

# NEWS RELEASE

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

**Eden Prairie, Minn.** — For the third consecutive year, the Eden Prairie Fire Department is working closely with fire departments from across the south metro to prepare for the Women's Fire Service Expo. The event will take place on Saturday, May 31 from 8 a.m. to 5 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 Cummings, Eden Prairie firefighter and founder of the event. "In Eden Prairie, that number has increased to 10 percent over the past few years."

Cummings, who also founded the North Star Women's Fire Association, has served with the Eden Prairie Fire Department for six years and is working closely with Hennepin Technical College as well as fire departments in Bloomington, Chanhassen, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Plymouth, St. Louis Park, Savage and Victoria to make this year's event possible.

More information about the 2008 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 23**.

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

The City of Eden Prairie is a vibrant community of more than 60,000 people located just southwest of Minneapolis. Eden Prairie has been nationally recognized as a great place live, work and raise a family. In 2006, MONEY Magazine named Eden Prairie the 10<sup>th</sup> "Best Place to Live" in America.

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