



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 15, 2014  
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## GLENDALE FIRE, RED CROSS TEAMING UP TO REDUCE RISK OF HOME FIRES

**Glendale, Ariz.** — The Glendale Fire Department and Red Cross are teaming up this Saturday, January 18, in hopes of reducing home fires in the Glendale Community. Approximately 70 community volunteers will be handing out door hangers and holding conversations with residents about simple preventative measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of a home fire. The event, which will take place in Glendale's 85301 zip code and honors the MLK Day of Service, will take place at 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. Volunteers will meet at the Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter located at 6135 North Black Canyon Highway in Phoenix where they will be paired up.

In 2012, the Glendale Fire Department responded to 3,570 fires while statistically the Red Cross responds to a home fire every eight minutes. The Red Cross believes fires are the greatest threat to residents' lives. Families can take simple steps to reduce this threat just by having a working smoke detector, establishing a home fire escape plan and taking the necessary precautions to prevent a fire like not leaving food unattended while cooking and using heating equipment properly.

To ensure your home is fire safe, please follow these simple safety tips:

- Smoke detectors save lives and are best placed on every level of the home, on the ceiling or high on the wall.
- Smoke alarms should be tested once a month and batteries replaced at least once a year.
- Everyone in the family should recognize the alarm and have a plan to get out of the home safely.
- Do not waste time trying to grab valuables or personal belongings.
- Fire escape planning involves establishing two routes to safety and a meeting place where members of the household can go once they've gotten out.
- Crawl low to avoid harmful smoke.
- If a door is closed, check the door for heat using the back of your hand. Never open a hot door.
- Once out of the home, stay out and call 9-1-1.
- Keep a fire extinguisher within reach when cooking in case of emergency and know how to use it properly.
- Keep the stovetop clear of flammable items like oven mitts and wooden utensils.
- Never pour water on a grease fire.
- If a fire happens to start in a pan on the stove, put on oven mitts and place a lid over the pan to snuff out the flames. Turn the burner off and do not remove the lid until the food has cooled off.
- If a fire starts in the oven, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to keep flames confined to the oven.
- Never wear baggy clothing when cooking to prevent your clothes from catching on fire.
- Never EVER leave food unattended while cooking.
- Children and pets should be at least three feet away from the stove.

Please visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) to learn more about home fire safety.