

TEXAS FIREMEN

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**STATE FIREMEN'S AND FIRE MARSHALS'
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS**

The **READY, SET, GO!** Program



National Program Bringing Fire Departments and Residents Together in Response to Wildland Fire

The Ready, Set, Go! (RSG) Program was launched nationally in March 2011 at the Wildland Urban Interface Conference in Reno, Nevada. The program assists firefighters to teach individuals who live in high risk wildland fire areas how to best prepare themselves and their properties against wildland fire threats. The RSG

Program stresses that when firefighters encourage residents to take personal responsibility for preparing their property and family for wildland fire, residents become an active part of the solution to the problem of increasing fire losses. This is especially important in Texas and is why the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association endorses and supports the program's development. We ask you to visit the program website, www.wildlandfireRSG.org and join to assist your wildland fire outreach efforts.

The RSG Program is a three step process that fire departments can deliver to significantly increase the safety of residents and the safety of responding firefighters. It is easy to remember and is easy to implement:

- **READY** – Be ready, be Firewise. Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire so your home is ready in case of a fire. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home. Use fire-resistant landscaping and harden your home with fire-safe construction measures. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe spot. Plan escape routes and make sure all those residing within the home know the plan of action.
- **SET** – Situational Awareness When a Fire Starts: Pack your vehicle with your emergency items. Stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media and your local fire department.
- **GO** – Leave early! Follow your personal action plan. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire. For more information about how to be Ready for wildland fires, go to www.Firewise.org.

The RSG Program provides tools through its website, www.wildlandfireRSG.org for fire departments who join the program to better understand preparedness techniques; help in identifying local partners and audiences; useful outreach models and presentation tools; and general background on wildland fire activity. These are especially designed to assist small volunteer and rural fire departments that are often strapped for time and resources. The RSG Program works in complimentary and collaborative fashion with Firewise and other existing wildland fire public education efforts. It amplifies these messages to individuals to better achieve the common goal we all share of fire-adapted communities.

The program was developed for national rollout by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), with support from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), U.S. Department of the Interior, the Firewise Communities Program and the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS). For more information about the RSG Program, visit www.wildlandfireRSG.org. ■

CONGRATULATIONS...

On June 2, 2011, Fire Marshal Randy Crim with the Lake Jackson Fire Marshal's Office and Fire Chief Mike Harper with the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department were recipients of the prestigious "Fire Sprinklers Save Lives" Award from the American Fire Sprinkler Association.

Randy Crim is Fire Marshal for the City of Lake Jackson, Texas. His vision to the benefits of fire sprinklers is second to none and he has been the driving force behind many initiatives that have been implemented in the city. Mike Harper, Fire Chief of the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department, speaks with authority and experience relative to the tragic consequences and the benefits of fire sprinklers in saving life and property, and improving the safety for his firefighters.

- In 2005, the city of Lake Jackson adopted the 2003 International Fire Code and under Fire Marshal Crim and Chief Harper's direction, the city implemented a locking FDC cap program for all new and existing sprinkled buildings, with the new fire station being the first to be protected by locking FDC caps.
- On August 5, 2005, the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department commanded by Chief Harper conducted a "live-fire" demonstration to educate the community on the effectiveness of residential fire sprinklers. Fire Marshal Crim arranged to have a fire sprinkler system installed in a few rooms. Many attended the demonstration and the visual evidence to the benefits of fire sprinklers was video taped and shown to the city council in efforts to introduce them to their idea of legislation mandating fire sprinklers.