

Nicholasville Fire Department Conducts Fire Safety Program for local Children and receives 15-year award for service to the Community:

The Nicholasville Fire Department has initiated a continuing Fire Safety Program which provides children with educator-approved materials and services made available by the National Fire Safety Council, a 501 (C)(3), tax-exempt, non-profit Organization dedicated to the safety of children. They have been working with children Pre-K through the 5th Grade in all the local schools and daycares since 2002. Because of this, the National Fire Safety Council is awarding them a 15-year plaque for their faithful service to the children and parents of Nicholasville and Jessamine County. This comprehensive Program was created and designed to provide materials geared to the age levels of children; there are manuals and handouts for every age group plus teaching tools, such as manuals, fire helmets, puppets, costumes, badges, CDs, videos, handouts on fire safety, novelties, etc. to help the firemen and teachers to get across the fire safety message and make it fun for the children to learn. The Department was able to get a "Firepup" dogsuit just last year and it has been a real hit with the children! He has been seen at Parades and other activities plus during the School Programs. The manuals are one of the most important parts of the Program and contain about 24 activity pages that have been designed by educators to stimulate the child's awareness and thinking about the everyday fire hazards he or she encounters. All of the materials are made available to encourage the prevention of destructive fires, painful burns, disfiguring injuries and needless deaths and are covered in the schools by the firemen and teachers. After learning, the children are encouraged to take the manuals home so that the parents can also learn and see who helped make the Program possible.

Fire Chief, Mark Case, pointed out that this special fire safety educational Program sponsored by the Nicholasville Fire Department is financially supported by local citizens and business leaders whose foresight and wisdom enable them to recognize the need for early training in fire prevention. These sponsors are recognized by listing them on the backs of all K-5 manuals each year. Jim Griffith, the representative of the National Fire Safety Council and Coordinator of the Program, noted that "The motto of the National Fire Safety Council is 'The best way to fight a fire is to prevent it!' We have discovered that the best way to create a safer environment in our communities is to educate the children and make them aware of fire safety; when they recognize the importance of it, they will make an effort to inform their parents. In this way, the whole community becomes a safer place to live, insurance costs remain low and destructive fires, injuries and deaths are prevented. The National Fire Safety Council is proud of Nicholasville and Jessamine County and its progressive people for promoting fire safety in this way. Thank You!"

"It is only through the continued and united efforts of teachers, parents, children and concerned citizens that fires can be prevented", Battalion Chief David Johns, who is also the Fire Prevention Officer, said. "We are hoping that many will, once again, respond to the request of the Nicholasville Fire Department this year and help us to reach the 4,000 children in our community with fire safety materials", Griffith commented and explained that letters go out from the Nicholasville Fire Department asking for donations in April-May each year.