

# ROCKY HILL FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



Dear Residents,

In conjunction with the Rocky Hill Borough Council and the Rocky Hill Fire Department I am pleased to announce a new Fire Safety Initiative for 2015 focusing on our senior residents. Adults over age 65 are at a greater risk of injury or death from fire than any other group in America. The majority of fire deaths occur in the home emphasizing the need for older adults to know how to protect themselves appropriately. As we age, our mobility and reaction times may become slowed; our senses of sight, hearing and smell may also become diminished over time. Other physical limitations as well as the use of medications may decrease our ability to respond in an appropriate manner to an emergency situation. Statistics show that individuals over 65 years of age are twice as likely to be injured or killed by fires; at 75 years of age, people are nearly four times as likely to die in a fire; over the age of 85 the risk of dying in a fire is increased to five times. If you are a resident of Rocky Hill Borough over the age of 65 or you have a relative, friend or neighbor in this high-risk group, please talk with them about this Fire Safety Initiative. As part of this new program I have listed below several services that will be made available to the community free of charge. I encourage each of you to contact me so I may assist in being part of your fire safety plan.

- Basic home fire safety education
- Smoke detector checks
- Carbon monoxide alarm checks
- Proper placement of fire detection devices
- Fire extinguisher education
- Cooking safety
- Electrical safety

Sincerely,

Erik J. Mickelsen  
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# 2015 Rocky Hill Fire Prevention Initiative

## Fire Prevention Education focus for Senior Citizens



- Older adults continue to experience a disproportionate share of fire deaths. In 2010, older adults (age 65 or older) represented 13 percent of the United States population but suffered 35 percent of all fire deaths.
- The relative risk of individuals age 65 or over dying in a fire was 2.7 times greater than that of the general population. The risk worsened as age increased. The relative risk for adults ages 65 to 74 was 1.9, but soared to 4.6 for those over the age of 84.
- Older males were 62 percent more likely to die in fires than older females.
- Older adults were more vulnerable in a fire than the general population due to a combination of factors including mental and physical frailties, greater use of medications, and elevated likelihood of living in a poverty situation.
- As of March 20, 2015 there have been 706 home fire fatalities. 28% of those killed were 65 or older.

**Have a Plan! Stay Safe! Get Out Alive!**

Contact the Rocky Hill Fire Marshal for more information at:

[Fireofficial53@gmail.com](mailto:Fireofficial53@gmail.com)