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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *(Feb. 6, 2012)*

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Thanks to a \$54,700 federal grant won by Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue Department, a decades-old program intended to make sure all single-family homeowners in Murfreesboro are protected against fire is being expanded.

Dubbed Smoke Alarms For Everyone (S.A.F.E.), the program began in 2000 and has since offered every owner of a single-family residence the opportunity to have a working smoke detector installed free-of-charge.

Beginning Wednesday, the program will be enhanced with helps for the visually- and hearing-impaired, according to information furnished by MFRD Asst. Chief and public information officer Allen Swader.

Funded by a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant, MFRD has been able to purchase 2,500 smoke alarms for free distribution and installation in single-family homes inside city limits. These dual detection smoke alarms utilize ionization and photoelectric sensors that are responsive to both flaming and smoldering fires.

The department was also able to obtain 100 units with flashing strobe lights for the visually-impaired and 100 devices that, when placed under a bed-pillow and activated by a separate smoke detector unit, vibrate violently to notify the hearing-impaired.

Informational signs are being placed at all nine operational fire stations today (Feb. 6), and the detectors will be available beginning Wednesday.

“Smoke alarms will be available beginning Wednesday, February 8,” Swader said. “Stop by your nearest fire station or call Fire Administration at 615-893-1422.

“Citizens in need of audio/visual alarms or ‘bed-shakers’ will be placed on a list and appointments will be scheduled for installation and brief education on usage of these special alarms,” he added.