

NEWS RELEASE



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SOUTHERN PLATTE EARNS THIRTEENTH LIFE SAFETY AWARD District Recognized for Fire Education, Prevention

PARKVILLE, Mo. (September 2, 2014) – Safety education and fire prevention is paying off for one local fire district.

For the thirteenth year, the Southern Platte Fire Protection District has received national attention for its fire prevention accomplishments in 2013 by the National Association of State Fire Marshals Fire Research and Education Foundation (NASFM Foundation) in partnership with Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. The award was announced by Butch Browning, president of the NASFM Foundation.

“The heroic efforts of our local fire service aren’t limited to rushing into burning buildings to save families. They also present educational information to local schools and other community groups to make sure people know how to respond to fires and how to prevent them in the first place,” said Alan Clark, assistant vice president of Special Investigations for Grinnell Mutual. “The Life Safety Achievement Award recognizes fire departments for their fire prevention programs that have been proven to save lives year after year.”

“Southern Platte Fire is one of 142 fire departments across the United States to receive the award this year for recording zero fire deaths in 2013. In addition, we documented active and effective fire prevention programs as well as a clear commitment to reducing the number of house fires in our community, stated Southern Platte Fire Chief Richard Carrizzo. “It’s a cause that we’re particularly dedicated to, which makes this award an even greater honor.”

Although residential fires in the U.S. account for only 27 percent of all fires, they result in 84 percent of all fire deaths. Southern Platte presents fire-prevention programs to

District elementary school students, scouting troops, community groups, and public events around the District.

“Elementary school students were identified as being at especially high-risk for death in home fires,” Carrizzo said. “By taking our message straight to children of that age – and involving their parents – we’re working to do our best to make our community one of the safest in the nation.”

The Southern Platte Fire Protection District's four stations provide fire suppression, inspections, emergency medical assistance, hazardous-materials response, and public education for more than 37,000 citizens in Platte County, MO. The Southern Platte Fire Protection District, which includes Parkville, Weatherby Lake, and Farley, is in one of the fastest-growing areas in the Kansas City metropolitan area. In addition to serving its own District, the department provides automatic-aid assistance to the Kansas City Fire Department and Riverside Public Safety.

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