



FEMA

# **QUICK RESPONSE**

## Fire Safety in the News

United States Fire Administration

Quick Response Media Corps October 2007 E-bulletin

### **Daily Home Fire Fatalities on the Web!**

As a member of the Quick Response Media Corps, you already know that the United States Fire Administration (USFA) finds information relating to home fire fatalities on a daily basis. Did you know that this information is available to you 24-7 on the USFA web site? This Quick Response daily update of non-arson civilian fire fatalities can be found at:

<http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/fatalities/index.shtml>.

### **Spreading the Word about the Quick Response Media Corps -- "Reach Out to One"**

The USFA needs your help in informing other members of the fire service about the Quick Response Media Corps. We invite you to "**Reach Out to One.**" If every member of the Media Corps can encourage another member of the fire service to sign up, we will be that much further along in our fire education and prevention efforts. We want to maximize opportunities for getting fire safety in the news, and we welcome your help! Please tell fellow fire service professionals about this program, and ask them to sign up by sending a message to [quickresponse@hagersharp.com](mailto:quickresponse@hagersharp.com) or visiting <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/applications/feedback/mediacorps.jsp>

### **USFA Campaign aims to "Put Out" Fires Caused by Smoking Materials...Every Time!**

In January 2008, the USFA will launch its **Smoking & Home Fires Campaign** to help reduce the number of residential fires caused by smoking materials. Smoking is the number one cause of home fire deaths, so the new campaign will target both smokers and those who live with smokers. Campaign materials will include easy to use materials such as posters, brochures, PowerPoint presentations and engaging video clips, such as a demonstration of a fast-moving smoking-related home fire, testimonies from members of the fire service about preventable smoking-related home fires and the best way to stub out smoking materials. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting launch and how you can share this information with your local communities.

### **Winter-related Fire Prevention Tips**

As the cold winter months approach, please remind your community that fires are of special concern due to the increased use of lighting, heating, and appliances. To help prevent winter-related fires, the USFA recommends:

- Have furnaces and chimneys professionally inspected annually and cleaned if necessary. Chimney tar build-up is a common cause of chimney fires.
- Use a glass or metal screen in front of fireplaces to prevent sparks igniting carpets or furniture.
- Keep combustibles at least three feet away from space heaters.
- Never thaw frozen pipes with a blow torch or other open flame - use hot water or a UL listed device such as a hand held dryer.