

Senior SAFE Mission Statement

The following represents the *core mission* of the Senior S.A.F.E. program:

The Senior SAFE program is a fire prevention education program designed to improve the fire and life safety of older adults in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through education that addresses the unique fire risks for this age group. Some of the risks include smoking, home oxygen use, cooking, electrical, and heating dangers. The program utilizes specially trained firefighters to teach fire and life safety education. Many of the firefighters are trained emergency medical technicians who have seen the catastrophic health effects of smoking-induced illnesses and the dangers of fire associated with home medical oxygen use.

Senior SAFE aims to improve the safety of older adult homes. Programs may include the installation of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, testing and replacing batteries in these devices, the installation and checking of house numbers, installing high-end heat limiting devices on stoves, in-hood stove fire extinguishers, nightlights, and other fall prevention interventions where needed to provide safety for the at-risk older adult population in the community. In addition to installing safety devices, education specific to their circumstances is a crucial component of improving the safety of older adults at home.

The Senior SAFE educator serves as a community leader who can provide firsthand knowledge of the dangers associated with fire, age-appropriate information on preventing and surviving those fires that occur and affect a change in the behavior of older adults.

The Senior SAFE Program is designed to create a partnership between older adults and fire departments through established providers of senior support services such as Councils on Aging, Senior Centers, Visiting Nurse Associations, or other similar agencies.