



# TOWN OF STRATFORD

## News Release

For Immediate Release  
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### **Fire Department, Burn Foundation Offer Free Safety Inspection Program to Stratford Residents** Seek to Reduce Fire and Burn Related Injuries and Deaths Among Vulnerable Populations

**Stratford-** Stratford Mayor John Harkins, Stratford Fire Chief James Cavanaugh and Stratford Professional Firefighters Burn Foundation President Steve Lupinacci announced a new home fire and burn safety prevention program available to all Stratford residents at the Stratford Fire Department Annual Open House on October 9<sup>th</sup>. The program is a partnership between the Stratford Fire Department and the SPFBF.

Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA Assistance to Firefighters -Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program, the program will offer free inspections of Stratford homes for proper address marker placement, working smoke detectors, **and hot water temperatures in residences.** Stratford residents are also eligible to receive free address markers, smoke detectors and/or batteries and anti-scald devices, based on the inspection.

While the program is open to all residents, special priority will be given to elderly residents, homes with young children, and homes with special needs **residents.** The program will specially target these groups due to the increased risk factors they face associated with safely escaping a house fire- reduced mobility, lack of safety awareness, mental or developmental disability, and vulnerability to **scald-**related burns.

Mayor Harkins stressed the importance of public awareness and education in preventing fires and related injuries and deaths: "In 2009, Stratford led the state in the number of fire-related fatalities- a dubious accomplishment that I will work hard as Mayor to keep from happening again. This program will make a significant impact by teaching our residents- including the most vulnerable among us- simple steps they can take to prevent fires and burn injuries. I applaud the Fire Department and the Burn Foundation's commitment to keep Stratford residents safe in their own homes."

Fire Chief James Cavanaugh believes the program will save lives. “I believe this program will go a long way towards saving lives. The home inspection will not only let residents know some of the major risks they face in their own homes, but provide them with the means to rectify the problems.”

Burn Foundation President Steve Lupinacci agrees. “The Burn Foundation works very closely with the Bridgeport Hospital Burn Center. The numbers of fire and water-related burns they have been seeing among people from Stratford is cause for great concern, and are what prompted the development of the grant application to the Federal government. We are excited to be a part of this program with the Town, and look forward to expanding our burn prevention education work with this Assistance to Firefighters prevention grant.”

Working smoke detectors, properly placed and installed, can let you and your family know of a fire emergency in time to escape safely. Clearly placed address markers help firefighters locate your home so they can respond to the fire quickly. The testing of hot water temperatures will determine if your water temperature exceeds 120°F, which can cause a significant burn injury. Anti-scald devices are designed to stop the flow of these high hot water temperatures and prevent scalding.

To request a home inspection, residents can send an email to [strathomesafe@gmail.com](mailto:strathomesafe@gmail.com) or call the program hotline at 203-381-2080. Residents should leave their name, street address, and a phone number where they can be reached to schedule an appointment. Inspections will also be offered to residents by Stratford firefighters when they respond to emergency calls.

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