

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Fire Services

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

19th Year of the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program (2013-2014)

(13 Young Heroes in FY 2014)

North Attleboro

◆ Gwenevere Niedbalski

On Friday, January 3, 2014, 11-year-old Gwenevere Niedbalski observed that her neighbor's house was on fire. She told her grandmother and asked her to call 9-1-1. The neighbors were asleep at the time of the incident and had it not been for Gwenevere's keen observance her neighbors might have been at greater risk. Gwenevere learned fire safety in school from the North Attleboro S.A.F.E. educators.

Groton

◆ Anthony and Kaiden Cianci

On Tuesday, March 25, 2014, 11-year-old Anthony Cianci and his 8-year old brother Kaiden Cianci assisted their mother during a medical emergency at their home. As Anthony began to care for his mother and brother, Kaiden called 9-1-1, remained calm, informed the dispatcher of the nature of the problem, his home address and stayed on the phone until the first EMT arrived. S.A.F.E. Educator Susan Daly of the Groton Fire Department applauds their heroic actions and said how extraordinary it was that Kaiden knew his address because the family recently moved into their new home.

Heath

◆ Rachel Heil

On Saturday, September 7, 2013, 16-year-old Rachel Heil and her family were home when they noticed smoke coming from the floor below. Rachel quickly got her younger siblings out of the house and phoned 9-1-1. Rachel then called a family friend who came to the house and kept them safe until their mother could get home. The fire department arrived and put the fire out. Chief Michael Smith and Deputy Kenneth Gilbert of the Heath Fire Department are proud of Rachel for her acute sense of awareness, quick thinking and bravery.

Leominster

◆ William Vargo

On Monday, April 21, 2014, 12-year-old William Vargo and his 9-year-old sister Victoria were visiting their grandmother during school vacation. During their visit, the grandmother experienced a medical emergency. Going against the advice of his grandmother, William phoned 9-1-1, and remained calm

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while speaking with the dispatcher. He stayed at his grandmother's side until the ambulance arrived. William credits his actions to the training that he received from the Leominster Youth Fire and Police Academy.

Mansfield

◆ Coleman Jenkins

On April 1, 2014, 11-year-old Coleman Jenkins was in the cafeteria when he noticed a schoolmate choking. Coleman quickly went into action and successfully assisted the student by performing abdominal thrusts. Chief Neal Boldrighini and S.A.F.E. Educator Eric Blanchette of the Mansfield Fire Department believe Coleman's actions saved his classmate's life.

New Bedford

◆ Jayden Burgo

In the early morning of Saturday, March 8, 2014, 9-year-old Jayden Burgo awoke to the sound of a smoke alarm. Jayden investigated and found a fire in his brother's bedroom. He woke up his parents and called 9-1-1. He calmly spoke with the dispatcher and informed them that his mother and brother were trapped by fire. The fire department responded and successfully rescued his family members. Chief Michael Gomes of the New Bedford Fire Department applauds Jayden's lifesaving and heroic actions which he learned in the S.A.F.E. Program.

North Adams

◆ Alexis Benoit

On Sunday, November 17, 2013, 6-year-old Alexis Benoit was playing a game on her computer in the dining room, patiently awaiting her supper. Her grandmother left the kitchen and moments later Alexis heard a sound like a crackling noise. When she opened the kitchen door she discovered a fire on the stove. Alexis warned her grandmother of the fire and then told her to get out. Both Alexis and her grandmother exited the house and phoned 9-1-1 for help. Alexis' quick response to this emergency prevented a more serious situation from occurring. She learned fire safety in school from the North Adams S.A.F.E. Educators.

North Reading

◆ Mollie Adams

On Saturday, October 13, 2013, 9-year-old Mollie Adams was at home when a flash fire in an oil filled pan caused the sprinkler system in her apartment to activate. Mollie met the fire department in the front of her building and directed them to the fire on the third floor. This allowed for a quick

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investigation and shut down of the sprinkler system thereby reducing damage. Deputy Chief Barry Galvin credits Molly's response to the emergency from the lessons that she learned in school by the North Reading S.A.F.E. Program.

Peabody

◆ Benjamin Jutras

On Tuesday, January 7, 2014, 17-year-old Benjamin Jutras was home with his 13- and 7-year-old siblings when he discovered a fire in one of their rooms. He led his brother and sister out of their home to a safe place across the street, a neighbor's house, and phoned 9-1-1. Chief Steven Pasdon and Inspector Chris Dowling of the Peabody Fire Department credit Ben's actions from what he learned from the S.A.F.E. program. They are proud to point out that Ben received the Silver Medal of Valor from the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp.

Rutland

◆ Avery and Chase Harris

On Friday, May 16, 2014, 2 ½-year-old Avery Harris saw a fire on her porch and told her mother. Avery's mother attempted to extinguish the fire, became frantic and didn't know what to do when her 4-year-old son Chase Harris told her to call 9-1-1. The fire department responded and extinguished the fire. Chief Bradley Weber and Firefighter Dan Dean, S.A.F.E. Educator for the department, both agree that Avery and Chase saved their home from further damage and prevented a loss of life or injuries.

Waltham

◆ Ryan Richard

On Sunday evening, December 8, 2013, 10-year-old Ryan Richard witnessed a medical emergency, notified his mother and then called 9-1-1. Lieutenant John Ferrick of the Waltham Fire Department credits Ryan with acting on the lessons he learned in school from the Waltham S.A.F.E. Educators and successfully alerting medical responders.