

# 2025 Tri-State Carbon Monoxide and Fire Safety Summit



Additional partners:



## Safe Kids Grand Forks Hosts Tri-State Fire & CO Safety Summit

There is lots to be learned about in the fire and carbon monoxide arena and we recently had a front row seat to the expertise of industry leaders. We are grateful to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and State Farm for sponsoring the Tri-State Fire & Carbon Monoxide Safety Summit which drew nearly 100 fire and fire responder personnel from a three state area. From hearing carbon monoxide and lithium ion battery fire survivor stories, to listening to national experts in the industry, to networking with vendors and colleagues, the day offered us the opportunity to learn from the best.

While the summit was jam packed with lots of great tips, here are a three BIG takeaways from our team that will be helpful to all people:

- ➔ There are many types of fire/smoke alarms on the market. Make sure that your home is equipped with them on every level and outside sleeping areas. If you have folks that live in your house that are hard of hearing, visually impaired or may need a voice alarming system, check out the many types of alarms on the market to keep your home safe from fire dangers.
- ➔ Lithium ion batteries, while great for powering our electronics, power tools and a whole host of other things, can be very dangerous. Make sure that anything with a rechargeable battery is charge on a hard surface and removed from the power source as soon as the battery is fully charged.
  - The danger from lithium ion batteries comes from a process that can occur called thermal runaway. This is a rapid, uncontrolled increase in the temperature within the device that can lead to fires or the device spontaneously exploding. This happens quickly and there are often times only seconds for people to escape.
- ➔ Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas, making it impossible to detect without a monitor. Carbon monoxide alarms are needed in the home on every level and outside sleeping areas, but people should also travel with them. Most hotels or bed and breakfast type accommodations do not have, and are not required to have CO alarms. This makes those staying there very vulnerable to CO poisoning and even death. Small travel sized detectors are available on the market and we recommend packing them for your stay in a hotel, camper, home accommodations, etc.

We are grateful to the NFPA for their fire and CO expertise with a special shoutout to Kelly Ransdell, Director of Public Education for helping to fund, plan and execute this summit. We also thank the State Fire Marshals of ND, SD and MN for their part in the planning and presentation as well. For more fire and CO safety information, visit <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/home-fire-safety> or <https://sparkyschoolhouse.org/> for messaging for children and youth.

