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Johnson Announces Grant for Meriden Fire and Household Safety Program

Funds for New and Improved “Hazard House” Education Tool

MERIDEN, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson today announced the Meriden Fire Department has won a \$27,000 federal fire prevention grant to fund a new and improved “Hazard House” program.

“The Hazard House program is an innovative fire prevention and household safety program,” Johnson said. “This grant will allow fire officials to reach more people and educate them on possible dangers around the house. I commend Meriden fire officials and leaders for their continuing commitment to fire safety and prevention.”

Meriden fire officials hope to have the new Hazard House educational program up and running by this summer. It is made possible by a \$26,935 federal grant administered through the Department of Homeland Security’s Assistance to Firefighters program.

“Meriden’s firefighters work very hard at protecting our citizens,” said Meriden Mayor Mark Benigni. “This grant will allow firefighters to continue their educational efforts in the community and help keep us safe in our homes.”

The Hazard House program uses a large, detailed cut-out of a home to demonstrate dangers and educate citizens on how to stay safe. The new Hazard House equipment will replace an older, smaller version. When fully displayed, the new equipment stands about 5 feet tall and stretches 8 feet wide.

“Hazard House is an effective, interactive learning tool,” said Meriden Fire Chief James Trainor. “This grant will be very beneficial to the fire prevention bureau and its efforts to educate Meriden residents on fire and safety hazards. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure in keeping residents safe. We greatly appreciate Congresswoman Nancy Johnson’s continuing efforts to help the Meriden Fire Department.”

Officials with Meriden’s Fire Prevention Bureau run Hazard House educational programs in

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schools, at the YMCA, at seniors' gatherings, at shopping centers, among other locations. The new Hazard House will help educate citizens on proper usage and location of carbon monoxide and smoke detectors. It will demonstrate the dangers of kitchen fires, dirty chimneys and clutter around furnace equipment. It also emits rising "smoke" to show why "getting low, getting out" in the event of a fire emergency is so important.

Fire officials said the new Hazard House has educational features that the old program lacked. The new equipment will demonstrate hazards outside the home as well and stress swimming pool safety. Attached is a video unit that can project a large image on a screen to accommodate audiences up to 80 people.

Chief Trainor stressed that a majority of fire deaths in America occur among those under 14 years old and over 65. The new Hazard House will be able to create educational programs tailored specifically to help these two groups, he said.

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