



## **“This is Us “Fire Episode Excelsior Fire District PSA**

Before you read further, keep in mind the January, 23, 2018 episode of This Is Us that aired after Super Bowl 52 was a “Hollywood Fire”

This is an episode present a great opportunity for families to discuss real life fires and home fire safety. The intent of this PSA is for people to know they must get their fire safety information from their local fire department, the Minnesota State Fire Marshal’s Office, The National Protection Agency and other accredited resources.

There are a few good real life lessons to be learned from the episode. Have smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside and outside bedrooms and areas where people sleep.

The batteries in smoke alarms should be tested each month and changed at least twice a year.

Keeping bedroom doors closed keeps the hot, black, icky smoke out of the room.

Each family should have and practice a Home Escape Plan. Most school age children can tell you what happens when the fire alarms go off at their school, but cannot tell you what happens if the fire alarm goes off at home.

### **REALITY CHECK**

Crockpot fires are very rare, however when an appliance of any size or type starts to malfunction have it repaired or replaced. It is good practice to unplug small appliance when they are not being use, this includes appliances that have a light that indicates if they are on or not. Power is being used by the appliance to keep the indication light on. Unattended cooking is still the number one cause of house fires in the State of Minnesota.

Real smoke is hot, black, icky and filled with toxic gases including Carbon monoxide. You cannot see, breath, or survive standing up in a fire. You have to crawl low under the hot, black, icky smoke.

In reality Jack should have been overcome with the smoke before he left the house the first time.

The mattress would not have protected him for the heat or smoke and would have caught on fire.

Fire does not spread by flames moving across the floor, heat spreads fire, through vents, ducts, open doors, and holes in walls and ceilings.

Once out stay out. If your family knows how to prevent fires, practices a Home Escape Plan, and has working smoke alarms everyone including the dog should have time to get out and stay out.

There were several other errors made in the episode so please keep in mind the show was for entertainment purposes not a documentary on fire safety.

Revised: June 21, 2018