



Bristol Tennessee Fire/Rescue is expanding their Public Safety Education services in an effort to prepare citizens for a myriad of emergencies. This announcement came from Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Jack Spurgeon who also heads the department's Public Education Division. Spurgeon added that the department's expanded public education role is a result of Fire Chief Barnes' goal for the department to be a positive, visible and proactive force in community emergency preparedness. "We want to provide safety information and teach skills to the public on a regular basis, and hope interested citizens will take advantage of this educational opportunity", said Spurgeon.

The department's public safety education program is called B.E.S.T., an acronym for Bristol Essential Safety Training; the program will expand and develop based on community need. May's training will focus on Home Safety – A Safe Home Is Your Hands. Home emergencies can be the result of falls, poisoning, burns, choking/suffocation, drowning, sickness, or a host of other reasons, any of which can have tragic results.

To ensure all residents have ample opportunity to receive the safety training, the department has divided the City into four areas and the same training will be presented in each area. On May 7th a class will be conducted at Anderson Elementary School cafeteria, May 14th at Holston View Elementary School cafeteria, May 21st at Avoca Elementary School cafeteria, and May 28th at Central Elementary School cafeteria. Classes will begin at 7 p.m. and last till 8:30 p.m., or until all citizen concerns and/or questions have been addressed.

Bristol Fire/Rescue units responded to 902 Fire and 3745 EMS related calls in 2008 with an average emergency response time of 4:14. Essential safety training will provide our community a higher level of safety during emergencies.

Everyone knows the importance of being prepared, but very few take the necessary preparatory actions. Our team of caring professionals is committed to helping you create a safe home environment. If you desire additional information, contact Assistant Fire Chief Jack Spurgeon, Jr. at (423)989-5701.