

# MSLA Launches Jr. Fire Inspector Program

MySafe:LA kicks off a program to put smoke alarms in at-risk Los Angeles homes.

(Los Angeles) - MySafe:LA, the life and fire safety public education partner of the Los Angeles Fire Department, has kicked off its "Junior Fire Inspector" program, providing safety education and free smoke alarms for families in at-risk areas of the city.

MySafe:LA fire safety educators will conduct three assemblies at each participating school in the Los Angeles School District this spring. In the first assembly, 4th and 5th grade students will be trained in basic fire safety skills, including creating their own family escape plan, dialing 911, the "Get Low and Go" escape technique for crawling out of smoke-filled spaces and the "Stop, Drop and Roll" maneuver if their clothing or hair should catch fire.

In the second assembly, kids are given the most important mission of all: to ensure that their own home is FireSmart™. Students are asked to go home with a special form that will help them complete a safety inspection of their home. The form helps them check whether their address is clearly marked and visible from the street even at night and prompts them to assemble a "Go-Bag" emergency kit with a flashlight, whistle, sweatshirt and extra shoes to keep under their bed.

But the key to the inspection is working smoke alarms, critical to survival in cases of structure fire. "Forty-two people died in structure fires in 2011 and 2012 within the city of Los Angeles," said MySafe:LA Executive Officer David Barrett. "In EVERY case, there was either no smoke alarm, or a disabled smoke alarm."

If the students bring back the completed form indicating they need a smoke alarm or fresh batteries, MySafe:LA provides them free during their second visit to the school.

On the third and final visit, MySafe:LA is accompanied by a crew from the school's first-in local Los Angeles Fire Station who assists in presenting the Junior Fire Inspectors with their personalized I.D. badges.

"Our hope is that these Junior Fire Inspectors will take what they've learned in our program and become force-multipliers in their community," said Barrett. "They may notice an unsafe condition at a relative's or friend's house that could save a life."

*MySafe:LA is an independent 501-(c)(3) that covers a wide range of issues, including residential fire safety, wildfires, earthquakes, burns, floods, accident and injury prevention, pet/animal safety, carbon monoxide awareness as well as holiday and seasonal safety issues such as Fourth of July Fireworks safety and Christmas tree fires.*



## MySafe:LA



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