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King Fire, Lions go beyond with new Guide Lights

By Mark Pavilons

A close-knit community looks after its own.

That sentiment is behind a new pilot project initiated by King Fire and Emergency Services. The Guide Light program aims to ensure that every senior, living independently in their own home, is taken care of.

This goes beyond the mandate of your typical fire department, but it's just another value added service in this special municipality.

During regular home visits by fire services personnel, ensuring residents have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, they're now offering the Guide Light. This simple, intelligent light bulb, complete with its own remote, brings help right to your door. In fact, it's been proven to save lives. Each bulb is synchronized to the remote.

You simply replace your existing exterior light bulb with the Guide Light. In the event of an emergency, it flashes red, alerting first responders and neighbours of trouble. The light can be seen upwards of three to five kilometres away!

Day or night, emergency personnel can find you much faster.

And when seconds count, it can mean the difference between life and death.

Tony Nowzari, president and founder of Safety Aid, said it's ideal for neighbours as well, who often tend to be on the lookout for the well-being of others in their community. There have been instances when neighbours have come to the aid of Guide Light users.

Wall said they are beginning to track the addresses where the light is being installed and this feature will enhance the 911 system.

The response, even at this early stage, has been "fantastic," Wall said.

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Shelley Langer, of King Fire & Emergency Services, installs a guide light at a local resident's home. This new campaign will make it easier for emergency personnel to locate the home of someone in distress.