

I received this from a Navy shipmate of mine that lives in Ketchikan Alaska. He thought it was especially heart felt and something that needs to be shared.

It is a memo from the Ketchikan Fire Chief who has just spent a week dealing with a house fire that killed four people. The memo, I think, shows compassion for what was lost but also a frustration in that these deaths could have been prevented.

Everything from here on down are the words of the Ketchikan Fire Chief.

Subject: A Heart Felt reminder from the FIRE CHIEF OF KETCHIKAN

To All my Co-workers (Friends) with the City of Ketchikan!

What a needless/ senseless tragedy we have all experienced the past few days.

I'll keep this short but please, read it and feel free to forward it to anyone you wish.

We all think that fire always happens to "someone else"... We all watch the glamorous movies on TV where the firefighters "waltz-in and save" the victims. That's not the way it works! Fire is indiscriminate... it cares not if you are old or young, rich or poor, black, white, Native, or Asian..... and it doesn't care if you have a plan or not. You can't see, you can't breath, and unless you DO have a plan, you and your family are at risk!!

Tell your family, tell your neighbors, and tell all your friends! ...a little common sense is all it takes.

Have an escape plan! Practice it with your family!

Have a working smoke detector! They are designed to protect you when you sleep!

Have a working Carbon Monoxide Detector!

Always have a second way out of your place of residence and where you sleep!

If you do have a fire..... Get OUT! Remember that there isn't a piece of property anywhere worth dying for!! People is why we are here!!!

Remind all the people at your church!

Remind all your neighbors and family members!!

All fire departments have FREE information that can help you "Plan Ahead"... Take a minute and come and get some and share it with those you love!

The Ketchikan Fire Department has FREE smoke detectors if you need one or know someone who does and we have given them away for years!

We are all family and we all suffer when there are losses like this.

Spread The Word!!! Tragedy like we just experienced is always so senseless!!!

Thank you!!

"Make sure you all have a Happy and SAFE Holiday Season"

Greg

