

Department of Community Affairs

Division of Fire Safety

Office of the Director



TO: Fire Chiefs and Fire Officials
FROM: William Kramer, Jr. Acting Director/State Fire Marshal *WK Jr.*
DATE: January 7, 2015
SUBJECT: American Red Cross

The New Jersey Division of Fire Safety is partnering with the American Red Cross on their nationwide initiative to distribute and install smoke alarms. Attached is a letter from the North Jersey Regional Disaster Officer, Steven Sarinelli, announcing this program and inviting fire departments to participate.

As the vast majority of civilian fire fatalities occur in one and two-family dwellings, it is imperative that we work together to combat this problem. Therefore, I am respectfully requesting that every fire department and/or firefighter take some time to assist the Red Cross install these lifesaving smoke alarms in the neighborhoods you are sworn to protect.

Fire Chiefs are encouraged to get your department involved and individual firefighters are also welcome to participate. Please contact Mr. Sarinelli at the email or phone number at the bottom of his letter.

Together, we can make a difference.



Dear Brother Firefighters:

I am the Regional Disaster Officer of the American Red Cross's North Jersey Region. I am also a volunteer firefighter. As firefighters, we are well aware of the potential for serious injury or loss of life when an occupied residence catches fire. One of the most effective ways to reduce casualties in fires is to have functioning smoke alarms installed in the living areas of homes.

And, of course, if residents evacuate promptly, the savings in lives will include the lives of firefighters risking injury entering burning buildings to perform search and rescue operations.

Fortunately, the American Red Cross has a new national campaign to provide smoke alarms without charge, and install them in homes. As part of our preparedness initiative, we recognize that it is essential to maximize the number of smoke alarms installed in residences. We are focusing on those neighborhoods that are most at risk in order to have the maximum impact in terms of saving lives.

To support this program, volunteers from the Red Cross and other community partners will be going door-to-door offering free smoke alarm installation in homes that need them. Volunteers will also be distributing fire safety information and talking to families about what they can do now to be prepared should a fire break out in their home.

In order to perform the installations, many fire departments and individual firefighters are volunteering to assist the American Red Cross with installations. For this we are very grateful.

The American Red Cross welcomes the participation by fire departments and also individual firefighters to assist in installing these smoke alarms. I would like to invite all of my brother and sister firefighters to join in this initiative with the American Red Cross to install smoke alarms in high risk communities. To answer this call for help, please contact me.

Together we can save lives in New Jersey!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven A. Sarinelli".

Steven A. Sarinelli
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The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

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