

City of Bristol Tennessee

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Bristol Fire Department Announces New Program- Home SAFE

The Bristol Fire Department recently announced a new public safety initiative that will allow homeowners to schedule a free safety inspection of their home. According to Fire Chief Bob Barnes, The Home Safety Analysis for Emergencies, or *Home SAFE Program*, targets a number of safety issues that people commonly overlook, may not be aware of, or tend to underestimate the potential threat to them and their property.

The program is strictly voluntary, free of charge, and has been developed for the sole purpose of promoting public safety in the home. The home inspection, or survey, will be conducted by Bristol Tennessee Fire Department firefighters who will utilize a home safety checklist while performing a walk-through inspection with the homeowner.

“At the conclusion of the inspection, the homeowner will be provided a copy of the completed survey, a list of deficiencies, and recommendations for correcting deficiencies” said Fire Chief Bob Barnes. “Residents are encouraged to ask questions during the inspection, and they should remember that the inspection is intended to be both relatively brief and general in scope,” Barnes continued. Firefighters will not enter crawl spaces or limited access attics, but will inspect those areas as reasonably as possible. The homeowner will also be provided with safety literature, safety tips, and be coached through some common “what to do” scenarios. The firefighters will target not only fire related safety issues but will also touch on other areas such as common medical emergencies, severe weather emergencies, power outages, or any safety topic that may prove to be beneficial toward fulfilling the department’s goal of improving home safety in Bristol.

Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Jack Spurgeon will manage the *Home SAFE Program*. Anyone who is interested in taking advantage of this excellent opportunity can schedule an inspection by calling the Central Fire Station at 423-989-5701.