

Safety

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ate their home because of a fire or any other emergency situation.

"The idea is to assemble household residents together in one area to account for everyone living in the house. If anyone is missing, it will be immediately known," Tighe said.

He cautioned against making the assembly area anywhere near the house where firefighters or other emergency personnel might be working. "Assemble in an area in the front yard, or near a place where emergency supplies are stored that is away from the main building," Tighe said.

He also said that families should practice their evacuation plan as if it were a fire drill. "It is important for everybody to know what they are supposed to do in an emergency situation," Tighe said. "Just like the firemen practice their drills so there is no confusion when a real emergency occurs, families should practice their emergency evacuation plan."

The most important thing is for families to make a plan and clearly explain to all members how the plan works. "That way everybody is on the same page, and all family members will be accounted for without worrying that one of them is possibly trapped inside a burning building. If anyone is missing, the firemen will know what to do," Tighe said.

The deputy said that all homeowners should display "Tot Finder" stickers on the windows of children's bedrooms. "If a child is missing from the emergency assembly area, firemen will

immediately know where to look if a Tot Finder sticker is on the child's bedroom window," Tighe explained. Tot Finder stickers can be picked up free of charge at the fire station Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Tighe said.

Tighe then went through a fire safety checklist that he emphasized is important for every household. "None takes priority over the other," Tighe said. Everything on this list is important for fire safety and prevention. Adhere to these simple, common sense rules, and everybody will be just a little bit safer.

Before opening any door in a fire, feel the door first at the bottom and then work your hand up the door to see if it is hot. A hot door means there may be a fire on the other side, so try to get out another way.

Stay low to the floor when escaping a fire.

If possible, cover your mouth with a wet cloth to avoid smoke inhalation.

Batteries in smoke and CO2 detectors should be changed twice a year, Tighe said. "We recommend changing them whenever you change your clocks for daylight savings time." Tighe explained that everyone with fuel burning appliances and/or wood burning fireplaces and stoves should have CO2 detectors.

"If you don't know where to place smoke alarms and CO2 detectors, just call the fire department at the non-emergency number, 423-0062 between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, and a fireman will come to your house, show you the best locations, and even help with the in-

stallation," Tighe said.

Tighe said that house numbers continue to be a problem throughout the island. He asked that all residents display their addresses in minimally 4-inch high numbers that are in an obvious location and easy to read. If your house is off the road down a long driveway or behind hedges, displaying the address on the front door is not going to help firemen trying to find where you live.

If your mailbox sits in a group of three or four other mailboxes and that is the only place your house number is displayed, firemen will not know which house belongs to the mailbox, Tighe said. He recommended putting the number as close to the street as possible, and preferably under a light where it can be easily seen at night.

Another problem that continually arises is the width of driveways. "The new fire trucks and engines are big," Tighe said. "If houses are down lengthy driveways and fire trucks need to drive on the property, the driveway must be wide enough to give the trucks and engines access." The department recommends a minimum of 10- to 12-feet so the big trucks can make the turn from the street.

Every household should have a battery-operated radio in case of an emergency that could require mass evacuation. Flashlights with fresh batteries should also be part of every emergency kit.

Tighe said that the fire department will hold an open house at the end of October to dedicate the two new tanker trucks. The dates will be announced shortly in the Jamestown Press.

Sousa

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Carol Sousa

After talking to Msamange, Carol Sousa decided to go to Malawi to see if the allegations were true. Her maiden name was Carol Blount, from the family that owned Blount Seafood and Blount Marine. She thought she would use her resources to help the millions of widows whose husbands and children were murdered.

The first time she went to Malawi in June of 1985, she took her 14-year old son, Jonathan. To her horror, everything Msamange had said was true. The conditions were much worse than she ever expected or imagined.

Women were staying alive by eating water lilies. When the water lilies were gone, they ate grass. Those who only had grass to eat eventually died of malnutrition.

The first person Sousa met when she arrived in Mulanji, a town on the Mozambique border, was a man named Augustine. Mulanji is not on most maps.

She wondered why so many of the black population had Christian names. She learned that the Portuguese had settled in Mozambique years ago, long before the current unrest. Many of the natives spoke Portuguese as well as several local languages.

Sousa said that Augustine was covered in mud when she met him. He was nearly naked, and his left eye was missing. An empty socket covered in mud was where his eye should have been. Augustine told her that he was beaten because he was caught with a Bible. His eye was knocked out while the soldiers were beating him.

After they talked, she said the man looked so wretched, abandoned, and dejected that she hugged him. He wept. Sousa said that one little hug gave him hope that all was not lost. She met many of the refugees and the few children that escaped.

The widowed women had suffered every form of abuse imaginable. Many of them were impregnated by rape and bore the children that they desperately tried to nurture. Sousa said that she hugged as many as she could.

"The women were so unloved," Sousa said. "They were living proof that without love, there is no hope."

Sousa spent three months of each following year in Tingani until 1989. She brought her two daughters with her to help. With Msamange's assistance, she established an incorporated ministry. They named it El Shaddi, which means God Almighty.

Sousa gave as much as she could to provide the starving women with maize, their main staple. When cooked, maize is called msima (pronounced seema, the m is silent), she said. Msima looks like Cream of Wheat. It is not much more than ground corn and water.

The widowed women needed so much Sousa said she didn't know where to start. She quickly realized that her resources were limited and she needed to get help. If she gave away all of her money, nothing would be left to continue her work.

Whenever she returned to America she did what she could to raise awareness and send funds, clothing, and anything else of value to Malawi.

"We keep these women alive. That in itself is a daunting task," Sousa said. "But that is what we do. A bowl of maize and a hug brings smiles to their faces and a visible change to their personality. Again, we hugged as many people as we possibly could."

Sousa said that the children had nothing that even resembled a toy. They were happy to be alive. Since they had nothing, it took little to make them smile, she said.

Carol Sousa lives in Jamestown when she is not in Malawi. She will return to her home in Tingani, a tiny village at the southern

Jeweler to hold environmental benefit weekend

Campany & Thornton Fine Jewelry will host a fund-raising event that will help Save The Bay protect and restore Narragansett Bay and its watershed.

On Friday and Saturday, Oct.

10 and 11, Campany & Thornton will donate 20 percent of all sales to this environmental organization. Shoppers are invited to a fun-filled two-year anniversary reception Friday night from 5 to 9 p.m.

The reception will include a wine tasting and a drawing for fabulous prizes.

Campany & Thornton Fine Jewelry is located in The Village at the South County Commons, Rt. 1, South Kingstown. The store specializes in unique and extraordinarily beautiful pieces of adornment -- a vast selection of modern and classic jewelry made of natural gemstones and precious metals.

Candidate Forums

What Is Rhode Island's Economic Future?

Let's Ask Our Candidates for State Senate and House

Senate Candidate Forum
Tuesday, October 7th, 6 to 7:45 p.m.
Middletown Public Library

House Candidate Forum
Tuesday, October 14th, 6 to 7:45 p.m.
Middletown Public Library


All Newport County State Legislature Candidates have been invited to participate in these forums

Forum Moderator will be *Keith Stokes*
Executive Director, Newport County Chamber of Commerce


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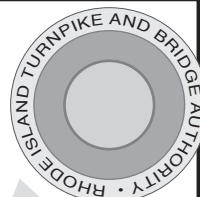
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