

Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority

Clifford Scott, Executive Director

YMHA has over 75 years of experience in the areas of development and management of housing and programs.

Annual Budget of \$36 Million

Manages 1,599 Public Housing Units

Administers 2,213 Housing Choice Vouchers

The Problem

Unattended Cooking Fires

- Unattended cooking fires caused damage.
- The building system fire alarm would activate and required evacuation.
- Weekly fire alarms occurred and resident who are disabled had to stay in the stairwell and others were exposed to the elements outside until all clear.
- Residents who refused to leave their units faced possible eviction.
- YMHA's Central Office is located at a senior building and interrupted 46 staffer members who were required to leave the building until all clear.
- Fire department responds in full force to senior buildings.

How YMHA solved it's unattended cooking fire problem?



The Solution

- Secure funds to purchase equipment and provide installation training.
- Reduced the incidents of unattended cooking fires through the use of a temperature regulating engineering solution (Safe-t-element).
- Increased awareness of the dangers of unattended cooking fires through education sessions in conjunction with the local fire department.
- Increased awareness of the dangers of ignoring fire alarms through education sessions and fire drills in conjunction with the local fire department.
- To preserve the quality of life for YMHA residents through safety measures including fire safety exemplifies our goal to provide clean, safe, and affordable housing.

The Process

Implementation

- The Safe-t-element system was displayed by a vendor at a HUD conference and information on how to apply for a fire prevention grant was secured
- A Grant was prepared and submitted to FEMA for a fire prevention grant. YMHA was successful recipient of a \$74,800.00 award.
- As a sole source provider, a proposal was requested from Pioneering Technology to purchase 374 stovetop kits and to provide installation and technical assistance to YMHA maintenance staff.
- Safety-t-element is a unique solution in that it actually helps prevent a cooking fire from happening. Other technologies we found through research either help to suppress a fire or merely alert you to the fire.
- Provided education sessions on safe cooking practices and conducted practice fire drills.

Installation



The Challenges

Issues

- Training maintenance staff for installation.
- To outsource the installation would reduce the number of units.
- Time frame and scheduling.
- Assessing the condition of current stoves.
- Address resident concerns with cooking time.

Results

Impact

- One year no unattended stove top cooking fires.
- One year no false alarms from unattended cooking fires.
- We had one unattended cooking oven fire .
- We have improved the safety for all of our residents in our senior buildings by reducing the fires and evacuations due to these incidents.