

Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI) Announces 14th Annual Life Safety Achievement (LSA) award

Since 1994, the Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI), formerly Operation Life Safety (OLS), has recognized fire departments for having had outstanding fire safety statistics during the previous calendar year and for their proactive measures in improving their community's fire life safety records in the future. The recognition is called the **Life Safety Achievement** (LSA) award.

While it is not always possible to achieve zero structural fire deaths, it should be every fire department's mission. When a fire department achieves that goal, the RFSI sends them the LSA award to show our appreciation and support for the fire prevention and public education efforts that helped make it possible.

To qualify for the year 2006 award, the fire chief must submit an application stating that the department's jurisdiction had zero structural fire deaths in calendar year 2006, and must describe the department's fire prevention bureau or activities. The detailed instructions below will help you in completing the form.

Instructions for completing the 2006 LSA application

The year 2006 **Life Safety Achievement** award campaign began on January 1, 2007. For the sixth consecutive year, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company of Grinnell, IA will be sponsoring this prestigious award (year 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 award years).

To apply for the award, the **chief** of the fire department must submit the application with his or her signature. If you have difficulty downloading the application, you can request one by mail, fax, telephone or e-mail. The 2006 application includes a space for describing the fire department's fire prevention bureau or fire prevention/public education activities. The form must be signed and some type of description must be included.

The description does not have to be detailed, but should be enough to show that the fire department does some type of fire prevention and/or public education each year. For example, you can list the number of persons assigned to the bureau or the typical activities (e. g, inspections, station tours, school visits, open houses, etc.). Many fire departments do not have a fire prevention bureau but have one or more firefighters who perform fire prevention tasks. A summary of the types of activity that they perform is acceptable.

Of course we like to hear about unique prevention or education programs, too. If you want to devote the space to a specific program, that's fine. We'll pass your ideas along so other fire departments can learn from your experience..

We encourage you to inform your local media of the award so your community hears about your fire prevention efforts. A sample news release will be included with your award. We will process late arrivals but we cannot guarantee that the award will get to you by *Fire Prevention Week*.

If you have any questions about the LSA award or eligibility, please contact the RFSI Project Manager, Dana Bies at 763/416-0527 or via e-mail at: rfsimgr@comcast.net

The *Life Safety Achievement* award application can be found on page 7 of the FREE bi-monthly publication, *Operation Life Safety Newsletter*. The application can also be downloaded from the RFSI website: <http://www.firesafehome.org/general/LSAApp.asp>

GMRC to Sponsor *Life Safety Achievement* Award for Sixth Consecutive Year!

*The Residential Fire Safety Institute (RFSI) is extremely pleased to announce that **Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company** (GMRC) of Grinnell, Iowa, will again sponsor the *Life Safety Achievement (LSA)* awards for the sixth consecutive year.*

A reduction in funds available to the RFSI made it necessary to seek an alternate source of revenue; and GMRC saw the LSA award as an important opportunity to recognize fire departments nationwide for a job well done.

For 13 consecutive years, the RFSI has been recognizing the fire prevention efforts of the nation's fire departments with the LSA award. This award specifically recognizes those efforts, which resulted in zero structural fire deaths during a calendar year. According to RFSI director Roy Marshall, this award "more precisely recognizes the deadly fire a fire department didn't have."

*GMRC President, Dan F. Agnew, said his company, founded in 1909, has a long tradition of supporting fire prevention programs. He said the RFSI *Life Safety Achievement* award program was thoroughly evaluated and found to be an excellent manner by which to recognize the fire prevention efforts of local fire departments. "It matches our objectives very well," Agnew said. "Fire departments are justifiably proud of receiving the award, and Grinnell Mutual is equally proud to be a part of this outstanding program."*