



IABPFF • Climbing for Life • Fire Safety Campaign

The International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters Launches *Climbing for Life* Fire Safety Campaign for 2014

The International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters (IABPFF) is launching the *Climbing for Life* fire safety campaign. The campaign promotes the awareness and safe use of home fire escape ladders, smoke alarms and home escape planning. Young children, under the age of 14, are often afraid to descend a ladder as most children have a fear of heights. A fire in the home becomes a stressful situation and a child may become almost paralyzed with fear and refuse to descend the ladder. *Climbing for Life* promotes the regular practice of home escape plans; installation of residential smoke alarms, and safe climbing of appropriate home escape ladders.

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) reports, “More than 3,500 Americans die each year in fires, approximately 18,300 are injured.” Deaths resulting from failed emergency escapes are avoidable. The USFA believes that proper use of a smoke alarm and having a sound escape plan will greatly reduce fire deaths. An effective escape plan should include a secondary route that might be a window onto an adjacent roof or a collapsible ladder for escape from upper story windows. The collapsible ladder should be evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory.

It is reported that most homeowners believe they have between four and five minutes to escape from their homes once the smoke alarm sounds. The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) reports that the amount of time to escape is actually three minutes or less. Many homeowners and residents reportedly own a general purpose fire extinguisher while only a small number are reported to have a portable/collapsible escape ladder. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports over one-third (37%) of home fire deaths occur in homes without smoke alarms. A USFA 2008 report stated, “38% of all children killed in home fires in the United States were African American children.” Statistics compiled by the NFPA and USFA indicate African-Americans face a risk of fire deaths almost twice that of an individual of another race.

The “Climbing for Life” campaign will provide training on the safe use of home escape ladders and provide smoke alarms and home escape ladders to residents and homeowners that successfully complete the training and participate in a home fire escape planning. There is no cost for the training, smoke alarms or home escape ladders. Training, escape ladders and smoke alarms will be provided by local participating Chapters of the IABPFF. Special emphasis is placed on serving communities in Rochester (NY), Detroit (MI), Cleveland (OH), Gary (IN), Memphis (TN), Kansas City (MO) and New Haven (CT). All communities are welcome to participate.

For more information visit the IABPFF website at www.iabpff.org or contact the IABPFF Campaign Manager, T. Everett, at 786.229.6914.



International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters

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