

State Recognition Goes To Sylvania Township Family

A Sylvania Township family received a Smoke Detector On Guard, or Smoke Dog, award at a recent meeting of the township trustees.

Joseph and Dawn Tuite and their sons, Matt and TJ were recognized because, "they took a very simple action. The alarm went off and they got out," according to Rich Palmer, assistant chief of fire prevention for the Ohio State Fire Marshall's Office. Although having and maintaining a smoke detector is automatic in many homes, that's not the case in some, Mr. Palmer noted. He added that not everyone heeds an alarm "In 45 to 60 seconds a fire doubles. You don't have time." Although the family's actions were what they should have been, many people either don't have smoke alarms or don't respond as they should Mr. Palmer said.

The Smoke Dog award was devised to recognize the importance of having and responding to smoke alarms and to spread awareness. Mr. Palmer said the award is known as the Smoke Dog because it serves the function of a guard dog for fire. It rests out of the way, but is always alert for danger from a fire.

No family members were injured at the fire on Greenacre last November.

Deputy Chief Mike Froelich said the fire department did its usual "return to the scene" after the fire checking on neighbors to determine if they had working smoke alarms. He said the department placed 14 alarms in homes in the vicinity.

Chief Jeffrey Kowalski also noted later in the meeting that the Sylvania Township Fire Department will provide alarms to anyone who says they need one.

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