Community Risk Reduction – Hagerstown, Maryland

Mike Weller
Public Education Officer
Experience with Hagerstown

1981 – 1988 Firefighter

Prevention Officer 1988 - present

Population: 40K
Hub City’s Prime (1950 – 1965)
Same as Other Cities

Stable Neighborhoods

Challenging Neighborhoods
People Are People
Everywhere...
GOT SMOKE ALARMS?

FREE ALARMS

301-739-8577
Ext 415

DO THEY WORK?

OUR ALARMS NEVER NEED BATTERIES
GOT SMOKE ALARMS? DO THEY WORK?

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www.hagerstown.com
Residential Sprinklers ROCK!
Five Step Planning Process (circa 1988)

- Organizational support
- Local reliable data (baselines)
- Prioritize problems
- Risk sequencing
- ID potential solutions
- Intervention strategy
- All five E’s
- Evaluation

We return to formative evaluation often
Integrated Interventions
Grand Plan – *Refine* HFD Focus

- School Programs
- Neighborhood Programs
- Smoke Alarms
- Reality Experiences
- Property Owner Work
- Codes and Standards
- Data-driven initiatives
Tracking Risk – Census Tracts
Primary-Age Programs
Children’s Safety Village
Community-Based Work
Neighborhood Canvassing Work
Firefighters are Firefighters Everywhere
Overcome Inertia – They’re Fine
Overall Evaluation Stats - Hagerstown

- Outreach > 20K
- Impact: CSV 50%
- Smoke Alarms: 98%
- Outcome: 60% < Fire

But...High risk groups will always be an issue
JFS Rates in Hagerstown

- Age 7 – 12 down 90%
- Age 13 – 17 down 20%
- Age 3 – 6 no changes
- Multiple “close calls”