



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: Just in time for National Fire Safety Week - Fire Safety Video

Urbana: In a joint effort with the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD), the Ohio Department of Commerce/Division of the State Fire Marshal, the American Red Cross and the Urbana City Fire Department, Champaign Residential Services, Inc. (CRSI) has sponsored a new and updated fire safety training video that will soon be available to any family home or any residential facility both licensed and unlicensed.

The video, which will also be available in CD-ROM format, is completed and currently a curriculum is being developed with the help of Urbana University, according to Linda Smith, CRSI public relations director. "It is so exciting to see this project come to fruition after over a year of planning. CRSI plays a huge role in the community in terms of employment and services and this is just one area where CRSI saw the need and provided the resources to accomplish this important safety project. It's also great to see community partnerships that directly benefit people and save lives," says Smith.

The film was shot in June by Mills James Productions of Columbus using local people as actors, including members of the Urbana Fire Department. Brad Knull, son of Mitzi and Phil Knull of Rosewood who works with Mills James directed the film's production.

"This video is a comprehensive training tool that educates both the consumer and the caregiver as well as any family on the importance of practicing and promoting good fire safety skills," says Mark Schlater, chief operating officer for CRSI and State Fire Safety Committee member. "It has been developed specifically for consumers and new and existing employees of any residential facility both licensed and unlicensed," Schlater said.

The film, which has been approved by the Ohio Fire Prevention Bureau for accuracy and within guidelines set by the State Fire Marshal, can also be used in any home to train family members, kids or the elderly on fire safety practices, according to Schlater. "This training film will save lives over the course of many years," said Schlater.

A premiere showing of the twenty-eight minute film is scheduled for October 23 at 3:00 p.m. at the Columbus Developmental Center, 1601 West Broad Street in Columbus. Participants and sponsors of the project are invited to attend.

For a brochure and ordering information contact: Fire Safety Training, c/o CRSI, P.O. Box 29, Urbana, Ohio 43078 or e-mail: firesafety@crsi-oh.com.