Example Activities for Falls Prevention Awareness Day

State Level

- Hold a press conference with legislators or other champions to announce
 Falls Prevention Awareness Day
- Celebrate the day by having older adults converge on the state capitol
- Provide testimony to policymakers

Community Level

- Create a Falls Prevention display showing safety items
- Host a Falls Prevention Discussion Group
- Organize a walk (possibly with a neighborhood walking group)
 - Conduct a walkability audit
 - Make/carry signs
 - o Write a slogan or chant to say while walking
 - Write down areas where sidewalks are cracked or other hazards exist and send the list to Public Works
- Offer a Tai Chi demonstration
- Ask your physical activity leaders to incorporate falls prevention information into their sessions
- Offer vision exams
- Offer Balance and Gait testing
- Offer blood pressure checks
- Have a podiatrist come and offer foot exams
- Have a Physical Therapist come and talk about proper use of assistive devices
- Ask a local pharmacist to offer medication reviews at your location
- Consider giving out:
 - Nightlights
 - Non-skid strips for bathtubs and showers
 - Double-sided tape for throw rugs
 - Textured tread tape for stairs
 - Garbage bags for clutter removal
- Contact any media connections you have and let them know about Falls
 Prevention Awareness Week and what you're doing

- Organize falls prevention workshops
- Set up tables or displays with falls prevention information:
 - where to exercise locally
 - o benefits of physical activity
- Distribute CDC Falls Prevention brochures:
 - What You Can Do To Prevent Falls
 - o Home Falls Prevention Checklist
- Distribute Washington State's <u>Stay Active and Independent for Life</u> information guides
- Have older adults complete their own falls risk assessment
 - o Example from Washington State: My Falls Free Plan
 - Checklist of fall risks for older adults to complete
 - Health care provider instructions for completion and use of checklist
- Hold exercise demonstrations, and provide information and resources
- Distribute vision impairment information and resources
- Conduct eyewear cleaning

See http://www.stopfalls.org/FPweek/service providers.shtml for additional ideas.

