

NEOFPA

North Eastern Ohio
Fire Prevention Association



After the Fire!
The story of Alvaro Llanos and Shawn Simons!
Survival. Perseverance. Inspiration.
For Immediate Release

Independence, Ohio – 150 local area fire chiefs, fire marshals, fire safety inspectors, fire investigators and firefighters from the North Eastern Ohio Fire Prevention Association will gather to hear the story of Alvaro and Shawn. In the early morning hours of January 19, 2000, many lives were forever changed as a result of a great tragedy on the campus of Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. An arson fire was started in the third floor lounge of the six story freshmen residence hall, Boland Hall. As the fire alarms wailed, most students thought it was just another false fire alarm, like the 30 or more false alarms that sounded the semester before. No one had any idea that there was a real fire, let alone where the fire was or how to get out of harm's way. Three 18 year old freshmen, all from New Jersey, perished in this tragic intentionally set fire. Two firefighters, 3 police officers, and over 50 additional students were injured, including 5 with serious burn injuries. Shawn was in a coma for 3 weeks, Alvaro was in a coma for 3 months with third degree burns over 60% of his body. Alvaro and Shawn will be sharing their survival story with area fire safety professionals and covering the following topics: fire safety and prevention, dealing with burns (the physical, mental, and emotional toll), overcoming adversity, tragedy and pursuing goals, the "3F's" (Family, Friendship, & Faith), consequences of pranks.

Date: December 7, 2021

Time: 08:30 am – 2:00 pm

Location: Embassy Suites Independence
5800 Rockside Woods Blvd.
Independence, OH 44131

After the Fire (Trailer): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJ7vBKPQLAY>

For more information contact:

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