



PREVENTION

Highlights

Winter Fire Prevention for a Safe Season



In This Issue...

- Safety for Christmas
- Recent Issues
- Fire Safety During Winter Storms

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 3	Edu-Note by Ashley
Page 4	OSFM New Employees
Page 5	Safety for Christmas
Page 6	Recent Issues: Med Gas
Page 7	Fire Safety During Winter Storms
Page 8	Christmas Decorations
Page 9	Heating Safety
Page 10	Spot the Violations
Page 11	Historical Fires...
Page 12	Christmas Tree Safety



Our Mission

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is dedicated to protecting lives and property from the hazards of fire or explosion and will promote prevention, educational and investigative activities to mitigate incidents, promote life safety and deter crimes.

The Fire Prevention Division

The goal of the Fire Prevention Division is to reduce the potential impact of fire and explosion hazards where people live, work and congregate (other than one- or two-family dwellings) through code enforcement, inspections, plans review, licensing, and public education.

Prevention Highlights

Prevention Highlights is published quarterly to provide facility managers and others with information necessary to operate fire-safe facilities.

Brenda McNorton.....Chief of Prevention

Ashley Rogers.....Education Consultant

Jill Bronaugh.....Communication Manager

Connect with us!



firemarshal.ks.gov

800 SW Jackson
Suite 104
Topeka, KS 66612

(785) 296-3401

prevention@ks.gov



Edu-Note

by Ashley



CONTACT ASHLEY

Phone: (785) 296-0659

Email: ashley.rogers@ks.gov

As we bring in the closing of 2020, we look back at our year and see how wildly different it has been from most years.

The pandemic has brought many challenges this year. I am thankful for our strong connections with the healthcare associations around Kansas and the bonds we have formed with the healthcare community to keep them informed on the ongoing changing codes and policies.

It's been a rough year, but we have made it through. As we progress into the new year, we have to remember that even through the pandemic, we have to stay in compliance with code.

I have enjoyed giving presentations to different facilities around Kansas. My passion is, and always will be, to help others understand the codes and why we have them. If you are interested in a presentation, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Please feel free to send me an email at any time at ashley.rogers@ks.gov.

-Ashley Rogers, Education Consultant

Congratulations, Brenda Reber!

The Office of the State Fire Marshal would like to announce and congratulate our enforcement officer, Brenda Reber, on her retirement.

Brenda has worked for the State of Kansas for 40 years, with 23 of those years spent in the Fire Marshal's Office!

She plans to spend her retirement days outside enjoying hiking, kayaking, biking and golfing. She's excited to be able to spend more time with her granddaughter and family.

She will be truly missed by everyone she has worked with. We are sad to see her leave, but so excited for her future endeavors.



OSFM Welcomes New Employees

The Office of the State Fire Marshal Prevention Division is pleased to welcome three new employees.

Jason Mowery comes to the agency as a Fire Prevention Inspector for the counties of Graham, Rooks, Osborne, Smith, Trego, Ellis, Russell, Lincoln, Ness and Ellsworth. He comes to OSFM after working as an Agricultural Loan Officer.

Jason lives with his wife, five children and four dogs in WaKeeney, and they are soon expecting their sixth child. He enjoys construction, shooting and off-roading.

"I've always had a desire to work with a fire department or agency and felt this would be a great opportunity," Jason said.

Greg McGinn joins the agency as a Fire Protection Specialist for Western Kansas. He comes to OSFM from the State of Colorado Division of Fire



Jason Mowery



Greg McGinn

Prevention and Control, where he was the Health Facilities Chief for five years. He brings over 23 years of fire service experience.

Greg lives with his wife, Kim, and two children in LaCrosse, along with their two Yellow Labs, Daisy and Ruby. He enjoys four-wheeling in his Jeep, sport shooting and spending time with his family.

"This opportunity will allow me to focus on my family in a less stressful setting," Greg said.

Josh Dilliner joins OSFM as a Deputy Boiler Inspector. He comes to OSFM after 15 years at Taylor Forge Engineered Systems.

Josh lives with his wife, Megan, and three sons, in Osawatimie, along with their Basset Hound, Clyde, and cat, Puscifer. He enjoys being with his family and friends and playing corn hole. He has won several corn hole tournaments in the metro and surrounding areas.

"I took this position because I was looking to learn new things," Josh said. "I hope to start a career I can grow old in."

Welcome, Jason, Greg and Josh!



Josh Dilliner

For a list of OSFM current job openings visit
<https://firemarshal.ks.gov/Jobs.aspx>

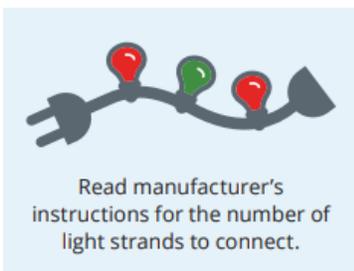




Safety for Christmas

Tree Tips:

- ◆ Natural trees should be cut at a 45 degree angle at the base.
- ◆ Place the tree away from sources of heat.
- ◆ Use only non-flammable decorations.
- ◆ Use only lighting with UL listing.
- ◆ Inspect lights for frayed or defective wiring.
- ◆ Do not leave lights on unattended.
- ◆ Keep natural trees in water at all times.
- ◆ When the tree becomes dry, discard immediately.
- ◆ Consider using battery-operated flameless candles.
- ◆ If you choose to use candles, make sure the candle holder is stable and they can't be knocked over.



KEEP YOUR FRIENDS SAFE FROM HARM...

SEND EACH ONE A SMOKE ALARM!



BE SURE YOU...

- Install smoke alarms on every level of the home, outside sleeping areas, and inside bedrooms.
- Test all smoke alarms in your house once a month.
- Replace smoke alarm batteries at least annually.
- Replace smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan.



FEMA



Recent Issues: Med Gas

In the past few months, our office has seen an increase in citations when it comes to medical gas. The citations came from faulty medical gas systems. Our office's first priority is life safety!

Medical gas is required to be inspected on an annual basis. It is the facility's responsibility to make sure this is being done and that the reports are reviewed. They are to ensure that the corrections are made immediately.

In some cases, medical gas reports can cause an Immediate Jeopardy (IJ) for the facility. An IJ is a situation in which the provider's non-compliance with one or more requirements of participation has caused or is likely to cause serious injury, harm, impairments, or death to a patient. Some items that can cause this to happen are failure of carbon monoxide sensor (CO – a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that can be very toxic), failure of master or gas or vacuum alarms, failure of vacuum outlets to meet the minimum flow test, and failure of medical gas or oxygen to meet the minimum flow test.

Using the code from *NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities 2012 Edition*, the following is required during maintenance and routine inspections (failure noted on the report must be immediately corrected by qualified personnel):

NFPA 99, 2012 edition: 5.1.14.2.3

Inspection and Testing Operations – the elements shall be inspected or tested as part of the maintenance program as follows:

(This is not a comprehensive list, for full description please use NFPA)

Medical air sources

- Room Temperature
- Shaft Seal Condition
- Filter Condition
- Presence of hydrocarbons
- Room ventilation
- Water quality (if equipped)
- Intake location

- Carbon Monoxide monitor calibration
- Air purity
- Dew point

Medical Vacuum Source (exhaust location)

WAGD source (exhaust location)

Instrument air source (filter condition)

Manifold sources

- Ventilation
- Enclosure labeling

Bulk Cryogenic Liquid source inspections (using NFPA 55)

Final line regulation for all positive pressure systems (delivery pressure)

Valves (Labeling)

Alarms and Warning Systems (Lamp and Audio operation)

- Master alarm signal operation
- Area alarm signal operation
- Local alarm signal operation

Station Outlets & Inlets

- Flow
- Labeling
- Latching & De-Latching
- Leaks

These items can cause serious injury and harm to patients. Inspections and maintenance shall be completed by trained and authorized personnel. If you have questions, please reach out to our office.





Fire Safety during Winter Storms

Winter storms can happen almost anywhere. They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.
- Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency. Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.
- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.
- Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need help.
- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

There are more home fires in winter than in any other season. Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January and February.

As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!



Fact

Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.



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Christmas Decorations

Here comes Christmas! And what do we do when Christmas is here? We decorate.

Are there codes for this? YES! When it comes to healthcare, the current code used is 2012 NFPA 101.

This code states that you can decorate, but it is limited to the following:

19.7.5.6 says combustible decorations shall be prohibited in any health care occupancy, unless one of the following criteria is met:

- (1) They are flame-retardant or are treated with approved fire-retardant coating that is listed and labeled for application to the material to which it is applied.
- (2) The decorations meet the requirements of NFPA 701, *Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films*.
- (3) The decorations exhibit a heat release rate not exceeding 100 kW when tested in accordance with NFPA 289, *Standard Method of Fire Test for Individual Fuel Packages*, using the 20-kW ignition source.
- (4) *The decorations, such as photographs, paintings, and other art, are attached directly to the walls, ceiling, and non-fire-rated doors in accordance with the following:
 - (a) Decorations on non-fire-rated doors do not interfere with the operation or any required latching of the door and do not exceed the area limitations of 19.7.5.6(b), (c), or (d).
 - (b) Decorations do not exceed 20 percent of the wall, ceiling, and door areas inside any room or space of a smoke compartment that is not protected throughout by an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.
 - (c) Decorations do not exceed 30 percent of the wall, ceiling, and door areas inside any room or space of a smoke compartment that is protected throughout by an approved supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.
 - (d) Decorations do not exceed 50 percent of the wall, ceiling, and door areas inside patient sleeping rooms, having a capacity not exceeding four persons, in a smoke compartment that is protected throughout by an approved, supervised automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 9.7.
- (5) They are decorations, such as photographs and paintings, in such limited quantities that a hazard of fire development or spread is not present.

If you are using things such as garland or artificial Christmas trees, those decorations must be flame retardant or treated with approved fire-retardant coating. In a sprinklered facility, you cannot hang decorations from the ceiling that interfere with the sprinkler heads. Also, please note sections (c) and (d) for how much of the wall, ceiling and door areas should be decorated.



Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer’s instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer’s instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



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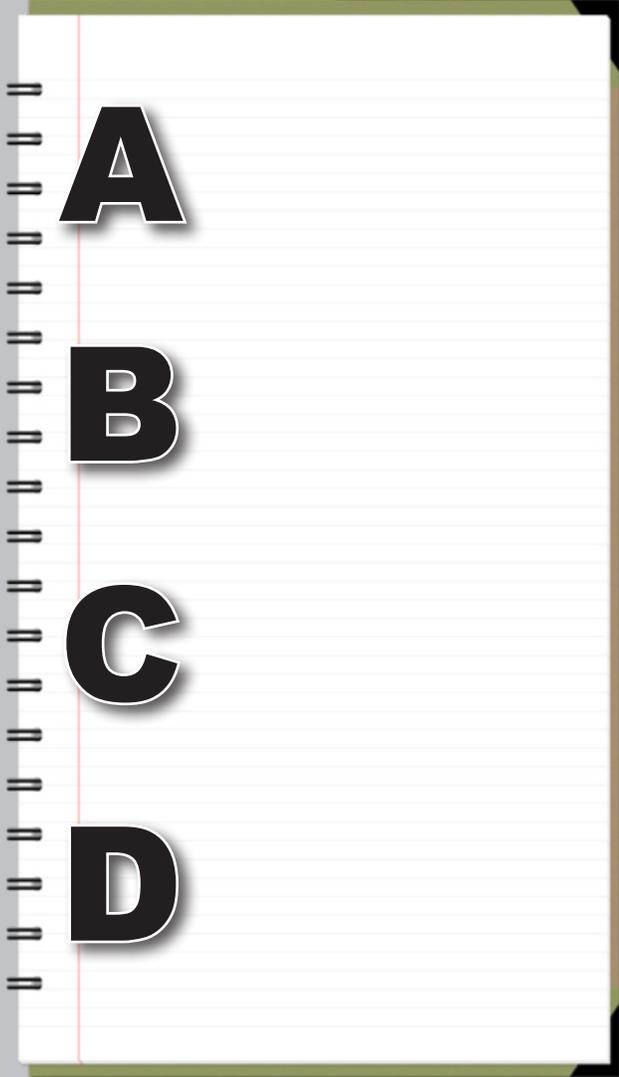
SPOT the violations



A



B



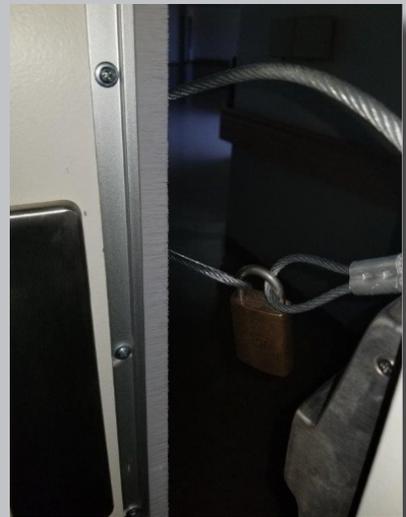
A

B

C

D

C



D



Answers on Page 11



Historical Fires...

The Ghost Ship

Oakland, California: Dec. 3, 2016 — 36 Killed

On Dec. 3, 2016, a fire broke out at a concert that was hosted in a former warehouse that was converted into an artist collective with non-permitted living spaces. This place was called “Ghost Ship.” Even though it was illegal to use this warehouse for entertainment purposes, the concert was still on.

There were about 100 people attending the concert that day, and of those, 36 were killed in the fire.

According to Wikipedia, the Alameda County District Attorney’s office launched an investigation into the fire’s causes. Emails from 2014 were reported to have described serious electrical problems in the building. On June 5, 2017, Ghost Ship’s master tenant Derick Almena and his assistant Max Harris were arrested and charged with felony involuntary manslaughter. On July 3, 2018, both pleaded no contest to 36 counts of involuntary manslaughter in a plea bargain with prosecutors. On Aug. 10, 2018, the judge overseeing the case discarded the plea deals and the pair were put on trial. On Sept. 4, 2019, the deliberations ended when the jury deadlocked, 10-2, for conviction on the 36 counts manslaughter charges pending against Almena, resulting in a mistrial. Harris was acquitted on all 36 counts.

The building was built in 1930 and made up of cement blocks. The entire place was about 9,880 square feet. Individual spaces were separated by flammable and combustible items, and there was a makeshift staircase to the second floor made of wooden pallets. There were residents who claimed that the entire building’s electrical system was dependent on extension cords. The city had received ten complaints about the property since 1998.

There were several aggravating factors that day. The building was not code compliant, there was no fire alarm system, no fire sprinklers, and no smoke alarms in the building. Once the fire was detected, it was



already too late to try and escape. The smoke and fire had grown so fast due to the makeshift construction and flammable furnishings.

The firefighters reached the warehouse within three minutes of the call. Their only access was a main door that had been cut through a commercial steel roll-up door. There was zero visibility, as they navigated through the obstacles of the random pianos, makeshift wooden pallet staircases, art and mannequins. The furthest in the firefighters could reach was about 25 feet. The fire grew so strong, they had to withdraw and abandon any rescue mission.

The next day there was a search and rescue effort, using drones and thermal imaging, but no survivors were found. Due to the nature of the incident, investigators removed debris slowly and carefully, and it was three days before the last bodies were recovered.

Investigators concluded that the fire began in the northwest area of the ground floor, and they documented extensive damage to the electrical system. However, they were unable to pinpoint the precise cause due to the extent of the fire. The report also documents why it took days to remove the bodies after the blaze was out, as investigators were forced to slowly sift through the cluttered debris of the collapsed interior.

Answers to Spot the Violations (page 10)

- A. open junction box: Has to be in a full box that has not been tampered with or broken. No missing pieces.
- B. Hold Open Device: This door has a make shift hold open device that came from a screen door. These types of devices are not allowed.
- C. Panic Hardware: The panic hardware in the picture has a cable that is tied by a padlock. This is not an approved panic device or lock.
- D. Restaurant Hood: There is no hood suppression system or ventilation system.



Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



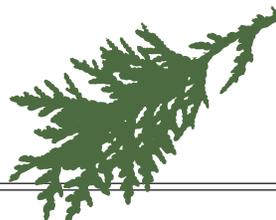
PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ! More than **one of every four** home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes **one in every four** of the fires.



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