



city of
bristol

News Release

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The Bristol TN Fire Department joins the U.S. Fire Administration's Public Education Initiative

The Bristol Tennessee Fire Department has joined the new public education initiative, *Fire Is Everyone's Fight*[™] initiated by the U.S. Fire Administration.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) recently introduced *Fire Is Everyone's Fight*[™], an initiative to raise public awareness about the importance of fire prevention and fire safety. The Bristol Tennessee Fire Department has embraced this new program and is supporting this important national effort to help save lives by sharing lifesaving messages with Bristol's residents. The campaign is designed to unite the fire community and the public by recognizing that most fires can be prevented, and that everyone has a role in preventing fires.

Fire Chief Bob Barnes states that, "Our department is proud and excited to partner with the United States Fire Administration as far too many people in our country have been killed or injured from preventable fires. Preventing fire deaths and injuries can usually be accomplished by something simple such as replacing smoke alarm batteries or practicing safe cooking".

The key message of the campaign is that while firefighters can battle the blaze once it occurs, the real fight against fire is preventive action and so fire is everyone's fight. According to USFA, 81 percent of all fire deaths and three out of every four fire injuries occur in the home. Cooking is the main cause of home fire injuries, and most of these injuries occur when people are frying food. Barnes added that his department has one of the best public education programs in the country thanks to the excellent efforts of Bristol's firefighters and the Fire Prevention and Public Safety Education Division that is directed by Assistant Fire Chief Jack Spurgeon. The department directly delivers safety tips and information to over four thousand people each year through over twenty safety programs such as community workshops, initiatives through partnerships with the business community, home safety inspections, and others. The department is also extremely active with presenting a multitude of safety topics and tips on the Bristol BTN-TV Channel 16.

For more information on *Fire Is Everyone's Fight*[™] and other fire prevention information, please visit www.usfa.fema.gov or to learn about the Bristol Tennessee Fire Department's campaign activities contact Assistant Fire Chief Jack Spurgeon at 423-989-5701, jspurgeon@bristoltn.org or visit the City of Bristol website.

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