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## **FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION With "BIG JOHN" The Talking Fire Engine!**



"Big John" 1980 Crown Fire Engine

In 2000, Linda Marsile, from Heart Plus approached the Orange County Fire Services Association (OCFSA) Board of Directors about collaborating to launch the "Big John" Fire Safety Education programs. The Orange County Fire Authority had already donated the first fire engine to OCFSA and the late; Thurot Ravenscroft (the legendary voice of Tony-the-Tiger and the Grinch) donated this voice acting talents for the fire engine's safety programs to children in Orange County. Since 2000 to June, 2011, approximately 40,000 children in Orange County have been taught about Fire Safety by "Big John"!

Educating and serving the community are the primary goals of the more than 1,000 members of the Orange County Fire Services Association (OCFSA). Fire-fighters from every city in Orange County make up the full membership of OCFSA. First formed in 1913 and known as the Orange County Firemen's Association, the name was changed in 1996 to avoid confusion with the Orange County Fire Department, which has renamed itself Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA). OCFSA is a 501-C-3 nonprofit organization.

"Big John", the talking fire engine, was equipped with a remote controlled sound and animated program to be used as an safety to children so they will The firefighter conducting the Stop, Drop and Roll, caution lighters, candles or fire, how a smoke detector how he looks and sounds breathing apparatus on. The the fire engine to explore, feel comfortable, put on equipment and ask questions. Parent attendance is encouraged and welcome.



### **DID YOU KNOW...**

- Children under 4 are over 2 and 1/2 times more likely to be killed in a fire than children ages five through nine.
- A disproportionate number of child fire deaths occur in homes without operating smoke detectors.
- Over 60% of residential fires with child casualties are started by children playing and tend to originate in sleeping areas. 80% are started by children playing with matches or a lighter.
- Smoking in the home has a correlation to the increased likelihood of fires due to the availability of matches and lighters.



Thurot Ravenscroft

