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FDNY & NYC ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES ANNOUNCE NEW PARTNERSHIP AIMED AT PREVENTING FUTURE FIRES IN NYC; PARTNERSHIP INCLUDES PROVIDING SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS TO FAMILIES & ENSURING THEY ARE PROPERLY INSTALLED

According to FEMA, 890 People Across the Country Die in Winter Home Fires Each Year; Heating is the Second Leading Cause of Home Fires

Through New Partnership, Frontline Child Welfare Workers Will Also Get Hands-On-Training From FDNY On How to Educate Children & Families of Fire Hazards

NEW YORK, NY – The Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) and the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) announced a brand-new partnership aimed at preventing future fires in New York City. First, ACS will distribute smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to families and work with the American Red Cross who can install the detectors at no cost. Second, FDNY will train frontline child welfare workers on how to examine homes for fire hazards and better educate children and families on the importance of fire safety.

"ACS is committed to empowering families through services and support that they need to thrive, and this fire safety training will ensure that CPS have the tools to carry out this work," said **ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell**. "I want to thank FDNY, as well as the Red Cross, for their partnership and support to keep youth and families safe."

"There is no group more curious about fire and more vulnerable to the dangers of fire than our children," said **Fire Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro**. "By continuing our great relationship with the Red Cross, and now working closely with Commissioner Hansell and the Administration for Children's Services, we know that together we will better educate families, prevent more fires from occurring, and ensure greater safety for the children of our city."

"This is a great partnership, and I'm happy that the fire safety education will be integrated into this program," said **Council Member Joseph Borelli**. "Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have a proven track record, these devices save lives. It's so important that we get them into every home and apartment and I'm thankful to FDNY Commissioner Nigro and the Red Cross for creating this program."

“Home fires are the biggest disaster threat in the United States. But unlike other disasters, most home fires can be prevented. This is why we are so proud to join with the FDNY and ACS to help protect local families and children in New York City against home fires by installing smoke alarms and providing fire safety education,” **said Josh Lockwood, CEO, American Red Cross Greater New York Region.** “The Red Cross encourages all New Yorkers to help protect their families by talking to children about fire safety and practicing an escape plan with their family several times a year.”

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), people are at greater risk of fires in the winter season because of heating, cooking and holiday decorations. According to FEMA, 890 people across the country tragically die in winter home fires each year; winter home fires account for 8 percent of the total number of fires in the United States but result in 30 percent of all fire deaths.

According to FDNY, in 2018, 47 New Yorkers died in fires in homes where there was no working smoke alarm. The top three causes of fatal fires to date in 2018 are electrical (including wiring and overloaded outlets), smoking, and incendiary or deliberately set fires.

Members of the FDNY Fire Safety Education Unit will provide training to frontline child welfare staff throughout the year and workers will learn how to examine homes for potential fire hazards. For instance, child welfare workers will learn how to determine whether electrical outlets may be at risk of overheating due to too many items/appliances in use, the proper storage of matches and lighters, and the critical importance of regularly testing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Homes in New York City are required to have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. These detectors alert occupants to the presence of smoke from a fire and can detect carbon monoxide, which is a by-product of incomplete combustion and is colorless, tasteless and odorless. A carbon monoxide alarm detects the toxic gas generated by fuel-burning equipment such as stoves/ovens, heaters and other fuel-burning appliances.

The American Red Cross is currently offering free smoke alarms and installations in New York as part of their *Home Fire Campaign*, which includes a free installation, replacement of alarm batteries and fire prevention and safety education. To learn more, please visit soundthealarm.org/nyc or call 1-877-733-2767. New Yorkers can also call 311 and request installation of smoke detectors.

For more fire and life safety education information, or to schedule a fire safety event, please visit www.FDNYSmart.org.

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