



For More Information, Contact:

Emily Mueller

Coalesce, Inc. | 920-380-4444 | [emily@coalescemarketing.com](mailto:emily@coalescemarketing.com)

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### **Educational Outreach Partnership Expansion**

*Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division and Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association  
expand toolkit program, promoting fire education and fire safety to primary-school children across  
Minnesota*

CLEVELAND, Ohio (May 8, 2013) – Continuing its mission to save lives and protect property, the Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association is proud to communicate the strengthening of its partnership with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Fire Marshal Division through the expansion of the Fire Educator Toolkit fire-safety training program for students from kindergarten through third grade.

The overwhelming response received from the initial 30 kit rollout of the educational toolkit program has led to the expansion of the program, with 30 additional kits being created and distributed to fire departments in Minnesota and Wisconsin that have asked to participate in the program.

Together the Minnesota State Fire Marshal and the Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association developed the toolkit that is intended to provide fire educators with a core program for fire education and safety for children. The kit includes smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, a fire extinguisher (empty), a whiteboard to facilitate home address practice, a sprinkler head, a flameless candle and more.

"What makes this toolkit successful is that it includes props and talking points to help firefighters direct the conversation in a way that is meaningful for children," said Andover Fire Marshal Roberta Bartholomew whose department was a recipient of one of the kits from the initial launch.

The initial rollout of the program took place in January, and the second set of kits will be available in May. In total, 60 fire departments in Minnesota and Wisconsin will have toolkits for promoting fire education and safety.

#### **About the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division**

The mission of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety State Fire Marshal Division is to protect lives and property by fostering a fire-safe environment through fire/arson investigation, code development and enforcement, regulation, data collection and public education. Data collected by the State Fire Marshal Division from fire departments statewide is analyzed and used to determine the best methods of public education and enforcement to improve fire safety in our state.

#### **About the Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association**

The Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association is a more than 60-year-old non-profit trade association dedicated to saving lives and protecting property by providing education of a balanced fire protection design. For additional information, including videos, interactive questionnaires and training websites about fire safety and protection, visit [www.femalifesafety.org](http://www.femalifesafety.org) or call 216-241-7333. For a complete listing of member companies, visit the Member Profiles page of the association's website at [www.femalifesafety.org/member.html](http://www.femalifesafety.org/member.html).

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