

Seven local fire departments get pet oxygen masks

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Seven local fire departments were among more than 100 statewide to receive pet oxygen masks from Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association Charities this month.

Fire departments in Fairhaven, Freetown, Marion, Onset, Rochester, Wareham and Westport received sets of three masks designed to fit dogs and cats that might be victims of smoke inhalation, excess water inhalation or other respiratory emergencies.

More than half of the state's communities now have these kits and the 2013 campaign is under way to "finish the job," said MVMA Charities Inc. president Dr. Suzanne Starr. The group's initial goal was to place one mask kit in each town and city; phase two of the program is designed to place one mask kit in all of the 452 fire stations in the state. For information on how you can donate a mask kit in your community or participate in this program, call the MVMACI at 508-460-9333 or visit its Facebook page at MVMA Charities Inc.