

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE FIRE SAFETY BLITZ PROGRAM LAUNCHES

SUFFOLK, VA (January 23, 2015) When a fire strikes a residence or business, the effects can be felt throughout the immediate area. The signs of the fire and recovery serve as reminders that fire safety needs to be everyone's mission. The Suffolk Fire & Rescue Department has kicked off their Fire Safety Blitz Program with the objective of educating a community on fire safety immediately after a fire occurs.

The goal of the program is, within 24 hours of a fire, to have Suffolk Fire & Rescue personnel returning to a neighborhood and going 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 will be notified of the recent fire and provided fire prevention materials. Those materials will 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, free smoke detectors will be available and installed on the spot if needed. The goal of Suffolk Fire & Rescue is to ensure that every home in the City has working smoke detectors. During the door to door visits residents will be asked if they have a working device or if their current detector is over ten years old. Suffolk Fire & Rescue personnel will be available to properly install a working smoke detector or replace an aging one.

Suffolk Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Cedric Scott notes, “The Fire Safety Blitz Program is a new Departmental Initiative which aligns itself with one of City Council’s goals to promote citizen engagement. The program will be a key part in our public outreach and education so that we can continue to keep the City of Suffolk as safe as possible. We believe that reaching out to affected communities immediately after a fire will turn a negative into a positive and prevent future tragedies from happening.”

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