

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Fire Services

Lifesavers- Young Heroes Proving the Student Awareness of Fire Education Program Works

20th Year of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program (2014-2015)

(14 Young Heroes in FY 15)

Amherst

◆ Clayton and Coleman Bowser

On Monday, November 3, 2014, 12-year-old Coleman Bowser and his brother Clayton were at home when a medical emergency occurred. During the emergency both brothers assisted each other and then called 9-1-1. Their parents were at a PTA conference and not available by phone. They remained calm until the fire department arrived. Captain John Ingram of the Amherst Fire Department believes Coleman and Clayton learned how to respond correctly to the emergency from the S.A.F.E. Program.

Arlington

◆ Bryanna Gallagher

On Thursday, May 7, 2015, 7-year-old Bryanna Gallagher and her mother were returning home when Bryanna noticed that something was wrong near her school. Bryanna alerted her mom. Her mother spotted the fire and called 9-1-1. The fire was located in a wooded area between a residential home and the school. Chief Robert Jefferson and Lieutenant Robert Paone of the Arlington Fire Department believe Bryanna learned to recognize an emergency from her participation in the Arlington S.A.F.E. program. Her persistence helped to save the school building and a residence from fire.

Hanover

◆ Helber Nunez

On Sunday, March 29, 2015, 6-year-old Helber Nunez was sleeping when he awoke to the smell of smoke in his bedroom. He quickly awoke his parents and told them of the emergency. The family exited their home safely and waited for the arrival of the fire department. Deputy Chief Barbara Stone stated that the fire caused heavy damage in the bedroom, the family was lucky that Helber notified them right away and they were able to exit their home safely. Deputy Chief Stone went on to say that she is proud of Helber "at such a young age his actions were truly life-saving."

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New Bedford

◆ Ermelinda Botelho Madeira

On Monday, December 8, 2014, 9-year-old Ermelinda Botelho Madeira alerted her bus driver that before leaving her house she smelled gas in her home, and her mom was still inside. The bus driver called 9-1-1 and when the Fire Department arrived they found an odor of gas inside and vented the house. Captain Brian Arruda said that Ermelinda learned of the dangers of natural gas in school from her S.A.F.E. Educators.

Paxton

◆ Matthew Clute

On Sunday, December 7, 2014, 10-year old Matthew Clute phoned 9-1-1 after his father had fallen from a ladder onto the driveway while working outside. Matthew remained calm while describing his father's injuries to the dispatcher. Matthew was able to verbally comfort his father during the time it took for the Fire Department to arrive. Chief Jay Conte and Captain Michael Pingitore of the Paxton Fire Department are very proud of the actions that Matthew demonstrated and that Matthew learned valuable lessons through his participation in the Paxton S.A.F.E. Program.

Phillipston

◆ Jewelianna Vaillancourt

On Friday, March 27, 2015, 10-year old Jewelianna Vaillancourt was at home when she saw her mother experiencing a medical emergency. She had the presence of mind to call 9-1-1 and provide the appropriate information to the dispatcher on duty and when the ambulance arrived she met with the EMT's. Phillipston Fire Chief Richard Stevens believe Jewelianna's quick actions resulted in her mother receiving timely medical care.

Raynham

◆ Geraldine Fleury

On Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 13-year-old Geraldine Fleury was home when she heard a smoke alarm activate. She investigated and discovered that there was a fire in her basement. She then went to the second floor to lead her four younger siblings out of the house. Once outside, she called 9-1-1 to report the fire. Captain LaCivita said that Raynham S.A.F.E. Educators were teaching fire safety lessons in the schools the week before. Fire Chief Januse believes that the lessons prepared Geraldine to perform these life-saving actions.

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Rockland

◆ Isabella “Izzi” Back

On the evening of Monday, January 5, 2015, a fire broke out on the third floor balcony of 32 Martha Drive. Due to high winds and the ignition of a dry Christmas tree, the fire grew very quickly and started to ignite the structural materials. At the time of the fire, 5 year-old Isabella “Izzi” Back was playing in her living room and noticed the fire. Izzi quickly ran to the kitchen and notified her mother of the fire. Her mother then called 9-1-1. As they were evacuating the building, Izzi told her mother that they had to make sure they exited the building, go across the street and remain there until the fire department arrived. Izzi’s mother was very impressed with her daughter’s actions and asked her how she knew what to do. Izzi stated that the “fireman” at school taught them what to do in case of a fire.

Southampton

◆ Emily & Kaley O’Donnell

On Tuesday, July 15, 2014, Emily and Kaley O’Donnell observed their mother experiencing a medical emergency. Both children were at home at the time of the emergency and 16-year-old Emily assisted her 13-year-old sister Kaley in calling 9-1-1 and providing the appropriate information. Police and Fire department responders arrived on scene and rendered life-saving care. Chief John Workman of the Southampton Fire Department credits the sisters for saving the life of their mother.

Swampscott

◆ Victoria Pierro

On Tuesday, December 2, 2014, 6-year-old Victoria Pierro was asleep when a fire occurred in her home. Victoria awoke and spotted flames from her window. She quickly alerted her father, a 12 year veteran of the Swampscott Fire Department, who was asleep in the next room. She informed him of the emergency and her father was able to lead his family to safety outside of their home. Her parents called 9-1-1 from a safe location and when the fire department arrived the house was fully involved. Victoria’s dad Anthony Pierro is very proud of his daughter’s actions and credits her for her presence of mind at such a young age to alert the family. He went on to say that “her actions were truly life-saving.

Waltham

◆ Jazmeen Gobbi

On Tuesday, January 20th, 2015, 11-year-old Jazmeen Gobbi witnessed her father needing medical assistance. Jazmeen performed CPR on her father in an effort to save his life. Lieutenant Garry Jackson of the Waltham Fire Department is proud of Jazmeen’s ability to put into action

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the training that she received in CPR. She was very courageous in her attempt to save her father's life.

Westwood

◆ Will Griffin

On Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 10-year-old Will Griffin observed his mother experiencing a medical emergency. Will was home at the time of the emergency He had the presence of mind to call 9-1-1 and provide the appropriate information to the dispatcher on duty. Police and Fire department responders arrived on scene and rendered life-saving care. Chief William Scoble and Lieutenant Andrew Mahan of the Westwood Fire Department believe that Will's quick action saved his mother's life.