

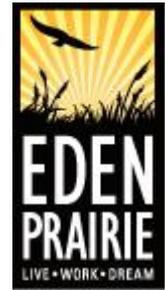
# NEWS RELEASE

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## EDEN PRAIRIE FIRE DEPARTMENT PREPARES FOR ANNUAL WOMEN'S FIRE SERVICE EXPO

**Eden Prairie, Minn.** — The Eden Prairie Fire Department is working closely with fire departments from across the south metro to prepare for the 2011 Women's Fire Service Expo. The event will take place on Saturday, May 21 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the South Metro Public Training Facility in Edina.

The Expo, designed specifically to provide women with hands-on exposure to the fire service, has been a successful recruiting tool for fire departments throughout the metro area. Since the first Women's Fire Service Expo in 2005, the number of women serving with the Eden Prairie Fire Department has doubled.

"On average, women account for three percent of the total firefighters in any given department," said Kim Cox, Eden Prairie firefighter and founder of the event. "In Eden Prairie, that number has increased to 10 percent over the past few years."

Cox, who also founded the North Star Women's Fire Association, has served with the Eden Prairie Fire Department for 10 years and is working closely with fire departments in Bloomington, Chanhassen, Edina, Golden Valley, Hopkins, St. Paul and Victoria to make this year's event possible.

More information about the 2011 Women's Fire Service Expo can be found at [nswfa.org](http://nswfa.org). The event is open to women from across the state and space is still available; however, those interested in attending must register online by **May 15**.

**Photo Opportunity:** To schedule a photo shoot and preview of the Women's Fire Service Expo contact Kim Cox at 952-949-8367 or [kcox@edenprairie.org](mailto:kcox@edenprairie.org).

The City of Eden Prairie is a vibrant community of more than 60,000 residents located just southwest of Minneapolis. Eden Prairie has been nationally recognized as a great place to live, work and raise a family. Eden Prairie has been listed among MONEY Magazine's 100 "Best Places to Live" in America since 2006, and in 2010 topped MONEY's list as the #1 Best Place to Live in America.

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