



Department  
of Commerce

# NEWS RELEASE

**John R. Kasich, Governor**

**Jacqueline T. Williams, Director  
Department of Commerce**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
May 11, 2015

Contact: Lindsey L. Burnworth at (614) 752-7179  
or [lindsey.burnworth@com.state.oh.us](mailto:lindsey.burnworth@com.state.oh.us)

## **MAHONING COUNTY RESIDENT RECEIVES AWARD FOR USING SMOKE DETECTORS TO ESCAPE FROM A HOUSE FIRE**

Sarah Pavalko, 14, of Boardman, accepted the Smoke Detector On Guard (Smoke D.O.G.) Award from the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of State Fire Marshal and the Boardman Fire Department today for her actions to escape a house fire on March 19, 2015. The ceremony was held at the Boardman Central Middle School.

“The Smoke D.O.G. Award recognizes people like Sarah who have been able to get out of a house fire by responding to the warning sound of a smoke detector,” said State Fire Marshal Larry L. Flowers. “It is important to have working smoke detectors. Much like a guard dog, a smoke detector stands watch over the home both day and night.”

On March 19, 2015, Sarah was at home alone when she smelled smoke. As she was heading to the second floor to investigate, the smoke alarm sounded. Sarah placed her hand on her sister’s bedroom door and felt heat. She then picked up her cat and left the house to call 911. Sarah credits her elementary fire safety education with giving her the tips to follow in the situation.

“The facts speak clearly: working smoke detectors save lives and also double individuals’ chances of escaping a fire,” said Marshal Flowers. “I encourage all Ohioans to make sure their smoke detectors are properly placed, regularly tested and maintained. That just might save your property, your life and the lives of your family members if fire ever breaks out in your home.”

Marshal Flowers also stresses that every family member should know at least two ways out of the home as part of an effective home fire escape plan.

For more information about home fire safety, visit our website [www.com.ohio.gov/fire](http://www.com.ohio.gov/fire).

# # #

Follow us on Twitter: @OhioFire & @OhioFireAcademy