

Sleep Safe Program Saves Lives

A Success Story

Nothing could say more dramatically that smoke alarms save lives than the life and home saved by the ear-piercing scream of the smoke detector that awoke Fred Lantz one January afternoon.

Fred Lantz is the proud grandfather of Anna Pietila who is enrolled in the Keweenaw Bay Head Start Program. In late March of last year, a Night Hawk smoke alarm was installed in the Lantz home as part of the Sleep Safe program of the Keweenaw Bay Head Start and Early Head Center. Sleep Safe, a fire safety and education program, provides a free, installed smoke alarm for each child enrolled in the Head Start/Early Head Start program of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Funds for this program were provided by the Bemidji Area Indian Health Service.

On January 7th, Fred Lantz experienced first hand why smoke alarm use in the home is so critical. Upon finishing a bit of tidying up around the house, Mr. Lantz took a nap on the living room sofa. Shortly after falling asleep, he was awakened by the sound of his recently installed smoke alarm. He awoke to a house filled with smoke. A recently emptied ashtray had set fire to the wastebasket in the kitchen.



The smoke alarm installed by the Sleep Safe program provided the early warning necessary to get Mr. Lantz out of a home fire alive. Mr. Lantz was able to extinguish the fire in the kitchen and had just begun to air out the house when his wife Elvera Lantz arrived home. Both credit the smoke alarm installed by the Sleep Safe Program at the Keweenaw Bay Head Start and Early Head Start with saving their home and possibly life of Mr. Lantz.

For more information about the Sleep Safe Program, visit
<http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/InjuryPrevention/index.cfm>