

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Fire Services

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

22nd Year of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program (2016-2017) **354 *Young heroes and counting!!!***
(20 Young Heroes in FY 17)

Bedford

◆ Jacoby Garber

On Friday, December 23, 2016 9-year-old Jacoby Garber was at home with his father when the smoke alarms sounded. Jacoby and his dad (Michael) investigated and discovered a fire in the garage which is attached to the house. Dad attempted to put the fire out and Jacoby immediately went to alert his mother. Jacoby called 9-1-1, calmly provided the dispatcher with his name, address, and type of emergency (just like he was taught by the Bedford SAFE Educators in school). When the fire department arrived they found the family outside and the fire fighters were able to confine the fire to the garage. Chief David Grunes credits the S.A.F.E. program for teaching Jacoby how to respond in an emergency.

Bellingham

◆ Megan Smith

On Sunday, June 4, 2017, 8-year-old Megan Smith was out shopping with her grandmother when her grandmother suddenly experienced a medical emergency. Megan recognized that she was in need of help and immediately went to the service desk to inform an adult. Megan was taught by S.A.F.E. Educators how to report an emergency when she was in school and she knew that she could help. Megan told the employee that her grandmother was in need of assistance and to call 9-1-1. When the fire department arrived they rendered medical care and transport to the hospital. Chief Steven Gentile and Firefighter Brad Kwatcher of the Bellingham Fire Department credit Megan's actions with helping to aid her grandmother in making a full recovery.

Georgetown

◆ Maya Sanderson, Mackenzie Sanderson, Maisie Sanderson

On Friday, August 26, 2016, 13-year-old Maya Sanderson and her two sisters Mackenzie (age 11), and Maisie (age 5) were at home when they smelled smoke. They informed their mother and she found no traces of smoke or fire. Over the course of the next hour the children kept insisting that they smelled smoke. Mom investigated further and found smoke coming from the outside wall of the house. Mom called 9-1-1 and the girls assisted her in evacuating everyone including the pets from their home. When

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the fire department arrived they were able to quickly extinguish the fire. Deputy Chief Rusty Ricker acknowledges the children's persistence resulted in saving their home from further damage from fire.

Holden

◆ Maeve Lowe

On Tuesday, January 17, 2017, 15-year-old Maeve Lowe arrived home and upon opening her front door she found her house full of smoke. She courageously rescued her dog from its crate just inside the door and then ran to the neighbor's house and called 9-1-1. Maeve remembered that she needed to meet her younger brother and sister at the bus stop and went to get them. When the fire department arrived they found one bedroom fully engulfed in flames. Chief John Chandler III of the Holden Fire Department stated that due to Maeve's courage and quick thinking the fire was kept to one bedroom and congratulates her for taking action.

Hopedale

◆ Olivia Braga

On Thursday, March 9, 2017, 5-year-old Olivia Braga was at home when her grandmother suddenly experienced a medical emergency. Olivia recognized that she was in need of help and immediately activated her grandmothers LifeAlert button. Olivia ran to the next room and told her mother. Her mother called 9-1-1 and when the fire department arrived they rendered medical care and transport to the hospital. Chief Thomas Daige of the Hopedale Fire Department acknowledges that Olivia's quick actions with helping to aid her grandmother will help her make a full recovery.

Marshfield

◆ Brice Bolger

On Friday, December 9, 2016, 7-year-old Brice Bolger was at home with his family. His parents lit their wood stove for the first time for the season and then went upstairs. Several minutes later Brice saw fire coming from the top of the stove and he immediately alerted his parents. The smoke alarms began to sound and while his parents attended to the fire Brice calmly led his older brother and their two dogs outside to safety. Brice's parents are so proud of how calmly he reacted. Chief William Hocking of the Marshfield Fire Department is proud of Brice's quick action.

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Maynard

◆ Silas Marchesiani

On Wednesday, June 14, 2017, 9-year-old Silas Marchesiani was at home when a fire broke out in a second floor apartment in the building where he lives. At the time of the fire the buildings fire alarm system was not working and there were no operating smoke alarms in the common areas or the apartments. Silas became aware of the fire and woke his mother; then he proceeded to wake the other occupants of the building by knocking on doors and yelling there was a fire and everyone needed to get out. Chief Anthony Stowers of the Maynard Fire Department credits Silas' quick thinking and heroic actions with saving the lives of the occupants of the building.

Middleborough

◆ Michael O'Brien

On Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 8-year-old Michael O'Brien was at home when he witnessed his mother experiencing a medical emergency. Michael immediately called 9-1-1 and calmly spoke with the dispatcher. He never left his mother's side until help arrived from the fire department and private ambulance company. Chief Lance Benjamino and Lieutenant Laurence Fahey of the Middleborough Fire Department agree that Michael's quick thinking to call 9-1-1 was instrumental in helping to save his mother.

Middleborough

◆ Hunter Robinson

On Sunday, January 8, 2017, 11-year-old Hunter Robinson was at home when he witnessed fire coming from the oven. Hunter immediately called 9-1-1 and calmly spoke with the dispatcher. The fire fighters that received the call that day remembered how calmly he spoke, providing his address and the necessary information regarding the type of emergency. Firefighters arrived in time to hold the fire to just the stove. Chief Lance Benjamino of the Middleborough Fire Department credits the S.A.F.E. program for teaching Hunter to remain calm in calling 9-1-1.

Rockland

◆ Ariana Medina

On Saturday, April 1, 2017, a fire related incident occurred at the home of 7-year-old Arianna Medina. A pellet stove malfunctioned in her home causing the smoke alarms to sound and to warn her aunt who lives in the same house. Two months prior to this incident Ariana received fire safety education in the

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first grade, she listened to her S.A.F.E. Educator and with her grandmother's help she checked each of the smoke alarms in her home. Her grandmother found that four of the alarms were not functioning properly and replaced them with new ones. Chief Scott Duffy of the Rockland Fire Department is proud that Arianna helped to save her aunt and her home from fire.

Rutland

◆ Kailyn McHugh

On Monday, September 12, 2016, 9-year-old Kailyn McHugh was at home when her mother experienced a medical emergency. Kailyn's mother called 9-1-1 but was having trouble speaking with the dispatcher. Kailyn immediately took over, remained calm, and answered all of the dispatcher's questions. Acting Fire Chief Seth Knipe of the Rutland Fire Department credits Kailyn with saving her mother's life.

Shrewsbury

◆ Bryce Babigian

On Tuesday, December 10, 2016, 4-year-old Bryce Babigian was at home asleep in his bed when he was suddenly awakened by the smell of smoke. He quickly ran to his parents' bedroom and told his mother. While Bryce's mother and grandfather tried to find the source of the smell Bryce told his mother to call 9-1-1 and then went to help his 3-year-old sister get dressed and ready to leave the house. Bryce's grandfather found heavy smoke in the attic and the family quickly exited the house. When the fire department arrived they found the family at their meeting place outside and the fire fighters were able to confine the fire to the attic. Chief James Vuona believes that Bryce's actions ensured the safety of his family and saved the house from further damage.

Sterling

◆ Maive Keneally

On Wednesday, August 10, 2016, 10-year-old Maive Keneally was at home sleeping when a fire broke out in the attached garage. Maive awoke to the smell of smoke and quickly alerted her family so they could get out safely. Once everyone exited safely, Maive's mother called 9-1-1. When the fire department arrived they were able to confine the fire to the attached garage. Maive's quick actions ensured the safety of her family and saving the house from further damage.

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Templeton

◆ Ayla King

On Sunday, April 23, 2017, 8-year-old Ayla King was at home watching TV and keeping an eye on her younger sister Ariya (4) and brother Danny (8 months), while their father was upstairs taking a shower. After hearing a loud bang outside Ayla and her sister went out to investigate and discovered that the shed was on fire. They quickly ran back inside to tell their father. Ayla's dad told her to call 9-1-1. After Ayla called 9-1-1 she gave the phone to her dad to speak with the dispatcher. Ayla helped her dad take her younger siblings outside to their neighbor's house where they found refuge until the fire department arrived to put out the fire. Acting Chief Denis Hamel and Firefighter Rebecca Hicks of the Templeton Fire Department credit Ayla's quick actions with ensuring the safety of her family.

Townsend/Fitchburg

◆ Christopher Bjornson and Anthony LeFancois

On October 27, 2016, 12-year-old Christopher Bjornson and 16-year-old Anthony LeFancois were on their way back home after attending their weekly Boy Scout troop meeting when they witnessed a person struck by a motor vehicle. The Boys quickly went into action and helped by rendering first aid until the arrival of EMS responders from the Police and Fire Departments. Luckily the troop meeting that they had just left incorporated their yearly first aid training. Chief Mark Boynton of the Townsend Fire Department credits the boys with saving a life and is proud of their heroic actions.

Turners Falls

◆ Daniel Widmer

On Tuesday, September 27, 2016, 8-year-old Daniel Widmer was at home sleeping when he suddenly awoke and saw a glow of fire outside of his bedroom. Daniel quickly alerted his family and together they were able to get out of the house safely, including the family pet (dog). Once outside they gathered at the meeting place across the street. When the fire department arrived they were able to control the fire and save the house from further damage. Chief John Zellman believes that Daniel's actions saved the lives of his family.

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Wayland

◆ Anastasia Vavrick

On Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 11-year-old Anastasia Vavrick was at home asleep in her bedroom when she was awakened to the smell of smoke. Anastasia woke her mother, she investigated and found a fire on the rear deck of their house and the fire was starting to travel up the back of the house. Anastasia quickly got her brother and they went outside while their mother called 9-1-1. When the fire department arrived they were able to contain the fire to the rear of the house and the deck. Upon further investigation, the smoke alarms in the house were found to be outdated and in need of replacement. Chief David Houghton of the Wayland Fire Department acknowledges that Anastasia's actions resulted in saving the lives of her family as well as preventing her house from further damage from fire.

Webster

◆ Zane Ferri

On Monday, September 19, 2016, 10-year-old Zane Ferri was at school when he noticed two children lighting paper towels on fire with a lighter in the boy's room. Zane immediately informed a teacher who went to investigate and found paper towels smoldering in the sink and trash can. The teacher was able to extinguish the fires. During the investigation that followed Zane helped to identify the youths involved. Zane's actions prevented a larger fire in