



PRESS RELEASE

FROM: Nate Lasseur, *Founder/President*

DATE: June 24, 2009

RE: Fire Safety Training in Cap-Haitien, Haiti

Fire Safety Training at Hospital in Cap-Haitien, Haiti.

Cap-Haitien, Haiti. On June 14th - June 18th, 2009 IFA members Nate Lasseur, Robert Belizaire, Gayl Nye and Gina Lasseur traveled to Haiti as volunteers for The Florida Association of Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and America (FAVACA) to provide a Fire Safety Training for the staff at Justinian Hospital in Cap Haitien, Haiti. The training was requested by Konbit Sante, a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Maine which sponsors the hospital. Justinian Hospital is the largest health care provider in northern Haiti and serves an estimated 825,000 people. Major fires in the recent years have caused an entire wing of the hospital to close, forcing some services to be shut down. These catastrophic events has also forced the hospital staff to merge units together which has led to overcrowding and could lead to more serious problems such as an outbreak of a major disease.



Our service was requested to train the hospital staff with the basic knowledge of fire safety. This training served as a first step in implementing a plan to prevent future fire disasters at the hospital. We were able to identify many potential fire hazards throughout the facility as well as provide instruction to the staff on basic fire behavior, fire prevention strategies, importance and proper uses of fire extinguishers, installation of smoke detectors and emergency evacuation plan for staff & patients. A total of 75 smoke detectors were donated by several Florida fire departments (*West Palm Beach Fire Rescue, Davie Fire Rescue and Dania Beach Fire Rescue*) to be installed throughout the hospital. From the feedbacks we received by those in attendance, the training was very successful. Dr. Marie-Carmelle Leconte, one of the trainees, has been with the hospital for over 26 years, states *"This training is the first of its kind in the history of Justinian Hospital."*

International Firefighters Assistance, Inc. (IFA) is a non-profit organization that provides humanitarian assistance, support, education and training to firefighters and emergency rescue workers in underprivileged countries. Through our relief programs, we hope to strengthen local communities by assisting its citizens to better prepare for emergencies and disasters. The Republic of Haiti is currently our target country.

For more information on our initiatives, please visit our website:

www.IFArelief.org