



## COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION FACT SHEET #2

### MAIN RISK FACTORS

- ✓ People are a main cause of fire
- ✓ Without proper education, people often make a situation worse, rather than better
- ✓ Many children are home unsupervised in the afternoons while parents work
- ✓ The senior population is increasing
- ✓ Citizens are complacent – suffering from a “It won’t happen to me and my family” mindset

### STRATEGIES

- ✓ Establish the who, what, where and why of your community’s fire problem and risk
- ✓ Conduct a community risk analysis based on local data
- ✓ Examine quality of fire data – type of reports available, consistency in reporting
- ✓ Create a plan utilizing information gained in community risk analysis – target specific plan with resources aimed at high risk areas
- ✓ Implement lifelong learning plan for the community from toddlers to elderly population

### MOST EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

- ✓ Implementation of educational initiatives that connect – making sure to use the latest nationally recognized platforms and resources
- ✓ Tailor your presentations to the age and interests of your audience
- ✓ Make community education a year round initiative - national fire prevention week is not enough!



### EDUCATION OVERVIEW

The education component of your Community Risk Reduction plan is important for citizens and firefighters because it is the fire department and the public. It is important to recognize that education and fire prevention have a direct connection to fire fighter safety and survival.

Education provides information about community risks and offers an array prevention solutions ranging from individual behavioral change to higher technological interventions.

Education can take many forms. In addition to Fire Safety Week, school visits and public information booths, targeted information and strategies to address specific risks are equally important. Most departments do a good job with general public awareness activities, but have not yet taken the steps to address specific risks with the populations and the situations in which they occur. Moving to this next level of intervention, greatly increases the fire departments value to the community.

There are many excellent safety education programs available at no cost to your department. Once you have identified a specific risk (i.e. senior cooking or juvenile fire setting) you can start your education outreach efforts by using an already developed program.