



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Fire Rescue

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Today's Date: July 20, 2011

MCFR TO HOST FIRE SAFETY EVENT FOR LOCAL DEAF/HARD-OF-HEARING CHILDREN

Immediate Release

WHO: Marion County Fire Rescue (in partnership with the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida).

WHAT: Fire safety event and station tour for deaf or hard-of-hearing children in Marion County. An interpreter will be present to assist with communication and relay the life-saving safety information to the children.

WHEN: Saturday, July 23, 2011.
2 – 4 p.m.

WHERE: MCFR Belleview Station 18 ▪ 11941 SE 55th Ave. Road, Belleview, FL.

WHY: To expand upon Marion County Fire Rescue's fire prevention activities, the department, in partnership the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida, is offering a fire and life safety presentation specifically tailored to Marion County's youth that are deaf or hard-of-hearing (or the children of deaf parents).

Approximately 10 to 15 children will attend the event, which starts with a firefighter-led station tour, insider's view of the station's living quarters and a look at the specialized life-saving equipment on the engine and rescue housed at the station.

A fire safety presentation focused on MCFR's "Get Down. Get Out. Get on the Phone!" theme will follow in a classroom setting at the station. Students will learn how to safely exit a burning building as well as how and when to call 911. To help reiterate that children shouldn't be afraid of firefighters, each piece of bunker gear will be explained for its protection value, and a firefighter will demonstrate by wearing the complete set. The children will end their visit by having the opportunity to try on their own "Junior Bunker Gear."

Marion County Fire Rescue conducted or participated in 276 public education events last fiscal year, reaching more than 107,000 residents.

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"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"