



PRESS RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Public Information Office
1315 S. Washington Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601
Phone: 989 759-1401
Fax: 989 759-1607

Contact: Public Information Office, 989 759-1403

SAGINAW FIRE DEPARTMENT SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN “SOUND OFF WITH THE HOME FIRE SAFETY PATROL” NATIONAL COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PROGRAM

March 21, 2019 Saginaw, MI – The Saginaw Fire Department has been selected to participate in a new national program called Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol through a federal grant from the Center for National Prevention Initiatives at the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI). In 2019, 40 communities in 11 states across the U.S. are launching the Sound Off program through partnerships between local fire departments and elementary schools. The Saginaw Fire Department is the first and only fire department in state of Michigan delivering this program.

Sound Off delivers fun classroom lessons and family activities to help children in 2nd and 3rd grade and their families learn the importance of home smoke alarms, the sounds they make and how they work. Sound Off is a project of the Center for National Prevention Initiatives (CNPI) at the non-profit Michigan Public Health Institute located in Okemos, Michigan.

“According to the National Fire Protection Association, 2 out of every 3 fire deaths in America occur in homes where smoke alarms are either missing or not working,” said Chief Christopher Van Loo of the Saginaw Fire Department. “Our department is committed to doing everything we can to protect Saginaw residents. Education and



working smoke alarms are key to preventing a fire tragedy. We appreciate the Saginaw Public School District's support and enthusiasm for allowing us to deliver the Sound Off program in their classrooms."

Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol is supported by the Michigan State Fire Marshal's Office, which has launched a major initiative to reduce fire loss across the state. "The Saginaw Fire Department is the first in our state to implement the Sound Off program in their community," said Michigan State Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier. "Based on their success our office will partner with MPHI to expand Sound Off. We want families with young children throughout our state to learn what they can do to stay safe from fire."

City Manager Tim Morales feels this program is a win-win for the community and the Saginaw Fire Department. "Members of the Saginaw community will receive invaluable training on fire safety and prevention. In turn, our Fire Department will gain training and leadership skills, as well as the opportunity to build stronger relationships with our schools, our students and their families. I am proud of this recognition. It is indicative of our Fire Department's commitment to the Saginaw community."

For additional information concerning the Sound Off program, please contact the Saginaw Fire Department at (989) 759-1375.

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