

Local Towns Receive Grants for Fire Education

(Boston)—Governor Deval L. Patrick and the Secretary of Public Safety and Security announced that grants totaling over \$15,000 will be awarded to the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Programs in Hudson, Maynard, and Stow. The grant money will go to local fire departments to conduct fire and life safety education programs for students in pre-K through 12.

“I am thrilled to see these three towns receive the grants for Fire Safety Education. It continues to show the Commonwealth’s as well as the Fire Departments commitment to public safety,” said Rep. Hogan “education is the first step in preventing fires and saving lives.”

Stow Fire Chief Michael McLaughlin added, “This is the 16th year of the S.A.F.E. Program in Massachusetts and we are truly reaching our goal of raising a fire safe generation of children.”

Established in 1996, the S.A.F.E. Program aims to educate students about the dangers of fire and the fire hazards tobacco products pose. The grant money pays for special fire education training that firefighters use in collaboration with teachers to educate students in the classroom. Since its inception, the number of children who die in fires each year in Massachusetts has dropped by 66%. In 2009, the state saw an all-time record low in fire related deaths.

In 16 years, the program has had 239 documented Young Heroes, or children who put into practice the fire and life safety lessons they learned in the classroom during a real life emergency to save themselves or others. The Governor and Legislature fund this program through the Executive Office of the Public Safety and Security and is administered by the Department of Fire Services. For more information about this program, please go to www.mass.gov/dfs and type “SAFE” in the search box.