



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Amanda Vela | (317) 873-1585 | www.zionsville-in.gov | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

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New ZFD public education vehicle helps deliver safety messages

The Zionsville Fire Department has unveiled its newest tool for sharing fire safety messages to children and adults.

With the newly wrapped ZFD public education vehicle, the department aims to share three key messages: "Prepare, Prevent, Practice."

Vincent Randolph, the department's public educator, said the exterior of the vehicle is designed to display safety tips that convey messages centered around "Prevent, Prepare, Practice." Using these three focus areas and the subsequent safety tips, Randolph can stand by the vehicle at any given moment and use it as an instant teaching tool.

"Our goal is to make sure this vehicle stands out to where it invokes thoughts then action, not only by the messages but by its mere presence," Randolph said. "I hope people are moved to action in practicing fire and life safety in their everyday lives."

The vehicle is a valuable contribution to the department's public education outreach efforts. Randolph loads materials in the vehicle and delivers anything from handouts and fire helmets to spray hoses and photo props. At the recent Union Spotlight Night at Union Elementary, the vehicle was used to transport a kitchen stove prop making for a more effective and engaging presentation for nearly 700 participants.

"My goal as public educator is to leave people with lessons that won't go away, lessons that can never be extinguished," Randolph said. "I have noticed that when I am driving and at a stoplight, I can see people in the car behind me reading the 'Can You Find the Hazards?' message on the back of our van and pointing to the hazards they see in the picture. I hope they are also going through a checklist in their head thinking of their own homes."

Obtained last July, and recently wrapped with key safety messages, the vehicle has already been used in preparing for Zionsville Street Dance, Area Familiarization Training with Santa, Annual ZFD Firefighter's Ball & Awards Banquet, ZFD Memorial Golf Outing and the Indiana Association of Home Educators Convention. This year, the vehicle will be seen at the Autism Ability Fest, Boone County Home and Business Expo, St. Vincent Annual NICU Picnic, Zionsville Chamber of Commerce events, various local senior centers and more.

"We are so blessed to have Vincent leading our Public Education efforts. This vehicle is but one of the many tools he uses to reach as many people as possible with of safety programs," Fire Chief James VanGorder said.