

April 15, 1983.

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Samuel D. Chilcote, Jr.
FROM: Peter G. Sparber *PS*
RE: "Smoke Detector Firesafety Program" from National Fire Protection Association.

Attached for your prompt review and approval is the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) proposed "Smoke Detector Firesafety Program."

The proposal requests immediate authorization of \$85,369 for design of the program (Phase I). NFPA is prepared to begin May 1 and will be finished with the first phase to allow for evaluation and consideration of Phase II, the week of October 10.

The program's objective is to help local fire departments organize their communitites to:

- o increase the number of smoke detectors. To do a meaningful job, smoke detectors will have to be placed in a good many low income homes.
- o increase public awareness of the importance of proper smoke detector maintenance. A high percentage of detectors depend on batteries which must remain in working order.

The program will achieve these objectives by:

1. bringing together fire fighters and others who have successfully promoted smoke detectors in recent years with varying success. In Phase I of the program, the best strategies would be set forth in a manual.
2. The manual would then be tested in two cities. In each city, the manual would be given to the training officer of the local fire department who would then (according to the manual) organize a steering committee comprised of persons from civic, political, labor, commercial, educational, religious and other local groups. The strategies within the manual would then be carried out as a broad, community effort.

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3. Once the test is complete, the manual would be refined and made ready for distribution to 80 or more other cities. Phase III would concentrate on training local fire departments with the manual and promoting the overall effort.

Support of this program will be a major step toward achieving our own program's objectives:

1. To develop strong, positive working relationships with key fire fighters.

This program would have us working closely and regularly with officials of the NFPA, the fire fighters union, the International Association of Fire Chiefs as well as many individual prominent firefighters.

The only major element of the fire service not included here would be the volunteers.

2. Provide evidence that the industry is working towards a reduction in the incidence and severity of accidental fires.

It is generally accepted that the increase in smoke detectors in the 1970's resulted in fewer fatal fires. But it is also recognized that lower income homes are least likely to have smoke detectors and most likely to suffer fires -- a situation that is directly addressed by this program.

There are two additional reasons which encourage our sponsorship of this effort: (1) the smoldering nature of a cigarette-related fire particularly allows detectors to provide ample warning and (2) we know that smokers are eight per cent less likely to have residential smoke detectors than are non-smokers.

I strongly recommend our timely acceptance of this proposal.

bcc: Jack Kelly
Mike Kerrigan
William Kloepfer, Jr.
Fred Panzer
John Rupp

Copies of the proposal are available through Peter Sparber.

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