



# Weekly Safety Tip

## Volunteering



## Volunteering



**Volunteering** can help us feel good about ourselves and more connected to our communities. It's also a proven way to boost mental and physical health, strengthen social ties, and even grow our careers. When volunteering is incorporated into a company's culture, the whole organization benefits. From reduced stress to stronger team dynamics to improved retention, *giving back creates a positive ripple effect*. It is worth remembering that civic engagement, including volunteering, is linked to greater happiness and increased community satisfaction.

- **94%** of volunteers say volunteering [boosts their mood](#) and well-being.
- **94%** report an enhanced [sense of purpose](#).
- **82%** feel [less isolated](#) due to volunteering and being with others.
- **79%** say volunteering helps them [reduce stress](#).

**Volunteering** also benefits your company, especially when opportunities are available in the workplace:

- **93%** of employees [feel better and less stressed](#) after a year of volunteering through work, leading to less burnout, fewer absences, and greater productivity.
- **79%** who volunteer in work-sponsored programs are [satisfied with their jobs](#), compared to 55% who don't.
- **64%** say volunteering with coworkers [strengthens work relationships](#).
- [Companies offering volunteer time off](#) saw a **50%** reduction in turnover and a **13%** increase in productivity.
- **76%** say they [developed core work skills](#) through volunteering.



### Four Ways To Encourage Employees To Volunteer

#### 1. Offer Volunteer Time Off

Give employees paid time off to volunteer. This small investment boosts morale, builds goodwill, and reinforces a purpose-driven work culture.

#### 2. Organize Volunteering Opportunities at Work

Make volunteering easy by coordinating group service projects or partnering with local nonprofits.

#### 3. Match Employee Donations

Double the impact of your employees' generosity by matching their charitable contributions.

#### 4. Set Up a Fundraiser at Work

Host a workplace fundraiser — like a food can collection or donation drive — to rally employees around a cause.

Share Source: HAA, Health Alliance Action

**NOTE:** We would add a 5<sup>th</sup>: ***Get all of your employees involved in 'sharing' our SCNWO safety messages at home and in their community, particularly when they involve public safety.*** When we actively engage in promoting safety to help others, it can't help but help improve our safety attitudes and personal actions both at home and in the workplace.

Chairperson, **Carl Habekost**, Esq. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson, **David Varwig**, CSP 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair & Treasurer, **Ashley Riehm**

# **Weekly Safety Share**

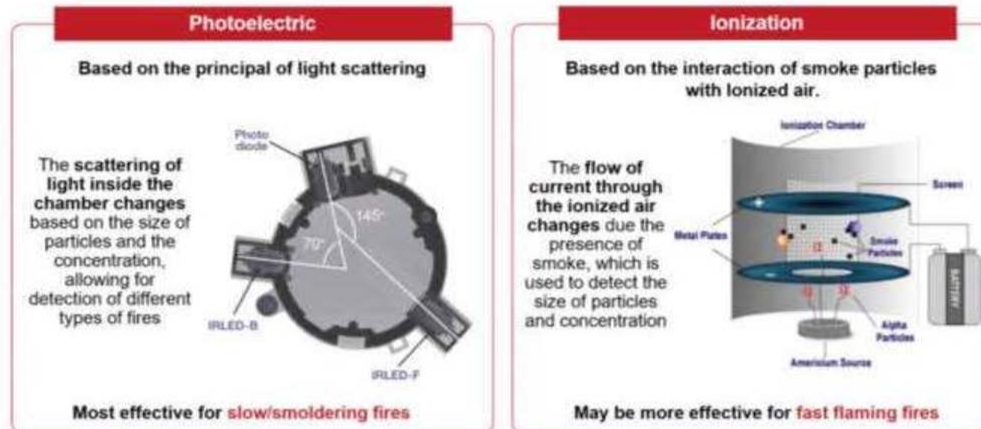


## **Smoke Alarms**

# HOME FIRE SAFETY SHARE

Recently, I attended a webinar on the topic of **Elevating Home Safety: Why the New Standards Matter**. What follows is a 'SAFETY SHARE' that we hope you will take home and share with your family and friends.

100 year old manufacturer **KIDDE** is transitioning away from ionization detectors (that have the radioactive source of Americium) to an enhanced photoelectric technology -- as an environmental improvement -- that will also negate the ionization unit's previous advantage of detecting a **fast flaming fire** more quickly.



Recent revisions to the **UL 217 Standard on Smoke Alarms** were done to address the changing dynamics of home fires.

Modern homes are often filled with more synthetic materials (plastics, foams, and engineered wood), that can ignite quickly and produce toxic smoke. These materials burn faster than natural materials and reduce the time that residents have to escape a fire.



There is a brief two and one-half minute video on YouTube that you can watch - **UL FSRI Home Furnishings Comparison (Natural vs. Synthetic)**:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87hAnxuh1q8>

*With today's escape time being a fraction of what it was 46 years ago, from 17 down to 2 minutes, the need for almost instantaneous notification and immediate response to escape is something we should remind our families and friends that there really isn't much time to think about getting out, just get out!*

Dave Varwig for SCNWO



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