



The **TRUMPET**

Arson Awareness

In this Issue...

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- **Six Motives for Firesetting**

FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

In the month of May, we recognize arson awareness across the country. This issue of *The Trumpet* is mostly dedicated to arson awareness, but especially to the arson investigators who do the hard work of analyzing and investigating suspicious fires. Their tireless actions and work help keep our communities safe.

I am extremely proud of our own investigator, Mike Tippie, for being recognized as the Arson Investigator of the Year by the Kansas Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators in February, as well as Theresa White and Eric Lawrence for their photos. You can find those photos on page 5 of this issue. It is quite an honor for our office.

I would like to thank Mike Roosevelt, Fire Marshal at Andover Fire-Rescue and Todd Kerkhoff, Fire Marshal at Johnson County, Consolidated Fire District No.2 for their contributions to this issue.

As always, thank you for reading *The Trumpet*. We hope you will enjoy it and share it with friends, family and co-workers. If you have any ideas or proposals that could benefit our mutual efforts to create a safer Kansas, please contact me at doug.jorgensen@ks.gov.

We hope you have a wonderful and safe Spring!



Doug Jorgensen
State Fire Marshal



STAY CONNECTED



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HOT SPOTS @ OSEFM



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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STAY CONNECTED



OSFM Welcomes Three New Employees



Sandra Dowell

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to welcome Sandra Dowell, who has joined our Prevention Division as a Senior Administrative Specialist. She comes to OSFM from Midwestern Metals/Custom Dredge Work/Dredge Transport and brings over 15 years of office experience.

Sandra lives in Berryton with her husband and "Mr. Kitty." She enjoys landscaping and interior design.

"I am excited to be here and ready for a challenge," Sandra said.

OSFM Prevention Division welcomes JC Dulin to its division. JC joined our Prevention Division as a Fire Protection Inspector for Riley, Nemaha, Geary, Marshall, Wabaunsee, Morris, Chase, and

Lyon counties. He comes to OSFM from the Kansas Department of Transportation, where he worked as an engineering technician for the past two years. He brings an extensive background in firefighting and law enforcement to OSFM.

He lives in Wamego and has three sons, ages 16, 18 and 22. He enjoys fixing cars, riding motorcycles and spending time with his family.

"While working as a firefighter and as an investigator, I worked closely with Fire Marshal inspectors and investigators," JC said. "I was always impressed with their professionalism and their attitude about their department. When I learned of an opening, I thought I'd give it a shot."



JC Dulin

OSFM Investigations Division welcomes Mike Windholz as its newest Fire Investigator for the south-central region of Kansas. He comes to OSFM from the Augusta Department of Public Safety. He has eight years of law enforcement experience and 19 years of firefighting experience.

Mike lives in Augusta with his wife, two daughters, a son and black lab mix, named Bevo. He enjoys riding motorcycles and keeping up with his kids and their hobbies.

"I'm excited for this new opportunity," Mike said. "I especially like the ability of it to go anywhere and do anything at the drop of the hat."



Mike Windholz

Welcome, Sandra, JC and Mike!

For a list of OSFM current job openings visit

<https://firemarshal.ks.gov/Jobs.aspx>



Mike Tippie named 2020 Investigator of the Year

Congratulations to OSFM Investigator Mike Tippie for his selection as the Kansas Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators' Investigator of the Year Award. He was awarded the honor at the annual general meeting in February.

Mike was nominated for this award by his co-workers, and selected over several other entries from around the State of Kansas.

On Oct. 4, 2019, Investigator Mike Tippie responded to a fire at the request of the Columbus Fire Chief. The Columbus Police were also involved. The fire at 619 Maple in Columbus was a 911 call by the occupant, Ms. Rogge. She stated a known person, Mr. Clarkson, had been at the house earlier and threatened to kill her. There was a history of domestic violence at the residence and presently a total room and contents fire.

Mike executed a thorough examination (including elimination of all other ignition sources) on the house and found the area of origin in the bedroom and evidence of incendiary fire during the investigation. Investigator Chris Mercer and his ADC (K9) were called to the scene to assist. Debris samples were taken for lab testing. Mike conducted interviews of all the residents of the house (3) and all potential witnesses in the area.

Mr. Clarkson had been arrested on an unrelated charge and denied involvement of the fire to local police. Mike conducted an interview with Mr. Clarkson on two separate occasions later and Mr. Clarkson denied any knowledge. Mike then went to the area and located a surveillance video captured by a camera at a local school. This video showed a subject believed to be Mr. Clarkson in the immediate area of the fire scene. After the prior two interviews, Mike returned for a third interview with Mr. Clarkson. Eventually, Mr. Clarkson admitted to starting the fire after Mike had proved his story to be false. Mr. Clarkson was subsequently charged in Cherokee County District Court for Arson after a three week investigation.

Mike was solely responsible for the entire investigation and follow-up. Mike's tenacity in finding the evidence that led to a successful prosecution of an arson and possibly prevented harm to those or others involved. Due to the active criminal threats being made, and the possible danger to occupants, Mike prioritized this case and the suspect was charged after Mike had taken numerous steps in a thorough and complete investigation. Truly, an admirable case worked from start to finish. The case went into January of 2020 and resulted in a conviction of Mr. Clarkson. Investigator Mike Tippie should be recognized for his personal drive, skill set and work ethic, to bring closure to yet another fire, one of many, in the numerous other fires in the region he works.

Congratulations, Mike!



OSEM also Recognized for Arson Investigation Photos

Also awarded at the February general meeting of the Kansas Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators were Theresa White, Eric Lawrence and Mike Tippie for their arson investigation photos.



In the Fire Pattern Category, Theresa White won third place for a photo of a light bulb with a pattern on it showing the direction of the fire travel.

In the Incendiary Category, Mike Tippie won second place for a photo of an incendiary fire. There is a pour pattern that goes up hill to this vehicle.



In the Reconstruction Category, Eric Lawrence won second place for reconstructing a fire scene.

Effects of Arson on Kansas Communities

*By Mike Roosevelt, Fire Marshal
Andover Fire-Rescue*



Effects of arson are not limited to the location at which the crime itself is committed. It is one that can span generational boundaries. Arson fires disrupt families, community organizations, and in some cases, the community itself. Depending on the target of the arson, communities can see disruptions in product availability, service delivery, and even transportation.

Many smaller communities do not have significant resources to address the problem of arson. Take for example a small community with only one grocery store. Often these are family operated, with narrow profit margins. Should an arson occur, either from within the community or from somewhere outside, the effects of that arson on the community can be devastating. The loss of income to the grocery store can bring an end to that family business, which can cause a hardship to the community members, driving citizens to shop elsewhere and move to a another community where their personal needs can be adequately met.

Aside from the direct loss, there are indirect costs associated with the fire event. A community may have expenses to assess the safety of the remaining structure and, depending on insurance or property owner status, a city may be responsible for cleanup of the site, and further for the disposal of all of the debris materials. Sometimes there are lengthy legal proceedings to declare a building uninhabitable with attorneys' fees and costs of inspectors. There are also the costs directly associated with the razing of the property through a demolition contractor to consider.

Depending on the level of damage to our theoretical grocery store, other businesses in the immediate area will experience a downturn in customers during



the fire event and immediately following. There may be a short period where curiosity brings additional folks to the neighborhood, and they may choose to purchase something in neighboring businesses. However, in relatively short order, the unsightly visual component of the damaged building induces people to avoid the area, either from a perceived safety concern or simply disgust that the event happened.

Social loss is another much less contemplated and conversed component when examining the community affect of arson. Many communities have spots where folks gather. These places, if lost or damaged by a fire event, create an element of social loss. Further, in those social gathering places, the talk of the town becomes the arson. In situations where the crime is slow to be solved, the conversations can built to levels of fear and distrust, both of individual segments of the community and of the fire and law enforcement officials charged with investigating the incident.

Investigative Arson Photos



These are a selection of photos taken by OSFM investigators at various arson incidents across the state. They show pour patterns, gasoline containers and other evidence left behind that helped investigators and prosecutors prove their cases.



Indicators that Suggest Arson

According to *NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigation*, the definition of arson is the crime of maliciously and intentionally, or recklessly, starting a fire or causing an explosion. It is the job of a fire investigator to determine if an arson has been committed.

There are several indicators related to fire origin determination that may provide evidence of an intentionally set fire.

Multiple Fires. Multiple fires are two or more separate, non-related, simultaneously burning fires. The investigator should search to uncover any additional fire sets or points of origin that may exist. In order to conclude that there are multiple fires, the investigator should determine that any separate fire was not the natural outgrowth of the initial fire.

Trailers. A trailer is a deliberately introduced fuel or manipulation of existing fuel(s) used to aid the spread of a fire from one area to another. Trailers can be used to connect separate fire sets. Fuels used for trailers may be ignitable liquids, solids, or combinations of these. Depending on the type of fuel used, portions of the trailer may survive the fire. Trailers are frequently indicated by elongated fire patterns absent conditions such as full room involvement, which may obscure or destroy patterns.

Lack of Expected Fuel Load or Ignition Sources. When the fire damage at the origin is inconsistent with the known or reported fuel load, limited rates of heat release, or limited potentially accidental ignition sources, the fire may be incendiary. An example of all three is an isolated burn at floor level in a large, empty room. Examples of limited fire load areas include corridors and stairways. Stairways, while usually having limited fire loads, may promote rapid fire spread by allowing flames or hot gases to travel vertically to other areas. This action may cause severe damage on exposed stairway surfaces. Additional examples

of areas with limited potentially accidental ignition sources include closets, crawl spaces, and attics.

Unusual Fuel Load or Configuration. If the investigation reveals the presence of an unusually large fuel load in the area of origin, or a fuel load in the area of origin that either would normally not be expected in that area or would not be expected to be in the configuration in which it was found, the fire may be incendiary. An example of an unusual configuration is where furniture, stock, or contents are deliberately stacked or piled in a configuration to encourage rapid or complete fire development. An example of an unusually large fuel load is where accumulations of trash, debris, or cardboard cartons

are deliberately introduced into a room or space in order to encourage greater fire involvement.

Burn Injuries. The manner and extent of burn injuries may provide clues to the origin, cause, or spread of the fire. Burn injuries may be sustained while setting an incendiary fire. The investigator should ascertain whether

the fire victim's burns, and the nature and extent of the injuries are consistent with the investigative hypothesis regarding fire cause and spread. The investigator should check the local hospitals for the identification of any persons admitted or treated for burn injuries.

Incendiary Devices. Incendiary device is a term used to describe a wide range of mechanisms used to initiate an incendiary fire. In some cases, the fire setter may have used more than one incendiary device. Frequently, remains of the fuel used will be found with the ignition device. If an incendiary fire is suspected, the investigator should search for other fire sets that may have burned out or failed to operate.

Delay Devices. Timers or delay devices can be employed to allow the fire setter an opportunity to leave the scene and to possibly establish an alibi prior to the ignition.



Source: *NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigation*, 2021 Edition

Six Motives For Firesetting

The National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime (NCAVC) has identified the six motive classifications as the most effective in identifying offender characteristics for fire setting behavior.

1 Vandalism. Vandalism-motivated firesetting is defined as mischievous or malicious firesetting that results in damage to property. Common targets include educational facilities and abandoned structures, but also include trash fires and grass fires. Vandalism firesetting categories include willful and malicious mischief and peer or group pressure.

2 Excitement. The excitement-motivated firesetter may enjoy the excitement that is provided by actual firesetting or the activities surrounding the fire suppression efforts or may have a psychological need for attention. The excitement motivated offender is often a serial firesetter. This firesetter will generally remain at the scene during the fire and will often get in position to respond to or view the fire and the surrounding activities. The excitement-motivated firesetter's targets range from small trash and grass fires to occupied buildings.

3 Revenge. The revenge-motivated firesetter retaliates for some real or perceived injustice. An important aspect is that a sense of injustice is perceived by the offender. The event or circumstance that is perceived may have occurred months or years before the firesetting activity. A fire by the revenge motivated offender may be a well-planned, one-time event or may represent serial firesetting, with little or no pre-planning. Serial offenders may direct their retaliation at individuals, institutions, or society in general.

Source: NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigation, 2021 Edition

4 Crime Concealment. This category involves firesetting that is a secondary or a collateral criminal activity, perpetrated for the purpose of concealing the primary criminal activity. In some cases, however, the fire may actually be part of the intended crime, such as revenge. Many people erroneously believe that a fire will destroy all physical evidence at the crime scene. Categories for crime concealment firesetting include murder or burglary concealment and destruction of records or documents.

5 Profit. Fires set for profit involve those set for material or monetary gain, either directly or indirectly. The direct gain may come from insurance fraud, eliminating or intimidating business competition, extortion, removing unwanted structures to increase property values, or from escaping financial obligations.

6 Extremism. Extremist-motivated firesetting is committed to further a social, political, or religious cause. Fires have been used as a weapon of social protest since revolutions first began. Extremist firesetters may work in groups or as individuals. Also, due to planning aspects and the selection of their targets, extremist firesetters generally have a great degree of organization, as reflected in their use of more elaborate ignition or incendiary devices. Subcategories of extremist firesetting are terrorism and riot/civil disturbance.

OSFM would like to thank Todd Kerkhoff, Fire Marshal, Johnson County, Consolidated Fire District No.2, for providing the information on pages 8 and 9.





WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY

MAY 1, 2021



WHAT IS WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY?

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is a national campaign that encourages people and organizations everywhere to come together on a single day to take action to raise awareness and reduce wildfire risks. It is held in the United States and Canada on the first Saturday in May. Given that in-person gatherings are limited or on-hold in many places, this year's Prep Day is focused on what residents can do on and around their home to help protect against the threat of wildfires.

The idea for the day came from a survey asking middle school students in Texas and Colorado about how they wanted to learn about wildfire. They wanted to be a part of something that was making a difference by improving wildfire safety where they lived. When the program was piloted in 2013 in Colorado, both students and adults were eager to be a part of a day to raise awareness about wildfire safety involving hands-on risk reduction activities. Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is now celebrated across the nation.

WHO SUPPORTS THIS EFFORT?

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping save lives and reduce loss from fire and electrical hazards, manages Prep Day. State Farm provides generous financial support with 150 project awards. Many national organizations help promote Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, including FEMA, U.S. Fire Administration, NOAA, the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, Fire Safe Councils, the National Association of State Foresters, and the American Red Cross.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS!

You can help promote wildfire protection by participating in risk reduction projects on your property on or before the 1st of May. Studies show that measures taken at the home and in the area within 100 feet of it, known as the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ), have a significant impact on minimizing damage and loss. Something as simple as clearing the immediate 5-foot zone around the home can assist in making a huge difference in avoiding a catastrophe.



CELEBRATE YOUR WORK ON WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY:



Use our free sample proclamation to announce and celebrate your work to reduce wildfire risks. Encourage people to send in before and after photos to document their work and post on social media with the hashtag #WildfirePrepDay to share your success.



Use free tools and resources, all found on the Wildfire Prep Day Campaign page: wildfireprepdays.org.

Visit wildfireprepdays.org or email us at wildfireprepdays@nfpa.org for information about getting involved.

Latest Fire Hazard Recalls from CPSC

Name of product:

Charging Cases Sold with Audio-Technical Wireless Headphones, Model ATH-CK3TW

Hazard:

The portable charging cases can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy:

Replace

Recall date:

April 14, 2021

Units:

About 7,450



Name of product:

EC8 Power Cables

Hazard:

The pins inside the connector on the power cord can deform and overheat, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy:

Replace

Recall date:

April 7, 2021

Units:

About 7,850



Name of product:

Ellipsis Jetpack mobile hotspots

Hazard:

The lithium ion battery in the hotspots can overheat, posing fire and burn hazards.

Remedy:

Replace

Recall date:

April 8, 2021

Units:

About 2.5 million



Name of product:

Animal, Heathered Plush and Luxe Sherpa Children's Bath Wraps

Hazard:

The recalled bath wraps fail to meet flammability standards for children's sleepwear, posing a risk of burn injuries to children.

Remedy:

Refund

Recall date:

April 7, 2021

Units:

About 55,700 (In addition, about 3,900 units were sold in Canada)



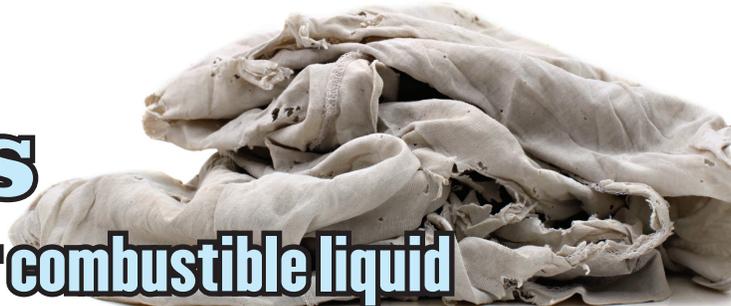
For more information on these recalls and others and to sign up for direct recall notifications, please visit www.cpsc.gov.

Working smoke alarms save lives!

Free Smoke Alarm Program

GetAlarmedKS.org

Safety with Oily Rags wet with flammable or combustible liquid



Oil-based paints, stains, and varnishes are often used for home improvement projects. It is common to use rags to wipe up spills or clean brushes. But wet rags can ignite on their own. They can start a fire if not handled carefully. The same is true of the liquids themselves.

How can rags start a fire?

The oils commonly used in oil-based paints and stains release heat as they dry. If the heat is not released in the air, it builds up. That is why a pile of oily rags can be dangerous. As the rags dry, the heat is trapped. The heat builds up and finally causes a fire. Be aware that this does not happen with water-based finishes.

How can liquids start a fire?

Vapors from flammable and combustible liquids can ignite, causing a fire. There are many commonly used flammable liquids. Gasoline, lacquers, and nail polish are just a few examples. There are many commonly used combustible liquids. Paint thinner, kerosene, and oil-based paints and stains are some examples.

RAGS WET WITH PAINT AND STAIN

- Never leave cleaning rags in a pile. At the end of the day, take the rags outside to dry.
- Hang the rags outside or spread them on the ground. Weigh them down. Do this so they do not blow away. Make sure they are not in a pile. Keep them away from buildings.
- Put dried rags in a metal container. Make sure the cover is tight. Fill the container with a water and detergent solution. This will break down the oils.
- Keep containers of oily rags in a cool place. Keep them out of direct sunlight. Keep them away from other heat sources. Check with your town for information on disposing of them.

LIQUIDS THAT CAN CATCH FIRE

- Flammable and combustible liquids should not be used near an open flame. Do not smoke when working with these liquids.
- If you spill liquids on your clothing, remove your clothing and place it outside to dry. Once dry, clothing can be laundered.
- Keep liquids in their original containers. Keep them tightly capped or sealed. Never store the liquids in glass containers.

GASOLINE

- Use gasoline only as motor fuel. Never use it as a cleaner. Never use it to break down grease. Never bring gasoline indoors, even in small amounts.
- Store gasoline ONLY in a container that is sold for that purpose. Make sure the container is tightly capped when not in use. NEVER store gasoline containers in a basement or in the occupied space of a building. Keep them in an outbuilding, a detached garage, or a shed outdoors.

FACTS

- ! An average of 1,700 home fires per year are caused by instances of spontaneous combustion or chemical reaction
- ! An average of 900 home fires per year are started when oily rags catch fire or are ignited.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

