



## City of Reading News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### City Fire and Rescue Department Urges Residents to Apply for Smoke Detector Program

**Reading, Pa. – April 21, 2014** – The Office of the Fire Marshal is again sponsoring a fire safety program involving smoke detectors, in an effort to encourage all citizens to have working smoke detectors in their homes. The program is modeled after the national “Operation Save-A-Life” program which provides free smoke detectors and installation to home owners. The program is designed to reduce incidents of fire injuries and death in residential owner/occupied homes.

In support of the program, the City’s Fire and Rescue Department will be providing free smoke detectors, complete temporary installations and fire prevention literature to approved applicants. The program will be facilitated through Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), but interested homeowners should contact the Citizen Service Center for more information at 1-877-727-3234.

In addition to the requirement that the property be owner-occupied, there are also additional requirements. The program is dual-funded and has Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) income guidelines that need to be met. Once a resident applies and is approved, a signed waiver and additional paperwork needs to be completed and submitted. If a resident does not qualify for this program due to income guidelines, there is a second program available.

Smoke detectors will also be given out on a first come, first served basis until the Office of the Fire Marshall runs out of them. Smoke detector installations will be done between the hours of 10am and 3pm, unless an emergency or weather conditions arise.

On average, occupants have less than three minutes from the time the first smoke alarm sounds, to escape a fire. Fire Marshal Moyer expressed, “the sooner you hear a smoke detector, the more time you will have to get out. Our mission is to get as many working smoke detectors in homes as possible. This program helps us do that and we hope that homeowners apply. It can save their family’s lives.”

For more information please contact Larry Moyer, Fire Marshal, at (610)655-6080 or [fire.marshall@readingpa.org](mailto:fire.marshall@readingpa.org).

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