

CHIEF DOWNEY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION!

LET ME START BY THANKING MIAMI LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND FOR BEING A TRUE BEACON IN OUR COMMUNITY SINCE THE 1930S.

YOU ARE SHOWING US ALL THAT A BLIND PERSON CAN DO ANYTHING A SIGHTED PERSON DOES, THEY SIMPLY NEED TO LEARN A DIFFERENT APPROACH.

TODAY'S DEMONSTRATION IS PART OF THIS MESSAGE...

SO I AM REALLY HAPPY TO BE HERE WITH YOU THIS MORNING TO SHARE THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRE SAFETY AND BEING PREPARED IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE.

BEFORE I BECAME MAYOR, I WAS A FIREFIGHTER FOR 25 YEARS, AND I WAS EVEN THE FIRE CHIEF.

AS PART OF OUR TRAINING, WE ALWAYS PLACED A GREAT EMPHASIS ON FIRE SAFETY BECAUSE AS WITH MOST THINGS IN LIFE...

BEING PREPARED MAKES THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUCCESS AND FAILURE.

I ALSO WANT TO WARN YOU THAT YOU ARE GOING TO HEAR ME SAY SOME THINGS THAT YOU ARE GOING TO HEAR THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

THE REASON WHY WE SOMETIMES REPEAT THINGS OVER AND OVER IS BECAUSE THEY MAKE SENSE, AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THEM

WHEN IT COMES TO FIRE SAFETY, WE WANT THESE THINGS TO SINK INTO YOUR BRAIN, AND WE WANT YOU TO BE PREPARED.

SO LET ME SHARE SOME TIPS WITH YOU, AND THEN WE'LL OPEN IT UP FOR QUESTIONS.

LET'S START WITH THE MOST OBVIOUS.

A FIRE CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE.

THIS IS WHY TODAY YOU WILL HAVE DEMONSTRATIONS IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS, AND IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU BE READY IN CASE ANY OF THEM HAPPENS.

FIRST, YOU NEED AN ESCAPE PLAN.

BY PLANNING AND PRACTICING AN ESCAPE PLAN, YOU CAN ESCAPE TO SAFETY IN THE EVENT OF AN ACTUAL EMERGENCY...

AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO WASTE TIME SEARCHING AND FEELING FOR AN EXIT.

IF YOU LIVE IN AN APARTMENT BUILDING, TRY TO LIVE NEAR AN EXIT AND PLAN YOUR ESCAPE.

IF NECESSARY, HAVE A RAMP AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCY EXITS.

AND, UNLESS INSTRUCTED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, NEVER USE AN ELEVATOR DURING A FIRE.

NEXT, YOU NEED SMOKE ALARMS.

SMOKE ALARMS REDUCE THE CHANCES OF DYING IN A FIRE BY NEARLY 50 PERCENT.

THE BEST THING IS TO HAVE A SMOKE ALARM IN YOUR KITCHEN AND BEDROOMS.

BUT GUESS WHAT?

IF YOUR SMOKE ALARMS DON'T HAVE FRESH BATTERIES AND THEY DON'T WORK, THEN THEY'RE USELESS!

IF YOU DO HEAR A SMOKE ALARM, MAKE SURE YOU KNOW TO GET LOW AND GET OUT WHEN THE ALARM GOES OFF.

AND THIS SHOULD ALL BE PART OF YOUR ESCAPE PLAN.

WHEN YOU'RE COOKING IN THE KITCHEN, USE COMMON SENSE.

DON'T GET DISTRACTED WHEN COOKING AND DON'T LEAVE A HOT OVEN OR STOVETOP UNATTENDED.

HAVE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER IN THE KITCHEN IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, AND MAKE SURE YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS.

YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW HOW TO USE ONE!

PRACTICE FEELING THE DOOR, DOORKNOB AND CRACKS AROUND THE DOOR WITH THE BACK OF YOUR HAND TO SEE IF THEY ARE TOO HOT.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ONE, DO NOT OVERLOAD ELECTRICAL OUTLETS WITH OR EXTENSION CORDS.

DO NOT PLUG IN YOUR COMPUTER, TV, IPAD, AND CELL PHONE IN THE SAME PLACE - NOT A GOOD IDEA!

SPEAKING OF PHONES, KEEP A PHONE NEAR YOUR BED AND BE READY TO CALL 911 OR YOUR LOCAL EMERGENCY NUMBER IF A FIRE OCCURS.

FINALLY, GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT.

THEY WILL COME OUT AND HELP YOU INSTALL FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND INSPECT YOUR HOUSE FOR FIRE SAFETY.

MOST OF ALL, REMEMBER THAT FIRE SAFETY IS YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY...

IT ALL STARTS WITH YOU!

SO WE ARE ALL GLAD YOU ARE HERE AND READY TO PREPARE YOURSELVES BY PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S DEMONSTRATIONS.

AND NOW, LET'S OPEN IT UP FOR SOME Q AND A...