



# Iowa State Fire Marshal

## **SMOKE DETECTOR PROJECT**

*"Smoke Detectors Save Lives"*

September 7, 2010

Dear School Teachers and Administrators,

On October 4th of this year, State Fire Marshal Ray Reynolds will formally announce the "100 Years – 100%" campaign. This activity, in partnership with the Iowa Department of Education, seeks to check for and install at least two working smoke detectors in the homes of Iowa school children grades K-6 by the end of calendar year 2011.

The State Fire Marshal cannot do this alone. We need your help. Beginning this fall during Parent-Teacher conferences, we are asking for your assistance in gathering information related to the need for smoke detectors. This can be accomplished using a simple survey instrument (see the attached survey instrument and document outlining the ways to assist). Provide this survey instrument to the parents, and then collect them. This is the first step in this major undertaking. Local fire departments will be working with their school districts to collect these survey instruments, and to providing support and encouragement.

The Fire Service Training Bureau, a unit within the State Fire Marshal's office, will tabulate the need for smoke detectors, and coordinate the purchase and delivery of these life saving devices. Once these smoke detectors are delivered to local fire departments, the firefighters will start contacting parents over the next several months to set up installation times. We are encouraging fire departments to work with local civic groups to assist with this endeavor. Firefighters are also being encouraged to provide valuable fire prevention messages during this installation.

We hope you will be joining our team as we place this major effort into action. If you have any questions regarding this effort, please feel free to contact me at 888-469-2374 or [novak@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:novak@dps.state.ia.us). I personally thank you for your commitment to this very important project.

Yours in fire safety,

Randal E. Novak, Project Manager  
Fire Service Training Bureau  
3100 Fire Service Road  
Ames, IA 50011-3100



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The following activities can be done by school teachers and firefighters to support this project:

### **School Teachers and School Administrators:**

- Go to the home page of the State Fire Marshal Division at <http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/index.shtml> and click on Smoke Detector Project link for the forms. Download the Survey Instrument, and review prior to Parent-Teacher conferences.
- Discuss any questions with local fire department personnel.
- Administer the survey instrument during the Parent-Teacher conferences.
- Collect the completed survey instruments, and then coordinate with your local fire department to get them returned to the Fire Service Training Bureau.

### **Fire Chiefs and Firefighters:**

- Meet with local school teachers and administrators over the next few weeks (prior to the start of the Parent-Teacher conferences), to determine when local Parent-Teacher conferences will be held.
- Coordinate with your local school district to set up fire apparatus in front of elementary schools during Parent-Teacher conferences, encouraging parents to complete the survey instrument. This would be a great time to also provide fire prevention related information to parents.
- Coordinate with your local school district in the collection of the completed survey instruments, and return them to the Fire Service Training Bureau.

Once the survey instruments are returned to the Fire Service Training Bureau, the Bureau will tabulate the identified needs, and determine a schedule for the delivery of smoke detectors to local fire departments. Fire departments can go to the home page of the State Fire Marshal Division at <http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/index.shtml> and click on the Smoke Detector Project link to download the following forms and information:

- Smoke Detector Project – Release From Liability form
- Installation Checklist for Installer
- Smoke Detector Installation Report
- Various fire prevention brochures and other information

The Fire Service Training Bureau will coordinate the delivery of smoke detectors and batteries with local fire departments. Casey's General Stores will be delivering pallets of smoke detectors to a designated location within each county.



# Iowa State Fire Marshal SMOKE DETECTOR PROJECT

*In memory of Patrick and Tyler*



On Friday, January 22, 2010, firefighters in Clinton, Iowa, responded to a house fire in their community. It was a small fire, but the heat and smoke were powerful enough to take the lives of four people, including two brothers, Tyler Wade, 6, and Patrick Molitor, 3, and their mother and grandmother. Though the exact cause of the fire will likely never be determined, there is one thing investigators know: they never received the critical warning they needed to escape the home fire. The smoke detector on the second floor of the house was not working because the batteries had been removed.

As the 100 year anniversary of the Office of the State Fire Marshal approaches, it is the goal of the fire service to check for and install at least two working smoke detectors in 100% of the homes of Pre-K and elementary age students in the State of Iowa. Teams trained by the State Fire Marshal's Office will come to each home and install or replace your current smoke detectors with dual sensor smoke detectors. This "100 Years, 100 Percent" Smoke Detector Project is supported by donations and there is **NO COST** to participants.

Please help us make this possible by filling out this simple survey.

- Yes, I would like new or updated smoke detectors installed in the house or apartment in which my children and I reside.
- I want to keep my current smoke detectors but would like a free fire-safety inspection.
- Thank you, but I do not wish to participate.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip Code)

Primary Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* This project is carried out under the supervision of the State Fire Marshal's Office and is funded by various community organizations, businesses and private donations.*



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### Fire Prevention Facts

- You need to have at least one smoke detector on every level of your residence. Effective April 1, 2010 all new residential buildings need to be equipped with dual sensor smoke detectors. This also applies to existing smoke detectors that need to be replaced.
- Smoke detectors need to be replaced every 10 years! This also applies to smoke detectors that are hard-wired.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan with everyone in your residence.
- Keep combustible materials at least 3 feet away from ignition sources such as a stove, water heater, or fireplace.
- Install a carbon monoxide (CO) detector near the sleeping rooms in your residence. Follow the manufacturers recommendations for replacing CO detectors.
- Fire extinguishers in the home should be rated for Class ABC fires.
- Looking at building a new home? Install a residential fire sprinkler system. They are affordable, reliable, and provide the most effective home fire protection in conjunction with smoke detectors.
- To learn more, visit the State Fire Marshal webpage: [www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/](http://www.dps.state.ia.us/fm/)



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