

# *RESCUE* window decals ~ *false sense of security from fire* ~

World renowned Fire Safety experts of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) oppose use of window decals intended to alert firefighters to the locations of children's bedrooms. Accordingly, the Fair Lawn Fire Department has suspended distributing such decals to residents, similar to the policy adopted by many other fire departments in New Jersey and throughout the nation.

The NFPA believes, as do many other Fire Safety agencies, these decals could give a false sense of security by implying it is safe for children to wait to be rescued rather than responding immediately on their own.

The NFPA's philosophy is that children, even at a very young age, can be taught the basics of escaping a fire, such as:

- what to do when the smoke alarm sounds
- knowing two ways out of every room
- crawling low under smoke
- gathering at a meeting place outside the burning building
- calling 9-1-1 from outside the burning building

Of course, all family members should be aware of the fundamentals to prevent fires from occurring in the first place.

The NFPA also states these decals signal an area of vulnerability in the home. This could put the children and/or entire household at risk from intruders.

Furthermore, the NFPA is concerned for firefighters who put themselves at risk to search a bedroom with a decal only to learn later the children had grown up and moved out.

To help you be safe from fire, the Fair Lawn Fire Marshal provides these courtesies:

- Fire safety inspection of your home
- Teaching fire prevention and safety to all members of your family
- Designing a fire escape plan for all family members
- Installing smoke alarms for those unable to provide for themselves

Any concerns regarding this or any Fire Safety matter, please contact  
Fair Lawn Fire Marshal Jay Bender at the Fair Lawn Fire Prevention Bureau

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