

St. Lucie County Fire District News Release



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St. Lucie County Fire District and 211 Call Center Launch Major Smoke Detector Program

***Federal Grant allows Fire District to install over
3200 smoke detectors in St. Lucie County residence***

St. Lucie County, FL – Today the St. Lucie County Fire District, along with the 211 Call Center launched a program to install 3206 smoke detectors in St. Lucie County residences. The program is funded by a Federal Grant.

St. Lucie County residents can call the 211 Call Center to arrange for a smoke detector. The Call Center will gather information from the resident and then pass it on to the Fire District. Firefighters will arrange a time to meet the resident and install the smoke detector.

In addition, 200 smoke detectors for the hearing impaired will be available and the Call Center will also take calls for those smoke detectors. Those detectors for the hearing impaired will need to be installed by a licensed electrician.

“We have had several recent fires in which a working smoke detector would have made the difference,” explained Deputy Chief Brian Blizzard. “We are confident that this program will save lives.”

St. Lucie County firefighters responded to a house fire on February 18, which killed a grandmother, and severely injured a grandfather and grandson. On April 24, firefighters

responded to another house fire in which two residents suffered smoke inhalation and both had to be transported to a Burn Center because of their injuries.

“211 is proud to collaborate with St. Lucie County Fire District to make smoke detectors accessible to the citizens of St. Lucie County,” explained Susan Buza, Executive Director for the 211 Call Center. “Using the 211 24-hour telephone community help line as the access point will make it easy for residents.”

In 2011, (the most recent data available) 132 civilians died from fire related incidents in Florida; 73% of those were in residential fires. In addition, statewide, 1003 civilians were injured in fires, with 839 of those being in residential fires.

The smoke detectors are operated by a 10-year lithium battery, so residents will not have to remember to replace batteries every year. They also have a “hush” feature so residents will be able to temporarily turn off the smoke detector if there is an accidental activation.



Right to left: Susan Buza, Executive Director for the 211 Call Center; Rick Kottler, Executive Director of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the Treasure Coast; Rev. Hugh Curran, Pastor of the Treasure Coast Deaf Church; and Deputy Chief Brian Blizzard, St. Lucie County Fire District among some of the 3000 smoke detectors being installed by St. Lucie County Fire District. St. Lucie County residents can call 2-1-1 to arrange for a smoke detector. In addition there are 200 smoke detectors for the hearing impaired.