



First Alert And The National Volunteer Fire Council Get Ready For Volunteer Week With Fire Extinguisher Donation Program

April 8, 2020

First Alert Donates 1,000 Fire Extinguishers to NVFC Fire Corps Program to Support Volunteer Fire Departments on the Frontlines

AURORA, Ill., April 8, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- In recognition of National Volunteer Week in April, First Alert, the most trusted brand in fire safety*, is teaming up with the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) to show their gratitude and appreciation for volunteer fire departments across the country. With first responders facing unprecedented conditions nationwide, the donation of 1,000 First Alert rechargeable fire extinguishers will go to departments registered with the NVFC's [Fire Corps](#) program to help fire service volunteers make an immediate impact in the fire readiness of their communities.



While millions of people across the country are spending more time at home – and as home cooking increases – it is important to educate the community about the essential role that fire extinguishers play in a home safety plan. For this reason, First Alert and the NVFC have partnered to develop the fire extinguisher donation program, which will allow volunteer fire departments to distribute fire extinguishers to keep homes and families safe.

"With more people home and cooking, the risk of fire incidents increases," said Tarsila Wey, director of marketing for First Alert. "According to the National Fire Protection Association, the number one cause of home fires in the United States is unattended cooking, with ranges or cooktops accounting for 62% of home fire incidents. Many small kitchen fires could likely be resolved with a fire extinguisher if caught early."

Fire extinguishers can help save lives when used quickly and effectively. Yet, an astonishing 70% of fire extinguisher owners say they would not be comfortable using an extinguisher in the event of a fire according to recent research.** The donation program is supplemented by an online training course, which will enable volunteer firefighters to educate their communities on how to properly and safely use this important line of defense. Departments should practice recommended safety protocols and electronically share information with residents under the current climate of social distancing.

"When a fire starts, every second counts. Especially with the increase in people in their homes., knowing the proper placement and maintenance of extinguishers – in addition to smoke and carbon monoxide alarms – can help reduce the risk of severe fire incidents," added Wey.

It is important to place fire extinguishers in convenient locations in the kitchen and garage, and on every level of the home. A simple way to remember how to operate a fire extinguisher is with the acronym PASS:

- **Pull** the pin on the extinguisher
- **Aim** the nozzle low toward the base of the fire
- **Squeeze** the trigger
- **Sweep** the nozzle from side-to-side

The NVFC's Fire Corps program utilizes community volunteers to assist resource-constrained fire departments with non-operational tasks such as community education and smoke and carbon monoxide alarm installations. The extinguisher donation program will enable these volunteers to equip residents with this important line of defense as well as provide instruction on how to properly use an extinguisher.

"We are grateful to First Alert for this donation to help our volunteer departments keep communities safe and decrease the number of fire-related

calls," said NVFC Chair Steve Hirsch. "We also are thankful for our fire service volunteers and the commitment they make to keep their own neighbors safe from threats of fire and carbon monoxide."

The *Home Fire Preparedness: Fire Extinguisher Best Practices* training course is available in the NVFC Virtual Classroom at www.nvfc.org/access-the-nvfc-virtual-classroom. For more information on fire safety, go to www.firstalert.com.

**First Alert Brand Trust Survey, February 2020 – Results are based on the responses of 1,000 adults, ages 25 and older, living in the United States who completed an online survey. Results are statistically significant at a 95 percent confidence level and can be generalized to the entire adult population in the United States within those statistical parameters. For more information or a copy of the complete survey results, contact Tim Young at LCWA: 312/565-4628 or tyoung@lcwa.com.*

***Source: Fire Extinguisher Category Research, Survata, 2016*

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About the NVFC

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is the leading nonprofit membership association representing the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. The NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer in the national arena and provides critical resources, programs, education, and advocacy for first responders across the nation. Learn more at www.nvfc.org.

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