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Easthampton Fire Department Receives State Grant to Support Fire Education Programs for Children and Older Adults

Easthampton, MA – Last week, the state announced grant funding to support fire education for children and older adults across Massachusetts. The intent of these funds are to provide financial support for fire departments' Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) programs as well as their Senior SAFE programs. The Easthampton Fire Department received \$5,175 for their SAFE program and \$3,055 for their Senior SAFE programs.

Both of these programs are critical to the departments' ongoing efforts for community outreach and education in order to reduce any potential injury from fire. "The fire departments delivering these safety messages are reducing the risk of fire, injury, and tragedy in cities and towns across the Commonwealth," said State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey. "No child has died in a Massachusetts fire since March of 2019, and fire deaths overall continue to trend downward. Programs like S.A.F.E. and Senior SAFE are among the reasons Massachusetts is one of the most fire-safe states in the nation."

Although the COVID-19 pandemic minimized the ability to provide a broad range of services and trainings last year, members of the Easthampton Fire Department were still able to safely meet with many of the younger classes in the schools and conduct fire safety lessons. Members also conducted car seat installations for injury prevention, installed smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in homes of individuals over the age of 65, provided sand to seniors in need to reduce the potential of slips and falls, helped install lock boxes throughout the community, and conducted open houses to the public. This funding will help support these preventative initiatives to help minimize the risk of injury to the public.

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