

Fire safety equipment can help save lives

FARMINGTON—Being your own fire department is the best way to safeguard your family.

The Farmington Public Safety Department is beginning a fire safety program for Farmington area residents which is aimed at prevention or escape during the first crucial minutes of a fire.

Lt. Michael Guilmette, Farmington's fire marshal, says most residential deaths from fire occur when a sleeping family is overcome by smoke and flames.

"Most of the fatalities are from smoke inhalation, not the flames," Guilmette says.

The department recommends a ionization smoke detection device which sounds an alarm in the early stages of a fire.

AN EXAMPLE of a situation in which a smoke detector would have been helpful was a fire earlier this

year in a house on Powers Road.

One of the family's children awoke and discovered a fire burning in the basement.

"Had there been a smoke detector it would have given them immediate warning even before flames got going," Guilmette says.

Another way to "be your own fire department," Guilmette says, is to have a portable fire extinguisher in the house, preferably in the kitchen or workshop.

The fire extinguishers recommended by the department are "extremely easy" to use, he says, and can be used on "anything that is burning."

Another item of precautionary equipment recommended by the department is an escape ladder. Houses or apartments with a straight two-story drop might need "another bit of insurance" that the ladders provide. The easily stored ladders also give an al-

ternative to escape routes which many times are blocked by the fire.

Speed is critical in escaping, Guilmette adds. The old-time movie trick of tying bed sheets together is "fine but it's time consuming."

PLANNING ESCAPE ROUTES and practicing evacuations also can save lives, Guilmette says.

After an escape route is mapped out, the family should practice until they can do it automatically, Guilmette says. Then they should practice evacuation "at least monthly."

During the fire safety program, from July 1 to Oct. 15, the Farmington Public Safety Department will stock smoke detectors, ladders and extinguishers at reduced prices. All of the items are approved by Underwriters Laboratories.

THE EQUIPMENT will be displayed in the Farmington City Hall, 2000 Liberty. It can be purchased by check or money order.

"We are offering these particular items with the knowledge that they are reliable, as are many other brands on the market," Guilmette says. "Whether you obtain these items from this department or elsewhere is of no importance, so long as you do provide your home with approved equipment."

"Think of it as 'life insurance.'"

In conjunction with the fire safety program, the Farmington area Jaycees will provide free "Operation Redball" stickers. The large red stickers are placed on the windows in the rooms of children, invalids and the elderly to alert firefighters to check those rooms first.

Kulbaba awarded Msu scholarship

FARMINGTON—Terry Kulbaba, Farmington High School graduate, has been awarded a scholarship from the Michigan Department of Education.

He will be attending Michigan State University this fall, majoring in business administration. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kulbaba of Farmington.

Library to hold book discussion

FARMINGTON—The Farmington branch of the Farmington Public Libraries will hold book discussions at 7:30 p.m. every other Thursday beginning July 17.

The schedule through August is:
• July 17: "Moby Dick" by Herman Melville
• July 21: "Alive" by Peter Paul Read
• Aug. 14: "The Sun Also Rises" by Ernest Hemingway
• Aug. 28: "Deliverance" by James Dickey.

Local man nominee for MUCC office

FARMINGTON—John Whitmore of Farmington is a nominee for the office of director-at-large of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

Election of officers will take place at the organization's 38th annual convention, to be held in St. Ignace June 19 and 20. About 500 delegates and guests are expected to attend.

Eight directors-at-large are to be elected from a field of 16.

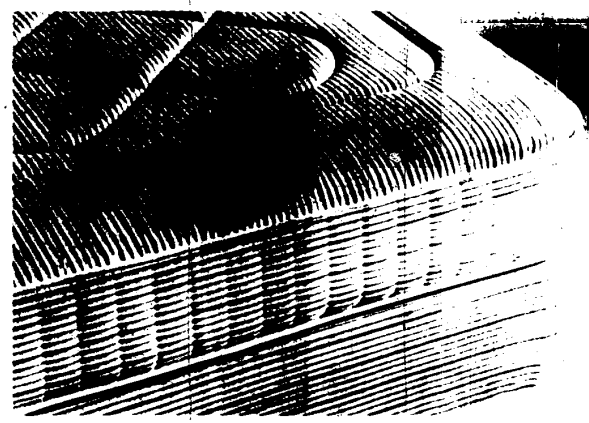
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