



City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

New Bedford Fire Department to Host Fire Safety & Prevention Open House

S.A.F.E. Program Designed Teach Families Fire Safety and Prevention Skills

New Bedford, Massachusetts—The New Bedford Fire Department invites local families to attend a free open house at Fire Station 2 in Downtown New Bedford (868 Pleasant Street) on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 from 4:00—7:00 P.M. The Open House is part of the Fire Department's S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) Program aimed at teaching area families about fire safety and prevention best practices.

The Department's open house also coincides with National Fire Prevention Week. The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) theme for the 2016 Fire Prevention Week campaign is "Don't Wait: Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years." Open House attendees will also receive safety tips including "Stop, Drop and Roll," how to plan escape routes and how to crawl safely through a smoke-filled room. In addition, the New Bedford Fire Department's S.A.F.E. Program educators will provide free pizza and children's fire safety materials at the event. Firefighters from the New Bedford Fire Department S.A.F.E. Program will be on hand to answer questions and guide families through the fire station.

"It is crucial that New Bedford residents are well-prepared, not only with fire safety and prevention information, but also with lifesaving information on how to react in the event of a fire. We invite everyone to attend our Open House," said Fire Chief Michael Gomes.

For the past 24 years, firefighters from the New Bedford Fire Department have been teaching fire safety to all kindergarteners and third graders in the New Bedford Public Schools district in conjunction with the Massachusetts S.A.F.E. Program. Since its inception, SAFE program has been credited with helping to reduce the number of fire casualties among persons under the age of 18 by 66% throughout Massachusetts.

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