



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## Keeping Our Schools Safe

### *Washoe County School & Fire Officials Work Together*

*Washoe County, Nevada* ~ For children ages 14 and under, the number one health risk isn't kidnapping, drugs, or disease, it's injury. With the right training, the majority of these injuries are predictable and preventable. A recent survey of Washoe County School District personnel indicates the need for fire and life safety training within each school. In response, the Northern Region of the Fire Prevention Association joined forces with the school district's emergency management department. Using a Federal Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant obtained through the Fire Prevention Association of Nevada (FPAN), North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, Reno Fire Department, Sierra Fire Protection District, and Sparks Fire Department will teach school staff members to recognize fire-safety concerns, to operate portable fire extinguishers, and to teach general fire-safety awareness messages

The Washoe County School District (WCSO) educates 62,300 children and employees 8,600 staff members. With budget and staffing shortages it is difficult for public-safety officials to reach all the children and staff members within each school and administrative facility. This FPAN program not only gives educators the knowledge and materials needed to reduce injuries and loss-of-life and property, it is a pilot program that may serve as a school-based safety program throughout the state. Using nationally recognized methods, the program teaches:

1. General fire-safety prevention and awareness: Topics include the Fire triangle; Home-escape planning; Smoke-alarm placement and testing; Get out, stay out; Stop, drop, and roll; 911 for emergencies; Burn first aid; and Maintaining clearance around heating/cooking items
2. School-Exit Drill Procedures and Requirements
3. Process/Procedures for Youth Firesetting Incidents and Referral to the Washoe County Youth Firesetting Program (including fire sets, false alarms, and bomb-related incidents)

For more information, please contact your local fire agency, the Washoe County Emergency Management Director, or Online at [www.fpaneveda.org](http://www.fpaneveda.org).

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