1. Experience from Home Visits in 29 communities

2. Firefighter Attitudes Toward Prevention

Philip Schaneman, President, TriData Division, System Planning Corporation
Communities That Did Home Visits

**WSAFM FY2008**
- Dallas, TX
- Portland, OR
- Tucson, AZ
- Vancouver, WA
- Wilmington, NC

**IFE FY2009**
- Amherst, MA + 4 smaller
- Lexington, KY
- Madison, WI
- Philadelphia, PA

**WSAFM FY2011**
- Bellevue, WA
- Chelan Fire District 5, WA
- Lake Stevens, WA
- Redmond, WA
- Snohomish, WA

**WSAFM FY2012**
- Chelan Fire District 5, WA
- Chelan Fire District 7, WA
- East Pierce, WA
- West Pierce, WA
- Kitsap, WA
- Spokane, WA

**IFE FY2010**
- Alexandria, VA
- Cleveland, OH
- Washington, DC Columbia
- Palm Beach County, FL
- Rosemount, MN
Homes Visited

- Homes visited: 21,000
- Homes entered: 14,000
- People in homes entered: 33,000
- Homes with demographic risk factor (elderly, young children, smokers, disabilities): 67%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation Found</th>
<th>Yearly Range</th>
<th>Grand Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homes with no working smoke alarm</td>
<td>22-51%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoke alarms not working</td>
<td>19-35%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes with no escape plan</td>
<td>28-63%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Actions Taken

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yearly Range</th>
<th>Five Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alarms installed</td>
<td>2,500-14,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Av. number installed per home</td>
<td>2.2-5.1</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes given instruction on</td>
<td>73-91%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maintaining smoke alarms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes given written safety</td>
<td>67-86%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>materials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Results of the Visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yearly Range</th>
<th>Grand Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homes with working smoke alarms</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. number of working alarms per home</td>
<td>3.6-4.4</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homes meeting code for alarms</td>
<td>83-97%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Going Forward

• Institutionalize concept of home visits
• Already proven internationally, but need to evaluate results in U.S.
  – Reported fires
  – Casualties
    [We have addresses of 30,000 homes visited and public education topics addressed]
• Convince firefighters to help with home safety visits; can’t do with prevention staff alone
National Survey: Firefighter Attitudes Toward Prevention

• Respondents
  – 600 firefighters
  – 173 communities in 42 states
  – All sizes of departments
  – 87% respondents in operations

• Method for surveying
  – Request and link to on-line questionnaire disseminated by IFE, WSAFM, NVFC article, others
  – Part self-selected, part asked to respond
Firefighter Experience in Prevention

• 88% participated in inspections. Of these:
  – 80% businesses/institutions
  – 64% schools
  – 75% single family homes (Whaaat?)

• 97% participated in public education. Of these:
  – 94% schools
  – 85% station visits
  – 29% single family homes

• Ice has been broken for firefighters doing home visits.
Firefighter Attitudes: Prevention in General

- 98%: prevention important for department to do
- 58%: department should do more prevention
- 39%: about right level of prevention now
- Only 2%: do less prevention
Firefighter Attitudes: Home Safety Visits

- 63%: departments should do home safety visits
- 77%: willing to do home safety visits themselves

Top reasons for being willing:
- Good public relations 95%
- Increase value of firefighters to community 85%
- Reduce civilian casualties 80%
- Reduce injuries to firefighters 71%
Firefighter Attitudes (continued)

• Top reasons for not willing to do visits, or not sure:
  – Too much to do 61%
  – Fear of liability 43%
  – Not trained to do 18%
  – Concerned about personal safety 11%

• Write-ins
  – “People’s privacy should be respected.”
  – “Step too far for government unless requested.”
Going Forward

• Collect broader data:
  – Get larger, more random sample
  – Do analysis by state, population, volunteers, ...

• Develop strategy to overcome FF objections:
  – Explain that households have to allow entry
  – Show that risk is low (liability, FF injuries)
  – Teach how to do visits
  – Get fire service leadership to think strategically about workday priorities (over the week, over the year)
Contact Information

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