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NASFM Fire Research & Education Foundation,  
Residential Fire Safety Institute and  
Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance  
*presents...*  
**2009 Life Safety Achievement Award**

Since 1994, the Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI) has recognized fire departments for having outstanding fire safety statistics and prevention programs during the preceding calendar year. In recognition of these proactive fire prevention efforts aimed at improving their community's fire and life safety behaviors, fire departments may be eligible for the *Life Safety Achievement (LSA)* Award.

Since inception, the *Life Safety Achievement* Award was granted to any fire department that achieved zero fire deaths in the previous calendar year. This is certainly a worthy goal and one that will continue, but it alone does not reflect the excellence we seek in fire prevention programs. Over the past seven years, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company of Grinnell, Iowa, has sponsored this prestigious Award and will be doing so again this year. Recipients of the LSA Award will receive a certificate suitable for framing that recognizes your department's accomplishments. The certificate will be signed by the President of the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) Fire Research & Education Foundation, the NASFM Fire Research & Education Foundation Executive Director and the President of Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company.

Many factors combine in a fire prevention program to make our communities and our citizens safer. The *Life Safety Achievement* Award reflects this key combination of factors. To qualify for the 2009 LSA Award, the Fire Chief must submit an application outlining various aspects of the department's fire prevention efforts. We require that a fire department meet all of the criteria listed below.

**Life Safety Achievement Award Criteria:**

- Zero fire deaths or at least a 10% reduction in fire deaths from the previous year.
- An active fire prevention program in place within your department. Briefly describe your program.
- Dedicated commitment to fire prevention activities. Briefly describe your department's commitment and the resources committed, which may be financial or in-kind.
- Evidence by some measure (department-determined) that your fire prevention efforts increased over the previous year and are making a positive difference. Please explain briefly.

The *Life Safety Achievement* Award campaign for 2009 began in January 2009, and all submitted applications must be received no later than July 31, 2010. Award notification will be made in September, so that you will have it in time for Fire Prevention Week.

To apply for the Award, the Chief of the fire department must submit an application bearing his or her signature along with all necessary documentation in support of the application. The application includes brief space for describing the fire prevention activity. Please attach a separate sheet with enough detail to thoroughly demonstrate the fire department meets the criteria outlined above. The maximum submittal, including the application itself, may not exceed 5 pages.

Submit completed applications to [info@firesafehome.org](mailto:info@firesafehome.org) or mail to Chrishawn Morgan-Price at 1319 F Street NW, Suite 301, Washington, DC 20004, where they will be collected and evaluated.

Of course, we like to hear about unique fire prevention and life safety education efforts too. If you'd like to submit a specific program to share with others, we will help communicate it to others across the country via the RFSI website ([www.firesafehome.org](http://www.firesafehome.org)). In addition, the United States Fire Administration (USFA) has offered to help promote the ten most effective programs by including a program summary about the program materials in its online collection of prevention and public education materials, The Exchange. This is part of the USFA's Learning Resource Center's online catalog.

If your department receives a *Life Safety Achievement* Award, we encourage you to inform your local media of the Award so you can tell your community about your fire prevention and life safety education efforts and to help build support for your programs. A sample news release will be included with your Award in September.

If you have any questions about the *Life Safety Achievement* Award, please submit your inquiry to the RFSI general help line at [info@firesafehome.org](mailto:info@firesafehome.org).