



Coffee Break Training - Fire Prevention and Public Education

Public Fire Education Planning — A Five-step Process — Step 2: Developing Community Partnerships

No. FM-2014-3 January 16, 2014

Learning Objective: The student will understand the importance of developing community partnerships (Step 2 of 5) in the publication “Public Fire Education Planning — A Five Step Process.”

What community resources are needed for risk reduction? A broader spectrum of resources is required to conduct a successful risk-reduction effort. Examples of additional important resources include the following:

- **Knowledge:** Knowledge of the problem and possible solutions, including a factual description of the community and its associated risks, is very important. Such knowledge is needed for an accurate community risk analysis. Think teamwork!
- **In-kind support:** This involves resources provided in lieu of money, including equipment, printed materials, supplies and personal effort.
- **Political support:** Support for the risk-reduction process from elected officials is very helpful to finding success.
- **Community support:** Partnerships with people and organizations in the community can identify risks, planning measures and resources required to get the risk-reduction process started and the program implemented.
- **Emphasis is often placed on finances, but additional resources are important.**

What is a community partner? A community partner is a person, group or organization willing to join forces and address a community risk. It is important to identify a group of partners who have a stake in the success of the risk-reduction program.

Who are some possible community partners?

- Groups already interested or addressing the same or a similar risk issue.
- Members of the population who are affected by the risk issue.
- People/Groups who feel the financial impact of the risk issue.
- Groups already providing services to the population affected by the risk issue.
- Community service and advocacy groups.
- Groups that can help deliver messages.

Consider forming a planning team. Discuss your organization’s intention of forming a planning team to reduce the risk problem. Explain what resources your organization can provide.

Summary

Community partnerships are needed in order to reduce any significant fire or injury risk.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration publication FA-219, “Public Fire Education Planning — A Five Step Process,” June 2008.

To download a copy of this publication, follow the link at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-219.pdf>.