Developing a Comprehensive Prevention Program

Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department

Rebecca Booker:  bbooker@sbmfire.com
Connie Forster:  cforster@sbmfire.com
www.sbmfire.com  763-767-4003
Program Goals:
Code Enforcement, Education, Investigation

- Reduce injuries
- Reduce fire loss
- Reduce call volume
- Maintain volunteer status
More Goals:

- School programming
- Juvenile fire setter intervention
- Home surveys
- Inspect commercial properties
- Investigate all fires
Formative Evaluation

- Focus groups
  - Homes
  - Educators
- Comprehensive review by stake holders
- Incident data analysis
Program Description

- Homes
  - Collaborative effort: crime, fire, public health
  - Different surveys for different homes

- Juvenile fire setter intervention
  - County program

- School Program
  - Skill building
  - Grad standards
Program Impact

- Average of 3 behavior change during home surveys
- Knowledge tests indicate knowledge gain in schools and juvenile program
- Attitude change of department
- Observational studies show higher helmet usage
28% decline in call volume since 1999 during 18% population growth
Maintain lowest cost for fire service per capita in MN
Less than 1 FF injury a year and minor if occurs, minor fire injuries to civilians
Average over 200 home surveys/year
School programming in all schools
Low rate of juvenile recidivism
Juvenile set fire are decreasing
100 child seats checked/year
Over 600 helmets sold each year
Lessons Learned:

- Build relationships
- Involve everyone
- Offer incentives
- Keep evaluating
- Be flexible
- Hire good people
- Market programs
- Don’t give up!
Focusing on Fire Prevention for the Future

Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View Fire Department
Formative Evaluation

- Learned from: USFA, Tri-Data report, CDC, NFPA-1452 Home Dwelling checks, 2010 Home Structure Fires-NFPA,
- SBM FD- 10 year analysis with home safety surveys
- 3 UK Fire Brigades- changes in fires in 4 years
- US-92% of our fire deaths are in the home
- Target residential homes
- Firefighters will be trained to do checks based on NFPA 1452
Goals and Objectives for Future Programming

- Decrease fire, property loss and fire deaths in homes
- The fire service will develop national indicators of which success will be measured by
- Make home safety checks a standard program in the fire service
- The fire service will develop a method of collecting, analyzing and disseminating data collected from completed home checks
Process Evaluation

- Use model of excellence that already exists from the UK: Risk Assessments
- Assessments will be assigned point values
- Advocates (mobility, arson, youth, sight/hard of hearing, multi-cultural, elders) will come back to mitigate high risk homes
- Community partnerships will be developed
- Commercial properties will be self assessed
**Impact**

- Risky behaviors are identified and simple solutions given
- Increased budget from commercial code inspections to home checks
- Residents will be afforded the knowledge of firefighter expertise
- Firefighters will be engaged in the community they protect
- Fire service will go from being reactive to proactive
Outcome Evaluation

- Decreased fires, deaths, property loss
- Change the culture of fire protection
- Decrease the fire service budget without loss of jobs or protection levels
- Decrease firefighter deaths fighting fires in residential property
- SBM’s 10 year analysis with home safety program
For the fire service to focus on the home is to address the fire problem of America and protect ....so they won’t need us.