The *Remembering When* program focuses on 16 key fire and fall prevention messages. “Adults 65 years and older are more than twice as likely to be killed in a home fire compared to the population at large, and falls are the leading cause of death from injuries in this group,” said Sharon Gamache, Program Director of High-Risk Outreach Programs.

To prevent falls, older adults should exercise to improve balance and build strength. Consulting a doctor first about ability-appropriate exercise is best. To prevent falls in the home, it’s important to clear stairs and hallways of electrical cords, shoes, books, magazines, clothing and any other things that can be tripped over.

#### **About the National Fire Protection Association**

NFPA is a worldwide leader in fire, electrical, building, and life safety. The mission of the international nonprofit organization founded in 1896 is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education. Visit NFPA’s website at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) for more information.

For more information about Orange County’s award of the scholarship and efforts on fire and fall prevention, contact the Fire & EMS office at (540) 672-7044.

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