



**Presentation Title: The Adventures of Reminder Man and Other Ways to Battle the Evil Forces of Fire**

**Presented by: Dean Hunt, Fire Marshal, Layton City Fire Department, 530 N 2200 W, Layton Utah 84041  
dhunt@laytoncity.org 801-336-3940**

**I. Program/Project Overview:**

- We are a “Full Service Prevention Program
- We rarely have fires in commercial buildings. Our fire problem is in residential buildings
- Needed to revive education in the schools program
- The Adventures of Reminder Man developed by High School Fire Corps
- Activity Book designed to be taken home with parts to be completed together with their family
- Partnership with U. S. Forest Service, Local businesses, Standard Examiner

**II. Formative Evaluation – Planning**

- Needs assessment - reviewed Juvenile Firesetter records. 71% increase in JFS Intervention requests over a 4 year period for children aged 6 – 12 (elementary school age)
- The main goal for this new program is to Affect change in the elementary age children throughout the city and reduce the number of JFS Intervention referrals from the schools and parents.
- The objectives for this program include
  - Provide a program that is informational and entertaining
  - Provide a program that will be taken home and families can learn together
  - Provide a program that includes both fire and injury prevention
  - Develop a program that will span five years allowing children to learn new information each year in elementary school

**III. Process Evaluation – Implementation**

- Recruited the impact teams from the two high schools as Fire Corps members
- With our Fire Prevention Specialist, students wrote a script around characters they developed (Reminder Man, the hero and Phoebe Fire, the villain) and they prepared props for the presentations.
- Schools were contacted to schedule assemblies and presentations were made in 15 of the 16 schools
- Department Engine crews were scheduled to be present for the last 10 – 15 minutes to reinforce what the Fire Corps Taught them.
- Scripts were evaluated by professional educators to ensure the program was age appropriate

- Dress rehearsals were attended by department members to ensure topics were in accordance with public education standards.

#### **IV. Impact Evaluation – Short Term Results**

- After each presentation we e-mailed an evaluation survey using Survey Monkey to each teacher in the schools to evaluate the program
- Responses' back from the teachers were mostly positive but we did learn some things from them
  - After first year we learned that the 6<sup>th</sup> graders were a little too old for this type of program
  - We also learned that it was difficult to reach the Kindergarten classes due to their schedule not matching the Fire Corps Students schedule.
  - We piloted a Junior Fire Corps program this year taught by 6<sup>th</sup> graders to the kindergarten, Head Start and Pre-schools.
- The one school that had been holding out and not allowing us to schedule, has this year allowed us to teach in their school due to peer pressure from the other principals who support this program in the area.
- Received numerous phone calls from parents commenting on the program and how they worked on the activities together.
- Reminder Man is becoming a Hero in the children's eyes

#### **V. Outcome Evaluation – Long Term Results**

- Reviewed our JFS files for the past four years and have seen a 72 % decrease in the number of JFS Intervention referrals
- Reviewed the number of fire incidents in the city with an 18.5% decrease in fire incidents since beginning this program

#### **Recommendations for others:**

- Program coordinators are passionate
- Secure High School Administration support

#### **Conclusions:**

It is hard to pinpoint exactly whether this program was reason for the 18.5% decrease in fire incidents but it is also hard to argue that it isn't. Our statistics showed a slow incline in the number of fires occurring each year prior to beginning this program and beginning in the year that we began this program we show a decline in the number of fires that we are called to respond to. The success of this program is due in part to our being a "Full Service Prevention Program" It takes a combination of code enforcement, plans reviews, Fire Investigations, Juvenile Firesetter Interventions, and Public Education Programs to succeed and affect changes in Fire and Life Safety Behaviors.