

USFA Releases New Citizen Fire Fatality Information

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EMMITSBURG, MD. - The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has begun posting civilian fire fatality information on its Web site at:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov>

This information is gathered from news media through the Quick Response Program.

“We need to remind ourselves, and the public, that each day in this country people die needlessly in preventable residential fires,” said Acting Assistant Administrator Charlie Dickinson. “Hopefully, by adding this resource to our Web site, the fire service, media, and the general public will be more motivated to continue our Nation’s efforts to prevent deaths and injuries by fire.”

The Quick Response Program was started fifteen years ago as a tool for getting fire safety and prevention messages to local communities that suffered a fire fatality. USFA safety messages are sent to local media and fire departments in the vicinity of the fire fatality. This is a proactive effort by the USFA to reach citizens at a time when they are receptive to learning about protecting themselves and their families from a similar fate. USFA defines this as a “teachable moment.”

Through the daily process of scanning the Nation’s media for fatal fire incidents, USFA has developed a downloadable spreadsheet that aids in tracking deaths in almost “real time.” The Quick Response Program spreadsheet contains reports starting from January 1, 2007 and includes all fatalities reported through Quick Response. USFA estimates the Quick Response Program captures approximately one-third to one-half of the total number of residential fire fatalities that occur each year.

To view this new USFA Web site resource, go to:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov>

and locate the feature titled, “Fire Fatalities.” Click on the link titled “Details” and you will be taken to “Residential Fire Fatalities in the News.” Here you will find a running total of fire fatalities from across the Nation. Also on this page are the daily reports as provided to USFA. Near the bottom of the page, there is a link called “2007 Fire Fatalities as Provided through Quick Response.” From there you will be able to access the Excel file that identifies city, state, age of victim, and other pertinent information compiled from the reports.



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