

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Pleasanton Volunteer Fire Department is seeking assistance with a project covered under the Fire Prevention and Safety category of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. Our project, the purchase of a Fire Safety House, will target all ages from the very young to the elderly and those with disabilities. With a Fire Safety House, we feel we could make a bigger impact on citizens of all ages and help them understand the importance of fire safety, and what precautions and safety measures they need to practice.

Our comprehensive fire safety-training program would target specific USFA high-risk groups such as senior citizens, children, and the handicapped. Through the use of the Fire Safety House, we will be able to provide a hands-on educational approach to fire safety and emergency preparedness by taking our program directly to these specific populations.

Our current program mainly targets the younger population which includes kindergarten through 4th grade. We presently give classes to senior groups of which there is very little hands on training at this time for the seniors. The disabled population is not currently part of the program.

Our new identified at-risk groups include children age 12 and under which makes up about 7% of the population, seniors over the age of 65, which makes up 15% of the population and seniors 55-64 which makes up approximately 10% of the population. The proposed Fire Safety House is an advanced educational tool for the public. We foresee the department visiting schools with the Fire Safety House to enhance, EXPAND and supplement our current fire safety training already in place in our elementary schools, which targets up to 5th grade students. The current program involves putting on fire gear, showing films, and trying to teach the stop drop and roll. Demonstrating how to feel a door and all the standard things. We show the children the trucks and squirt water for them. We demonstrate the stay low and go and not to hide from firemen in a fire.

The Fire Safety House would enable the department to be able to show the audience how it actually works with the use of smoke, and a heated door along with the burning trash can. There is an enormous difference between talking about an objective and being able to actually do the hands-on training.

Atascosa County has 6 elementary schools and 6 senior/adult living facilities. We anticipate using the Fire Safety House as a foundation for the development of a new safety program aimed at senior citizens. The training can be expanded to include special needs residents such as the ones that use oxygen. They can be taught the safe storage and handling of the cylinders, and stickers will be placed in conspicuous locations to alert firefighters that medical oxygen is in use. Additional programs could be added to teach the elderly to call 911 after exiting the fire.

Additionally, there is only one hospital in our area and we plan to have the Fire Safety House available for their health fairs and all their safety programs.

We fully support the installation of home sprinkler system and stovetop fire suppression systems. The NFPA recommends installing residential sprinklers in a new home construction as well as for the existing home renovations. As our community's fire personnel, we feel it is our responsibility to promote residential sprinkler systems and stovetop suppression units in all new residential construction. It is our ultimate goal to enact and pass a mandatory fire suppression sprinkler system ordinance within our communities, our county, and throughout the state for all residential, multi-family, and commercial structures. This new tool would allow us the opportunity to better explain this to the audience.

The proposed Fire Safety House will serve as an educational tool utilized throughout our community. There are eleven volunteer fire departments in our county, which work well together. All these departments will be able to take advantage of using the Fire Safety House in their individual districts, as well as during special occasions, such as department open houses, community celebrations, and at churches. We will get the word out of the availability of the "House" by newspaper articles, radio announcements and by just taking the unit around to the various organizations and demonstrating its capabilities.

Our fire department has formed a community-based partnership with local businesses, organizations, and residents, including the local Hospital; the Lions Club, the Rotary Club and our local State Farm Insurance agent. This partnership will assist our department in manning our Fire Safety House during fire safety education programs at the schools, local hospital, and during community events.

#### WHY FUNDING IS NECESSARY:

The Pleasanton Volunteer Fire Department responds to over 300 calls a year. Our number one concern is public health and safety for the residents of our community. If we were given the opportunity to better educate our citizens, it would make our jobs easier, while also saving lives. Last year, we had 26 structure fires with an estimated loss of 1.5 million dollars. Countywide, there were 135 structure fires with an estimated loss of an additional 3 million dollars.

We do not receive any tax base to support the running of a fire prevention program in our department nor do any of the other departments in the county. Our local county government provides a total of \$45,000 for all the departments in the county. This is just operational money. The City of Pleasanton provides the department with an operational budget of approximately \$80,000, but of this total none is in the budget for fire prevention. The current program is funded by donation and fund raisers. The city has committed to funding the match for this project.

With the proposed project, our department can provide valuable fire and life safety education in our schools county wide, and for our senior citizens and handicapped residents.

#### USE OF PROJECT FUNDING:

ITEM	FEDERAL	LOCAL	TOTAL
Fire Safety House	\$27697.50	\$3077.50	\$30775.00
Weather Smart	\$4770.00	\$530.00	\$5300.00
25"TV/VCR/DVD	\$877.50	\$97.50	\$975.00
Intercom	\$481.50	\$53.50	\$535.00
Honda Generator	\$3825.00	\$425.00	\$4250.00
Wheelchair ramp	\$877.50	\$97.50	\$975.00
Smoke Detector	\$152.10	\$16.90	\$169.00
w/strobe			
Work Station	\$517.50	\$57.50	\$575.00
2 Carbon Monoxide detectors	\$202.50	\$22.50	\$225.00
1.6 c. ft.Frig.	\$248.40	\$27.60	\$276.00
Rollout Awning	\$783.00	\$87.00	\$870.00
4 gal. smoke fluid	\$148.50	\$16.50	\$165.00
Burning Trash Can	\$400.50	\$44.50	\$445.00
Appearance Group	\$895.50	\$99.50	\$995.00
Convenience Pkg.	\$877.50	\$97.50	\$975.00
Emergency Grp. Pkg.	\$715.50	\$79.50	\$795.00
Prop Group	\$535.50	\$59.50	\$595.00
Injury Pre. Grp.	\$445.50	\$49.50	\$495.00
Exterior Graphics Package	\$2700.00	\$300.00	\$3000.00
Delivery expense	\$2377.80	\$264.20	\$2642.00

TOTALS:  
\$49523.34 \$5502.66 \$55026.00

**BENEFIT OF PROGRAM TO THE COMMUNITY:**

Education is a powerful tool in fighting fires and saving lives. Each year over 5000 Americans die in home fires and 80 percent of those killed by fire die in single family dwellings. The majority of those who die in house fires are the young and senior citizens. Presently our target audience was the young children of our community. We had some contact with seniors, but this was limited. The plan of our new program will have an emphasis on the elderly and the handicapped. A far too neglected part of our community.

Through this educational tool, we will have a greater opportunity to reach out to those who may not be getting the safety instruction they should. This includes the handicapped, and the elderly. We have already been in contact with several of our retirement communities about providing a program. By purchasing a Fire Safety House, it will provide our firefighters with a "mobile classroom" featuring home-like room and real life hazards. This then creates an environment that gives people of all ages the knowledge they need to not only prevent fires, but the steps to follow to safely escape a fire.

The program that will be the focus of our fire safety education lessons include home escape plans; fire safety precautions and instruction within the kitchen and living room, and bedroom; the proper way to report a fire to 911; and the appropriate safety steps when severe weather threatens, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, or earthquakes. Our area is very prone to flash flooding after heavy rains, this will be an aspect that will be stressed. We will incorporate the "turn around don't drown" program. Safety lessons include crawling low in smoke, exiting bedroom windows, the importance of functioning smoke detectors, and how to recognize fire hazards in the home.

In addition to fire safety lessons at our elementary and high schools, we will be able to reach out to the entire county-to other cities and towns along with their school systems. Churches, day-care facilities, nursing homes and all interested organizations will be encouraged to have a demonstration of the Fire Safety House. We strongly believe that an educated populace is a safe populace and through the educational instructions of the Fire Safety House, we can reduce the number of fire deaths and injuries in our community and the county.

The proposed Fire Safety House can also be utilized during emergency situations such as natural disasters, as an emergency support trailer, and as a domestic preparedness unit. The new unit could also be used by law enforcement to teach about home invasions and preventing break-ins.

The Fire Safety House would be a tremendous asset for any community that is dedicated to saving lives and property. Educating our young children to be safe and helping the elderly. We would like to stress the fact that nothing can take the place of "hands on training", and this unit would afford us that capability. Our Target groups would retain the message better with the live demonstrations this educational tool would afford.

Thank you for your consideration of our application.