

NEWS RELEASE

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SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE FIRE SAFETY BLITZ MARKS ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

SUFFOLK, VA (February 5, 2016) Suffolk Fire & Rescue is celebrating the one year anniversary of the kickoff of their Fire Safety Blitz Program. The program seeks to educate a community on fire safety immediately after a fire occurs in the immediate area.

Over the past year, Suffolk Fire & Rescue has performed a total of 18 Fire Safety Blitz events providing fire safety information to over 300 citizens in the process. A total of 188 door hangers were left behind, 121 citizen contacts were made (including the providing of yardsticks, postcards and EMS passport pamphlets along with inspection of smoke detectors), and 41 smoke detectors were installed.

The goal of the program is, within 24 hours of a fire, to have Suffolk Fire & Rescue personnel return to a neighborhood and go door-to-door to promote fire safety in a two block radius out from the structure that suffered the fire. The hope is that the Fire Safety Blitz Program will prevent the next fire from occurring in that community by bringing fresh information and resources to the area. Residents are personally notified

of the recent fire and provided fire prevention materials. Those materials include a yard stick to help signify the need for a three foot clearance around heating items, a door hanger if residents are not at home at the time of the visit, and a two-sided postcard with helpful fire safety tips and contact information for City of Suffolk public safety offices.

Additionally, smoke detectors are available as part of the program and installed on the spot if needed. The Suffolk Fire Prevention Bureau wants to ensure every home in the City has working smoke detectors. During the visits residents are asked if they have a working device or if their current detector is over ten years old. Fire & Rescue personnel are then available to properly install a free working smoke detector or replace an aging one.

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