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Dear Chief [name]:

Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol is a fire safety program for students and their families, funded through a Fire Prevention and Safety grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA. Your department [*Select one:* has expressed interest in bringing the program to your community **OR** will be participating in Sound Off this year.] We want to share an overview of the program and answer any questions you might have about it.

Sound Off has two major components. The first is classroom lessons for 2nd and 3rd graders about smoke alarms and their sounds; reducing home fire dangers; home escape maps; and home fire drills. The second part is home safety visits and installation of free smoke alarms provided by the grant in the homes of the students after they learn the four lessons. Sound Off materials and methodology reflect best practice in Community Risk Reduction (CRR) strategies. We designed Sound Off specifically to meet the needs of low-income/high-risk students and their families. Initially launched in 2014, it will expand through an FY24 Fire Prevention & Safety Grant from DHS/FEMA to 34 States around the country. All Sound Off fire departments are given free online training in Sound Off and its various activities.

Included with this letter is a package of materials that further describe Sound Off:

- Sound Off Firefighters Instructor's Guide
- Poster Teaching Guide for teachers in Sound Off classrooms
- Sound Off Storybook; delivers the program's fire safety messages in story format
- Background description of Sound Off for School Administrators
- Description of how Sound Off lessons align with the Common Core State Standards required in many classrooms

Each year we have tested whether the Sound Off lessons work by giving the kids a short test before and after the lessons (both tests have the same questions), and the results have been terrific. There was an average student knowledge gain of 37% in 2015; 42% in 2016; 45.8% in 2019, and 48% in 2020.

We're excited to be working with your fire department and other departments in your state. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. You can find the full suite of Sound Off resources here: www.ymiclassroom.com/sound-off-teams.

Sincerely,
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