



The **TRUMPET**

A publication from the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal | Summer 2016

TOP **5** TIPS **SAFE** **GRILLING**

Myth Busters: Fire Sprinkler Edition ♦ Fire Safety and Conservation ♦ Smoke Detector Program ♦ Search & Rescue Class ♦ Fireworks ♦ KFIRS Annual Report

FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Thank you to our wildfire fighting heroes

2016 has already been a historic year in terms of wildfires, caused by a perfect storm of dry, windy conditions keeping the Kansas Fire Service busy. All told, the Anderson Creek fire consumed almost 400,000 acres of prairie and ranch land in three counties across Kansas and Oklahoma. During and following this tragic fire, though, we got to witness many great examples of neighbors helping neighbors, from outside fire departments answering the call to assist, to citizens helping each other protect property and rebuild afterward.

I'd like to thank the firefighters, support personnel and staff of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management for their extraordinary effort to coordinate the efforts to bring this and other wildfires under control—saving many homes, livestock and potentially human lives along the way.

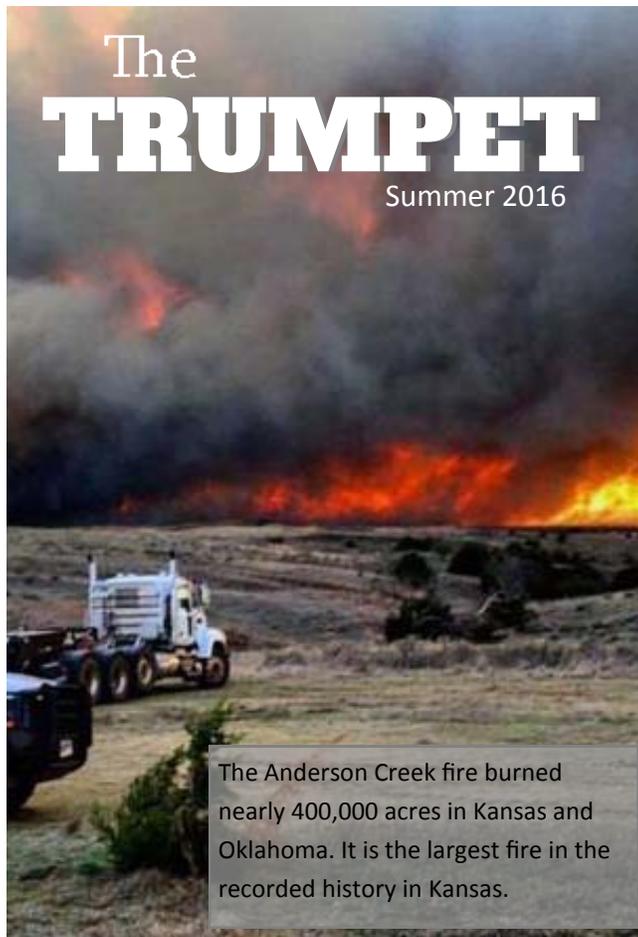
The Summer is still young, and many more wildfires will likely be experienced over the next few months. We can all be comforted in knowing we have such a fine volunteer and paid fire service in Kansas ready to rise to the challenge.

We hope you'll enjoy this Summer 2016 issue of *The Trumpet* and please share it with friends, family and co-workers.

Sincerely,



Doug Jorgensen
State Fire Marshal



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HOT OSFM NEWS



OUR MISSION

The agency's mission is to reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, education, hazardous material and search & rescue incident responses.

OUR PURPOSE

To reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through:

- Inspection
- Enforcement
- Plans Review
- Fireworks and Explosives Regulation
- Investigation
- Hazardous material incident mitigation
- Public education
- Coordination of search and rescue efforts

The TRUMPET

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Welcome Tom Sipp and Eric Lawrence, New Fire Investigators

The OSFM Investigation Division welcomes its two newest investigators, Tom Sipp and Eric Lawrence.

Tom Sipp is a Topeka native now living in Wichita. A graduate of Topeka High School (Class of 1981) and a Marine Corp veteran, Tom worked for the Hutchinson Police Department for two years before embarking on a 26 year career with the Topeka Police Department in 1988. Upon retiring from TPD in 2014, Tom worked for two years as a Gaming Agent for the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission.



Eric Lawrence spent his younger years in Yates Center where he graduated from high school and worked in his first law enforcement position with the Yates Center Police Department. Following stints with Topeka Police Department and the Kansas Highway Patrol, he settled in with the Lola Police Department where he spent 12 years of his career before joining the Lola Fire Department. Eric is also a retired veteran with the National Guard, with 21 years of service and having served a tour in Iraq in 2005 with the 891st Battalion.

Thanks to his military service, Eric was able to return to college where he completed a BS degree in Justice Studies in 2012.

Joel Beckner and Kelli Ingold Join OSFM as New Education Consultants



The OSFM welcomes two new Education Consultants to our team – one aimed primarily at educating facilities on fire safety and prevention, while the other will focus on our agency's public education programs.

Joel Beckner, who is working in our Prevention Division to train facilities on fire prevention and code compliance, comes to our office from the Secretary of State's office as a recent college graduate from Hannibal LaGrange University in Missouri.

Kelly Ingold is starting in a brand new position created within the OSFM's Administration Division to focus on expanding public education about fire safety and prevention across the state. Kelly earned her B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies from East Texas State University (now Texas A & M University at Commerce) and was a school teacher before leaving the workforce to be a mom. Most recently, she has been serving as a paraprofessional with the Auburn-Washburn School District (USD 437) working with gifted students.

Grilling SAFETY

Fire in the grill, under hot dogs and burgers, is a welcome sight at the family cookout. But fire anywhere else can make your summer kick-off barbecue memorable for all the wrong reasons. To keep you and your family safe while grilling, follow these Grilling Safely tips...



1. Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
2. The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
3. Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
4. Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
5. Never leave your grill unattended.

GRILLING STATISTICS

from **NFPA**

8,900 home fires are started by grills each year, on average

July is the peak month for grill fires, followed by May, June and August

In 2014, **16,600** patients went to the ER because of injuries involving grills, including

8,700 thermal burns

75% of U.S. households own at least one outdoor BBQ, grill or smoker

Gas grills contribute to a higher numbers of fires than charcoal grills.

62% of households own a gas grill



Source:
NFPA's "Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment" 2016 report



There are many misconceptions when it comes to automatic fire sprinkler systems and their effectiveness for controlling fires and protecting lives within private residential dwellings. Sprinkler systems have been in existence for over 100 years and are continually being improved in order to provide the most economical and efficient means of fire-suppression for all applications, whether in commercial or residential structures.

MYTH 1: Every sprinkler will activate and that everything in the house will be ruined. **FACT:** In the event of a fire, typically, only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate and spray water directly on the fire, leaving the rest of the house dry and secure.

MYTH 2: Home fire sprinklers are expensive and will make housing unaffordable, especially for first-time homebuyers. **FACT:** Home fire sprinklers are affordable and only cost around \$1.61 per sq. ft. for new construction. The presence of fire sprinklers can help houses sell faster than those without, significantly reduce property loss, cut insurance premiums, and even qualify a home for a tax rebate.

MYTH 3: A smoke alarm provides enough protection and any time it is triggered it will activate the home fire sprinklers.

FACT: Smoke alarms only alert occupants to the presence of a danger, but do nothing to extinguish the fire. Home fire sprinkler systems also reduce the heat and smoke allowing for a quicker and safer evacuation. Fire sprinklers do not operate in response to smoke, vapors, steam, or activating alarms.



MYTH 4: The water damage caused by the sprinkler system will be more expensive than the fire damage. **FACT:** Home fire sprinklers can significantly reduce property loss and fire damage. The sprinkler will quickly control the heat and smoke, limiting damage to other areas of the house. Any resulting water damage from the sprinkler will be much less severe than the damage caused by water from fire-fighting hose lines.

MYTH 5: If you want your home fire sprinklers to be reliable they will need

frequent, expensive maintenance. **FACT:** The standard design for home sprinklers is much simpler than the design for more traditional sprinklers like the ones used in commercial buildings. Maintenance only consists of visual inspections to make sure sprinkler heads are not obstructed, items are not hanging from sprinkler pipe, and control valves are not closed and easily accessible.

MYTH 6: Home fire sprinklers are unattractive and will ruin the aesthetics of a home. **FACT:** New home fire sprinkler models are very unobtrusive, can be mounted flush with walls or ceilings, and can be concealed behind decorative covers.

MYTH 7: Home fire sprinklers are not practical in colder climates, as the pipes will freeze and cause water damage. **FACT:** With proper installation home sprinkler systems will not freeze in colder settings. *NFPA 13D, Sprinkler Systems in Dwellings and Manufactured Homes*, sets forth guidelines on proper insulation to avoid pipes freezing.

MYTH 8: Sprinkler heads activate accidentally. **FACT:** When installed and maintained correctly, leaks are very unlikely due to each individual sprinkler head being designed and calibrated to activate only when it senses a significant heat change.

Fire Safety & Conservation

The Office of the Kansas Fire Marshal, which is focused every day of the year on protecting the land of Kansas and its citizens from catastrophic fires and hazardous chemical spills, offers actionable tips that Kansans can take to be both good stewards of our planet's resources while also being fire safe.

"Every Kansan has a role in preserving our state as both a beautiful and healthy place to live," said Doug Jorgensen, Kansas Fire Marshal. "We always encourage our citizens to take steps to protect their loved ones and property from fire and chemical hazards. On Earth Day, whether you have just a few minutes to spare or the entire day, everyone has time to do something which can have a positive impact on our planet while also improving their own safety from fire and chemical hazards."



Fire Safety & Conservation

START A COMPOST PILE!

Compost paper, leaves, veggie peelings, fruit waste, plant trimmings, etc.

More than just smart conservation, composting reduces fire risk by not burning waste which can create flaming embers that start fires elsewhere

- Build your compost pile away from any structures (not up against any walls)
- Check with your local waste management department on availability of reduced cost compost bins



Fire Safety & Conservation

Think you can't make a difference on fire safety in your home while doing good for the environment?

You can!

Take advantage of Hazard Drop-Offs locations. Get rid of old paint, cleaning chemicals, solvents, stains, etc. Not having these highly flammable chemicals on shelves will greatly reduce fire risk as well as the possibility of them contaminating ground soil.

A Bright Idea for

Fire Safety & Conservation

SWITCH TO LED LIGHTBULBS!

- Contains ZERO mercury!
- Operates cooler than traditional or CFL bulbs!
- Better for the environment AND improves fire safety!

Fire Safety & Conservation

Perform a Home Energy Audit

- Improve energy efficiency
- Save money
- Spot potential fire risks

Don't forget...get your HVAC checked by a licensed professional and replace your filters monthly!

FIREWORKS



We're feeling the heat of Summer, and along with it many of us will also experience the heat of fireworks celebrations as we enjoy Fourth of July festivities with our friends and families. While fireworks are used as part of the holiday celebration, it is important to remember that fireworks can be dangerous if not handled properly.

Unfortunately, statistics indicate nearly half of all fireworks injuries in Kansas during 2014 occurred to children under the age of 18 with burns being the primary type of injury. Hospitals reported a total of 158 fireworks-related injuries, with 47% of all such injuries during the entire year occurring on July 4. Thirty-nine percent of the injuries were to the hand, while thirty-four percent were to the face or eyes.

"While shooting your own fireworks can be a thrill, they can also cause serious injuries and fires if not handled properly," says Doug Jorgensen, Fire Marshal for the State of Kansas. "The safest approach to enjoying fireworks is to visit public fireworks displays conducted by trained professionals who know how to properly handle fireworks. We want all our Kansas kids to enjoy this Summer's fun and festivities as safely as possible."

To help the public celebrate safely, the Office of the State Fire Marshal offers the following tips for the safe use of fireworks:

- Always purchase high quality fireworks from reliable and legitimate sources
- Always read and follow label directions
- Have an adult supervise all fireworks activities
- Always ignite fireworks outdoors
- Have water nearby
- Never experiment or attempt to make your own fireworks
- Light only one firework at a time
- Never re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks
- Never give fireworks to small children
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place
- Dispose of fireworks properly
- Never throw fireworks at another person
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket
- Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers

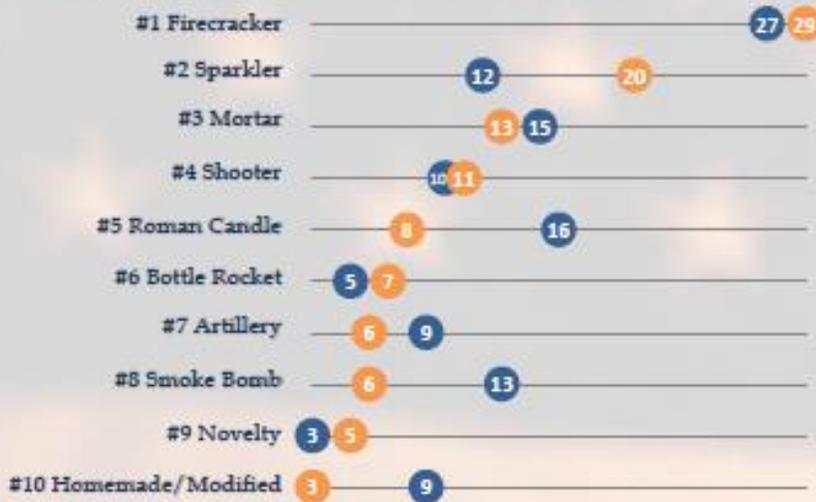
In addition, bottle rockets and M80s are dangerous and illegal in the state of Kansas. The use or sale of these banned fireworks is considered a crime under Kansas law.



KANSAS FIREWORKS INJURIES IN 2015

Fireworks-related injuries dropped from 161 in 2014 to 137 reported injuries in 2015. Instances of traumatic amputation dropped from 10 to 2 amputation injuries, but more injuries required burn center treatment or surgery than in 2014. Injuries are voluntarily reported by participating Kansas hospitals and urgent care centers.

Top 10 products involved in 2014 and 2015 injuries



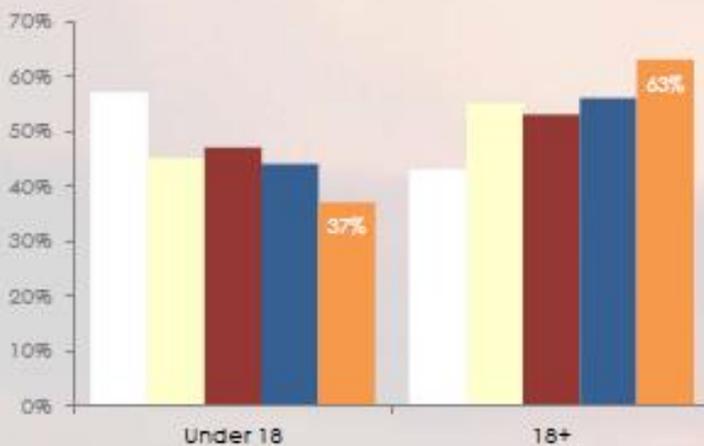
Head and eye injuries occur in almost 60% of injuries to bystanders.



Injuries while lighting/operating fireworks involved hands in 70% of cases.

A total of 97 males and 40 females were injured in 2015. Almost 80% of injuries occurring while lighting/operating fireworks occurred to males; almost half of those involved juveniles. Roughly 40% of injuries to females involved a juvenile assisting the operator.

Percentage of injuries by age group



Total injuries per year



Statistics from the Office of the State Fire Marshal, current 5/31/2016. Visit Firemarshal.ks.gov for more.



Since taking over the Search & Rescue program in Kansas, the OSFM has been busy providing training for members of the Kansas Search & Rescue Response System.

Most recently, the OSFM conducted its first Structural Collapse Technician (SCT) course at Crisis City, outside of Salina. The intensive 80-hour course was held May 10-17 and provided advanced training for 25 rescue technicians from across the state, as well as two members of the Kansas National Guard's 73rd Civil Support Team in Topeka.

The SCT class, one of the many requirements for rescue technicians participating in the state's Search & Rescue Response System, provided

students with the opportunity to learn and practice skills necessary for response to a tornado, building collapse, or other large scale disaster.

Rescuers spent seven days learning how to search for and gain access to victims trapped by a building collapse, and then how to safely extricate them. In addition to learning about building construction and the hazards associated with a collapse, students learned how to use acoustical listening devices and search cameras to pinpoint the location of a victim in a collapsed structure; how to utilize wood and other specialized equipment to stabilize that structure; and how to safely make entry into the structure by cutting and breaching

concrete, steel, and other building components.

Students also learned how to move heavy objects, through more primitive means such as levers and rollers, and by using heavy equipment, such as air bags, hydraulic tools, and a 35 ton crane.

The class culminated with a day of practical evolutions designed not only to test the student's skills, but to assess their ability to work together as a team to locate and extricate multiple trapped victims.

The OSFM currently has a second SCT class scheduled for August at Crisis City. For more information, contact Randy Hill at randy.hill@ks.gov



2016 MODEL PERFORMANCE IN FIRE PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM

Overview of Vision 20/20

Community Risk Reduction is not a fad or “buzz word” in the Fire Service. It’s a movement towards smarter targeting of hazards, keeping our communities safer, and even leads to safer practices in fire departments.

Vision 20/20 is a different plan than those that came before. It involves a large number of participants from all areas of fire prevention as well as other advocates and stakeholders. The project specifically seeks out existing programs that are succeeding and shines a light on the efforts to avoid competing efforts.

The primary purpose of the biennial Models Symposium was to find and promote model prevention programs that demonstrate results in common, measurable terms. By providing examples that others may follow, said the organizers, “we can lift the collective bar of prevention efforts across this fine nation of ours.”

Another purpose of this symposium was to move toward implementation on two key strategies for the Vision 20/20 project. The first stated strategy was “to expand our efforts to ‘get on the same page’ toward a national educational / marketing campaign with an emphasis on working smoke

alarms. The second was to instill the concepts of Community Risk Reduction (CRR) within the fire service of the U.S.

Models in Fire Prevention Symposium

Fire prevention professionals from all 50 states gathered in Fairfax, Virginia from March 10-12, 2016 to discuss Community

Each presentation followed a required layout to detail an identified problem, how it was solved, measurements for the program, and included recommendations for others to copy and use.

In other words, all the presentations had to include data. Each program used data to identify problems in the local community and then continued to use data to monitor the success of a program.

While there are many names for NFIRS data (fire data, NFIRS, Firehouse reports, run reports, state reports, etc), the name of the data is the least important factor. Many presentations referenced poor data quality in the beginning which made starting a CRR program difficult. They had to start by

cleaning up past reports, so they could get a handle on the true problem., before even addressing the issue head-on.

Community Risk Reduction is an important frontier for the Fire Service, to make a large-scale impact on lives. The backbone of CRR is the data to identify the major problems.

Improving data quality is exactly what Kansas is doing right now. There is still room for improvement to participation in the KFIRS program, but every day more and better data is being captured by Kansas fire departments.



Risk Reduction efforts that have produced results. Our own Sara Wood, NFIRS Program Manager, was one of the presenters as she demonstrated the vital role data collected through NFIRS plays in reducing fire risks across the country. She showcased the success of “fighting fire with facts” here in Kansas during her presentation titled “Fire Data in a Serious State.”

Presented programs covered a wide spectrum of topics from smoke alarms to special stovetop burners. You can find all the presentation materials and more at strategicfire.org.

2015: More data, More to report

Data improvement continues to the Kansas Fire Incident Reporting System, with even more participation

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Reporting FDs	410	532	529	490
Total Reports (including NA's)	69,783	259,251	259,131	238,437

It's that time again when I ask for photographic submissions from fire departments for the 2015 Kansas Fire Incident Reporting System Annual Report. If you'd like to submit photos for the annual report, please send them to Sara.Wood@ks.gov for inclusion. Proper attribution will be provided to you and your department. You will also preview exactly how any photos are used and captioned prior to publication. The data is in, compiled, cleaned, and ready to go. The data has been used throughout the year already and led to many data-driven decisions. Of special note is the role KFIRS data is playing in vegetation fires.

You probably noticed a big change in the look of the annual reports from 2013 to 2014. We're changing it up once again and hope to surprise you with a more interactive look at the Kansas Fire Service, as told by their own stories and calls. Even with changes, some old will come back. Many liked the in-depth look at local stats provided in the 2013 report. We'll be bringing that back this year.

Enjoy the small overview of the 2015 stats on the next page.

Total calls by region each month

	KC/Metro	N Central	NE	NW	S Central	SE	SW
Jan	7,085	489	4,825	264	7,114	1,202	383
Feb	6,215	448	4,207	265	6,955	1,177	373
Mar	5,984	735	6,365	378	8,584	1,501	377
Apr	6,905	501	3,912	261	7,749	1,349	366
May	7,381	470	3,664	268	7,519	1,101	386
Jun	7,928	489	5,241	298	7,935	1,103	398
Jul	7,627	492	5,094	346	8,392	1,190	466
Aug	5,945	472	4,164	323	8,013	1,195	390
Sep	7,465	451	5,075	364	7,687	1,188	378
Oct	7,486	521	5,150	352	7,740	1,144	425
Nov	4,918	434	4,828	286	7,940	849	413
Dec	4,907	415	4,473	86	7,753	843	404

In 2015, 532 fire departments reported 258,234 total calls, including mutual aid provided between fire departments.

3% Hazard:
 2,260 gas leaks
 7 radioactive calls
 1,575 downed power lines

6% False Alarm:
 4,136 malfunctioning alarms
 534 malicious false alarms

7% Fires:
 9,145 vegetation fires
 5,013 structure fires
 2,283 vehicle fires

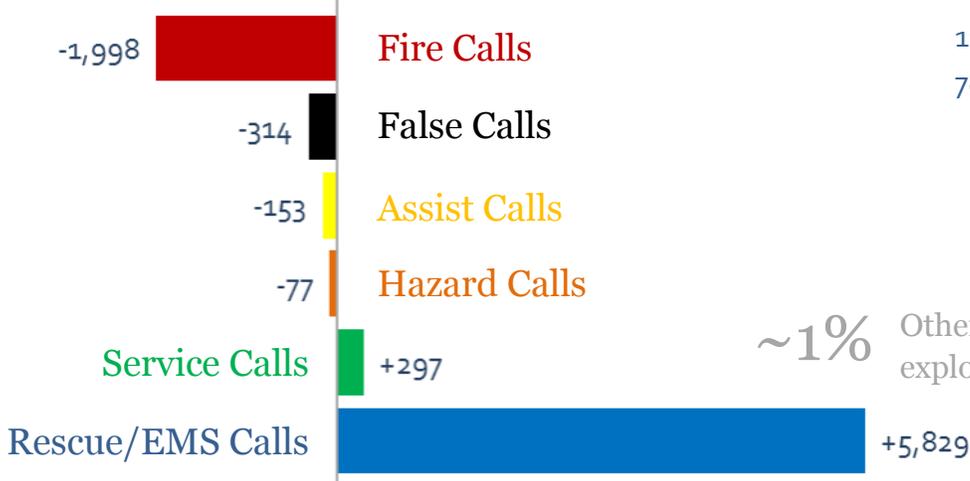
18% Assist/Service:
 6,169 calls assisting the distressed/disabled
 Canceled en-route 18,148 times
 1,379 unauthorized burning calls

65% Rescue & EMS:
 Advanced Life Support 34,535 times
 Basic Life Support 39,882 times
 Assisted EMS Crews on 71,984 calls
 Responded to residences 98,082 times
 211 searches for a lost person
 11,864 vehicle accidents
 780 extrications



WHAT DID THE KANSAS FIRE SERVICE DO IN 2015?

Difference in reported calls from 2014 to 2015



~1% Other calls, 2,261: including weather, explosions, and code complaints.

Statistics current 6/1/2015 and include only valid reports.

Celebrating **2 YEARS**

Kansas **FREE** Smoke Alarm Program

Since 2014, **nearly 2,000** smoke alarms have been distributed for **FREE** in Kansas homes!

Our Goal:
**Smoke Alarms
in EVERY
Kansas Home**



FireMarshal.ks.gov / SmokeAlarm