



# The TRUMPET

## Campus Fire Safety

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- **2021 Fire Prevention Week**
- **School Safety is Back in Session**
- **NFIRS**

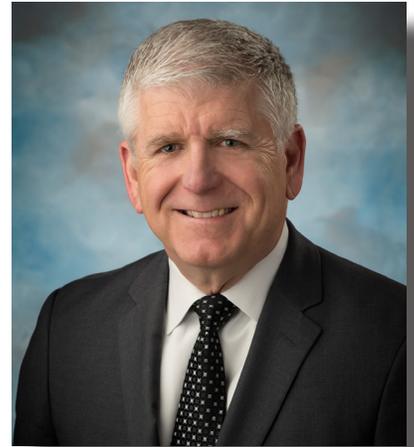
## FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

As we look forward to cooler weather and head into fall, I would like to remind college students and their families to spend some time making sure their new living spaces are safe. September is *Campus Fire Safety Month*, and whether you live on-campus or off-campus, a few simple precautions can keep you and others safe. We have some helpful tips and reminders for campus safety on pages 6 and 7.

The first week of October is *Fire Prevention Week*, and although some Covid-19 restrictions may make presentations and community involvement more difficult, please take a moment to share this year's theme, "*Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety.*" It ties in well with our **Get Alarmed, Kansas** free smoke alarm program, especially with the smoke alarms and devices we provide for Kansans who are deaf or hard of hearing. For more information on that program visit, [GetAlarmedKS.org](http://GetAlarmedKS.org).

We are still accepting nominations for the Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award. If you think your fire department or a fellow firefighter should be recognized for their acts above and beyond their basic duties and responsibilities, and for exemplifying the finest traditions of the fire service, please consider sending in a nomination. Visit the [Tom McGaughey Award page on our website for more information and the nomination form](#).

And as always, thank you for reading *The Trumpet*. Please like and follow us at the links below. 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](mailto:doug.jorgensen@ks.gov).



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Jorgensen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Doug Jorgensen  
State Fire Marshal

### STAY CONNECTED



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# HOT SPOTS @ OSFM



## OSFM Welcomes Three New Employees



Marc Anderson

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to welcome three new employees. Marc Anderson joined our Administrative Division as an Administrative Officer. He comes to OSFM from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, where he worked for the Special Health Care Needs Program. He has worked for the State of Kansas for 26 years.

Marc lives in Topeka with his wife Julie. He enjoys watching Chiefs' football, traveling and reading. He and his wife have seen 49 state capitols and have just one more to go to boast of visiting them all.

"I was looking for a new opportunity," Marc said of moving over to the OSFM. "I love new challenges."

Will Hall also joined our Administrative Division as the NFIRS Research Analyst. He comes to OSFM from Home City/Berry's Arctic Ice.



Will Hall

Will moved to Topeka two years ago from across the pond (England). He lives with his wife, Hannah, dog, Cleo and cat, Lola. He enjoys working on high performance cars, fishing and playing video games.

"I'm excited for this new opportunity," Will said. "Putting my computer skills to use, along with working with fire departments across the state, is a perfect fit for me."

KaiaMae Treadwell joined our Prevention Division as a Fire Prevention Inspector for Chase, Gery, Lyon, Marshall, Morris, Nemaha, Riley and Wabaunsee counties. She comes to OSFM from Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services and brings over six years of fire service experience.

Kaia lives in Wamego with her husband and puppy, and they are expecting their first baby in October. She enjoys crafting, fishing and kayaking.

"I wanted to continue doing something in the fire-related field," Kaia said. "And I believe this is a great opportunity for me."

Welcome, Marc, Will and Kaia!



Kaia Treadwell

### 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



For a list of OSFM current job openings visit

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



# 2021 Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 3-9, “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety”

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)—the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years—to promote this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety.” Fire Prevention Week kicks off on Oct. 3. This year’s campaign works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

“What do the sounds mean? Is there a beep or a chirp coming out of your smoke or carbon monoxide alarm? Knowing the difference can save you, your home, and your family,” said Lorraine Carli, vice-president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA.

The OSFM encourages all residents to embrace the 2021 Fire Prevention Week theme.

“It’s important to learn the different sounds of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. When an alarm makes noise—a beeping sound or a chirping sound—you should immediately take action.” Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal, said. “Make sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the alarms and knows how to respond. To learn the sounds of your specific smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, check the manufacturer’s instructions that came in the box, or search the brand and model online.”

***The OSFM wants to share safety tips to help you “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety”***

- A continuous set of three loud beeps—beep, beep, beep—means smoke or fire. Get out, call 9-1-1, and stay out.

- A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.
- Make sure your smoke and CO alarms meet the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- A continuous set of four loud beeps - beep, beep, beep, beep - means carbon monoxide is present in your home. Go outside, call 9-1-1 and stay out.
- If you or someone you love is deaf or hard of hearing, install a bedside alert device that responds to the sound of the smoke alarms. There are also smoke alarms with a strobe light that flashes to give an early warning of the presence of smoke. Learn how you may qualify for one of these devices at [GetAlarmedKS.org](https://www.getalarmedks.org).
- To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities in Kansas, please contact your local fire department. For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and fire prevention in general, visit [firemarshal.ks.org](https://www.firemarshal.ks.org).





# Smoke and CO Alarms for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

**Working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms save lives. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may not be able to depend on typical alarms to let them know there is danger.**

**There are special alarms and devices to ensure everyone can be alerted in case of fire or high CO levels.**

- ▶ When the smoke alarm sounds, strobe lights flash to alert people who are deaf or hard of hearing of a possible fire when they are awake.
- ▶ When they are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker should be used to wake and alert them to fire conditions so they can escape. This device is activated by the sound of a standard smoke alarm. People who are deaf may find that the shaker paired with a high-intensity strobe light is helpful to wake them.
- ▶ Smoke and CO alarms can be installed that use a low-frequency sound. These will work better to wake a sleeping person who has mild to severe hearing loss.
- ▶ These special devices and alarms can also signal when the battery is low.

Research the different products and select the ones that fit the needs of the people in your home. These can be easily installed without a professional. Products can be found in home improvement stores, online, and on manufacturer websites. Pick devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory, which is often disclosed on the product's packaging.

## **Did You Know?**

According to the National Institute of Health, one in eight people in the United States (13 percent, or 30 million) aged 12 years or older has hearing loss in both ears, based on standard hearing examinations.

## **Smoke Alarms**

- ▶ Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- ▶ For the best protection, choose interconnected smoke alarms. When one sounds, they all sound.
- ▶ Test alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- ▶ Replace smoke alarms if they are over 10 years old.

## **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms**

- ▶ Install CO alarms outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home. This includes the basement and attic. Do not place alarms near fireplaces or fuel-burning appliances. Check to see what the law is in your community for placement.
- ▶ Replace CO alarms between 5-10 years or as stated in the manufacturer's instructions.

## **Reduce Your Risk!**

Installing both smoke alarms and fire sprinklers reduces the risk of death in a home fire by 82 percent, compared to having neither installed.

## **Make a Plan**

Everyone in the home should know the sounds and signals of the smoke and CO alarms. When the alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Have an outside meeting place to make sure that everyone gets out safely. Call 9-1-1 from outside your home from a mobile phone or a trusted neighbor's phone.



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



# do you think about fire safety?

# you should

Each year, on- and off-campus college and university students experience hundreds of fire-related emergencies nationwide.

## smoking



Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.

After a party, check for cigarette butts, especially under cushions because chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast.

Be aware of how risky it is to smoke when you've been drinking or are drowsy.

## cooking

Cook only where it is permitted.

Keep your cooking area clean and uncluttered.

Never leave cooking unattended.



# and don't forget

Never disable or remove batteries from smoke alarms.

Have an escape plan that includes two ways out, no matter where you are.



U.S. Fire Administration



FEMA



[www.firemarshal.ks.gov](http://www.firemarshal.ks.gov)



# Fire Safety Checklist:

a resource for students who are moving to off-campus housing. Use this checklist to make sure your home away from home is fire-safe.

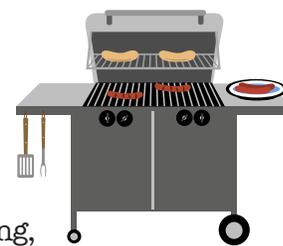


## Care with Candles

- The home has smoke alarms installed in each sleeping room, outside every sleeping area and on each level.  
**Note:** If your home doesn't have smoke alarms, ask your landlord to install them.
- The smoke alarms are interconnected, so when one sounds, they all sound.
- The home has carbon monoxide alarms.
- Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms are tested once a month.
- A list of emergency numbers, local fire and police departments, are posted on the refrigerator.
- For best protection, the home has a fire sprinkler system.
- There are two ways out of every room in the home.
- All windows and doors open easily.
- Escape routes are clear of clutter so they can be used.
- There is an outside meeting place in front of the home where everyone will meet if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Everyone in the home participates in home fire drills at least twice a year.
- I review the home escape plan with overnight guests.
- Smokers smoke outside and use sturdy, deep, non-tip ashtrays.
- One heat-producing appliance (such as a coffeemaker, toaster, space heater, etc.) is plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- Porches and decks are clear of upholstered furniture, barbeque grills, fire pits, and chimeneas.

- Candles are placed in sturdy candleholders and are blown out whenever I leave the room, leave the home, or go to bed.
- Candles are kept at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.
- I will consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell, and feel like real candles.

## Smart Cooks



- When cooking, I stay in the kitchen.
- I don't use the stove or stovetop when I am tired, have consumed alcohol, or have taken medications or drugs that make me drowsy.
- I have asked the local fire department for any restrictions on using a barbeque grill, fire pit, or chimenea.

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)



Your Source for SAFETY Information

# Fire Safety Essential as RV Ownership, Use Rise in Kansas

By John Sprague  
Fire Prevention Education Consultant

Camping for families is exploding with many Americans considering themselves campers. With the increased camping, RV ownership is growing in the United States and with it the potential danger to enthusiasts and their families.

NFPA Research Foundation released "Fire Damage and Loss Assessment of Recreational Vehicles (RV's)" recently and it outlines how the ownership of the recreational vehicles increased along with dangerous situations that threaten losses of lives and property.

RV ownership has risen in the years of the study, 2008-2017. It states that 68 million Americans consider themselves campers. 22 percent, approximately, 15 million people use recreational vehicles in their camping activity. To keep up with demand, 3.2 million new RVs were manufactured during the study period.

RVs are broken down into motor homes, tow-able RVs and other combination motor homes and tow-able RVs. Different styles of motor homes include Type A, B, C and Truck Camper (slide-in camper). Tow-able RVs include fifth-wheel travel trailer, folding camping trailer, travel trailer and truck camper. Other motor home and tow-able RV products include expandable travel trailer, horse (livestock) RV and sport utility RV.

The following standards have been accepted by the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association:

- NFPA 1192 Standard on Recreational Vehicles (2018 edition)
- ANSI A119.5 Park Model RV Standard (2015 edition)
- National Electric Code (2017 edition)
- ANSI/RVIA LV Standard Low Voltage Electrical Systems (2018 edition)

A large portion of the fires, 76 percent, and associated deaths, 86 percent, occurred in the southern or western part of the United States. Although RV fires were most common in the warmer months, RV fire deaths were most common in January and February. The winter death peak is likely caused by the increased



use of heaters, according to the study. RV fires are most fatal during typical sleeping hours, specifically between midnight and 6 a.m. It was found that the greatest number of fires, causing the greatest number of civilian injuries, occurred in the vehicle engine area. However, fire deaths were more likely to result from fires that began in the bedroom, kitchen, or passenger area.

Mechanical and electrical failures or malfunctions were the leading causes of RV fires, while a heat source too close to something combustible was the most common factor in RV fire death. The heat source, predictably, was often some type of operating equipment, such as an air conditioner, generator, water heater or battery. The most common types of material first ignited were plastic, gasoline, fabric or fiber and particleboard, fiberboard, or hardboard.

Most of the fatal fires occur in older models of RVs, as they have fewer, and less advanced, fire safety features. They also have older engines and equipment that are more likely to fail, which often causes fires. Smoke alarms, or lack thereof, are a major factor in fires. Although they are required by code, 84 percent of fires in RVs, when being used as a structure, occurred with no smoke alarm present.

*"RV" story cont. on page 9...*

## ***“RV” story cont. from page 8...***

These fires resulted in 20 deaths and 55 injuries. Out of the 230 fires where there was an operating smoke alarm present, there was only one death and four injuries.

Fifty fires occurred when a smoke alarm was present, but not working. That led to two deaths and five injuries. These statistics show the importance of a working smoke alarm. Many of the casualties that were reported were attributed to asphyxiation and carbon monoxide poisoning, which may have been avoided with a smoke alarm.

If your Kansas family is planning a camping trip this fall, with an RV or just pulling up to your campsite and setting up from everything from your vehicle, simple safety measures can lead to a fun, exciting and safe trip for all family members that are involved.

Following your RV preventative maintenance schedule is an important part of RV safety. It is good to have your RV's brakes checked because a dragging brake can create enough friction to ignite a tire or brake fluid. Bouncing down the road can loosen electrical connections, which can produce heat, and in turn, fire. Tightening them can help to avoid electrical problems. Check all 12-volt connections before every trip. Many RV fires are caused by a 12-volt short.

### **Other notable tips include:**

- Install smoke/carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure they work.
- Have a fire extinguisher on the RV, as well as practicing an exit plan/known two ways out?
- Leaking fluids in the engine compartment can ignite. During your pre-trip inspection, check all hoses for firmness, clamp tightness, and signs of leaking. Have repairs made before you travel.
- Mechanical or electrical failures cause roughly three-quarters of the highway vehicle fires. Proper maintenance will help reduce your chances of having malfunctions on the road.

### **Safety while driving:**

- At each rest stop, give your tires at least an eyeball check. Remember, a pressure gauge reading on hot tires is NOT accurate.
- Shut off the propane at the tank and turn off all propane-powered appliances while driving. If you have an accident or tire blowout while the propane is on, injuries and damage to your vehicle can be significantly worse. If you elect to travel with the refrigerator operating on propane, you must turn

it--and all appliances--off prior to entering a fuel stop. (FYI - Most refrigerators will keep food cold or frozen for eight hours without running while you travel.)

- Be cautious of where you pull over and park. A hot exhaust pipe or catalytic converter can easily ignite dry grass underneath your RV.

### **Fire safety while you are camping (or parked):**

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Never leave appliances that are plugged in and on, unattended.
- Turn off overhead exhaust fans when you leave the RV.
- Don't leave 12-volt lights on. Keep clothing and other burnable things away from them (like in storage spaces). They get very hot.
- If the flame on your galley stove goes out while in use, unless you have run out of fuel, the gas will continue to flow and could result in an explosion. Turn off the stove and air out the RV before trying to relight.
- Keep all combustibles--from paper towels to curtains--far enough away from your stove that they cannot catch fire.
- Gasoline and propane can pose an immediate, explosive danger. Clean up any leaks or spills immediately and use all fuels in adequately vented areas. Operate your generator in an area where gasoline fumes cannot reach an ignition source.
- Keep your campsite fire sources, such as fire rings, tiki torches, and lanterns, away from all vehicles.
- RVs often have a very limited number of electrical outlets, and sometimes RVers use power strips to plug in more items. Don't overload the electrical outlets! Circuit breakers don't always prevent overloads from starting fires!
- It's best never to use an extension cord in an RV. If you must, make sure you use a HEAVY DUTY extension cord, and make sure the load you put on it is well within its safe load capacity. DON'T run any electrical cord under a carpet or floor mat.
- Fires within your campground site should be at least 15 feet from tent walls, shrubs and trees. It's important to keep your fire small and contained in a designated area like a fire pit. You should also never leave a fire unattended. Always keep a water bucket nearby and put the fire out before leaving or going to sleep — making sure to drown all the embers, not just the red ones.



# School Safety is Back in Session

*By John Sprague  
Fire Prevention Education Consultant*

With school back in session, it is a good time to think about flammable decorations and the code that governs decorations in assembly buildings. With the possibility of a back-to-school celebration or just a jazzed-up classroom or gym to welcome students back, thoughts should turn to making the start of school a safe, fun, and engaging event.

It is recommended to use flame resistant or flame-retardant decorations when getting ready for an end of summer or start of school event. No decorations are to be hung by sprinkler heads in sprinkled buildings as well as no paper products within two feet of the ceiling of non-sprinklered buildings.

Don't use open flames and it is safer to use LED low-voltage lights for any decorations you require in your displays, however temporary lights can only stay up for 90 days maximum. Remember to keep doors and windows, means of egress to safety, free from decorations that would block the escape of attendees.

Also don't block, or cover-up exit signs with decorations and don't camouflage corridors of egress with large decorations that would prevent possible escape in an emergency. You don't want kids or staff to not know how to get out of a room in the school.

We want to remind schools to test your emergency lights in your gymnasium or arenas. We have seen some schools that have overlooked the emergency lights in larger assembly areas.

Another aspect of student safety this year could come in the form of delayed construction projects that move the activity during times when students are at a facility. If the typical means of egress are interrupted, contractors must provide a temporary egress plan that is approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Once approved, the plan should be shared with the affected school, so teachers and students can drill with the new path.

Just a further reminder that in an emergency, people will go with their rote instincts and follow a path they know from previous years. They will also follow a path toward a door with daylight showing through. Paths to egress exits that are no longer valid and have lights showing through the doors, need to be blocked out so they don't lure people in an emergency toward an invalid means of egress.

The requirement of emergency lighting is also not lessened in a construction situation. The same requirements are present, so if emergency lighting is needed along a temporary egress path, it must be installed.

## **Fire/Emergency Drills**

We begin this school year with probably less uncertainty than 2020, but still questions arise. A question came into our office and we wanted to clarify drills for this year.

*“School” Story cont. on page 11...*

## ***“School” story cont. from page 10...***

The question was posed if a school could conduct tornado drills as they did last year in a room-by-room basis. This was done due to a lack of space in some schools’ reinforced rooms.

Of course, in the case of an actual emergency, all staff and students would have to go to any sheltering area available. But for the drills, doing it room by room is acceptable. It would just mean more paperwork, as the inspector will be looking that each student, and staff, participated in the drills.

Schools must conduct at least two tornado drills (one in September and one in March), three crisis drills and four fire drills in a school year, according to state statute.

The purpose of the drills is to practice the safe and swift removal of all students and staff to a safe area. Students should be instructed to walk and behave appropriately. Each school has latitude in determining specifics for their drills.

A separate record shall be kept for each separate building used for student occupancy. Exits shall be unlocked from the inside and unobstructed whenever the building is occupied.

In case of fire or smoke, evacuate the building and contact the local fire department immediately. Facility staff shall be assigned specific responsibilities for notification and evacuation of the building. The school shall determine a minimum of two different routes to take in the event one path is obstructed. We recommend occasionally using the secondary evacuation routes. Designate a safe area far enough from the building (50 feet minimum) to avoid the danger from fire, fire department operations and equipment, or from falling debris or explosion. If it is necessary to cross a street, facility staff or adult volunteers shall be provided to stop vehicle traffic.

In case of tornado, shelter in place in the school’s tornado shelters.

Even with the threat of the pandemic, tornado drills shall include all floors, wings and sections of the building and every person in the building shall take refuge in designated tornado safety area. The school administrator shall determine an area to be used for tornado refuge and shall work with local emergency manager, in areas where one is available, to establish tornado safety procedure. It shall be the duty of the school board or board of trustees of all schools, both public and private, to ensure that such tornado drills are conducted, and a true and accurate record of such drills are kept on forms provided by the state fire marshal and posted in a conspicuous location and retained by the school for a period of not less than five years for future verification by the OSFM.

## **Active Shooter Variance**

The OSFM has revised its state-wide variance from certain requirements of the Kansas Fire Prevention Code in preparing for and responding to active shooter and lock down situations in all K-12 and postsecondary educational buildings in Kansas.

This variance allows covered institutions to continue the use of additional add-on security devices for classroom doors with prior approval by the OSFM. It now also allows for the use of magnetic strips on door frames that allow for the quick and easy securing of classroom doors in the event of a lock-down situation, but only when the classroom is occupied.

At all other times the doors must be allowed to close securely to help prevent the spread of fire. The barricading of classroom doors, as recommended in the ALICE training program, will still be allowed. The terms of this variance require schools and school districts to contact their local fire, law enforcement, and first responder community and confidentially share with them the types of devices being used so the responders know what to expect in any type of response.

## **Door-Locking Guide**

Keeping Kansans in our schools and other facilities safe is a top priority for us all.

Acceptable devices can be used only during active shooter and/or intruder situations or when crisis drills are being performed. Acceptable devices should only be used after training of staff and students has been completed. Always be aware that students need the ability to get out in the event of fire.

Having a clear and precise intruder plan that is practiced with local law enforcement and fire departments will help ensure the best protection for students and faculty.

See the Door Locking Device Guide on our website at the link below for items approved for use.

Homemade lock-down devices that function like the ones above can be used in place of the ones listed here. Please submit the device you are wanting to use to our office, and we will get back to the school to let them know it has been approved.

If you come across new devices and have questions, please contact our office 785-296-3401 or [email at prevention@ks.gov](mailto:prevention@ks.gov).

[Fire Marshal Pre-K-12 School Drills Form](#)

[Door-Locking-Devices-Guide-PDF](#)

[Office of the Kansas Fire Marshal Pre-K-through-12-Schools information](#)

# NFIRS Technology Provides Crucial Benefits to Kansas Fire Departments

In July, the Office of the State Fire Marshal hired Will Hall as our National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Research Analyst. He is the Kansas point-of-contact for NFIRS. If you have any questions or concerns regarding NFIRS/KFIRS, [email Will Hall](mailto:will.hall@ksosfm.gov) or call him directly at (785) 296-4294.



Will Hall

In recent years we have seen technology changes related to NFIRS reporting and 3rd party software used to facilitate this process.

In fall 2020, NFIRS transitioned to their new incident reporting system called *eNFIRS*. With the new system, NFIRS started enforcing 2015 specifications, which required 3rd party vendors to upgrade their software to match the stricter requirements. This created problems for agencies that did not have current vendor contracts or were using outdated software. Currently, a small number of fire departments are still not using updated software to report incidents, and they are not in compliance with NFIRS reporting.

Another change in technology involves Firehouse software which is still being utilized by some fire departments in Kansas. The software is reaching its end-of-life because of ESO's acquisition and will soon reach a point where it is no longer supported. Firehouse was originally created using Visual FoxPro, a platform that is no longer supported by Microsoft. Because of this, ESO has been creating a replacement system and is offering ESO Fire RMS, a cloud-based system that they host.

The OSFM has tried to identify software currently being used for reporting fire incidents in Kansas. Approximately 52 percent of fire departments are using Firehouse and 28 percent are using Emergency Reporting, with a small percentage using other software. For those not aware, ESO recently announced that they are acquiring Emergency Reporting but so far has not announced any changes to this software.

Because of these technology changes, the OSFM has been researching a replacement for its own internal legacy Firehouse software system. We



thought some of this research would be beneficial to you. The OSFM's Firehouse software is currently hosted and managed on its own server, while almost all new systems are cloud-based. The licensing cost for the OSFM's Firehouse software is a tier-system based on the number of active users. The price of the new ESO cloud-based software is based on the number of stations for each fire department and the number of modules that are utilized. Each module is considered a separate function of their software.

Whether small or large, departments are encouraged to understand their needs, and then, choose a program that will help them meet these needs. The *eNFIRS* system is a great option for departments who have fewer incidents to report and have limited resources. It is basic, easy-to-use, has several reports available, users have individual accounts, and it is free. For agencies needing software that contains personnel tracking, reporting of non-NFIRS activities, or advanced analytical features, a third party vendor is a good option. The OSFM is not able to make a recommendation but can inform agencies what vendors are currently being used in the state. A full list of third party vendors is available on the [USFA website](https://www.usfa.com). The OSFM will not be able to support agencies with funding but can research and educate departments on possible funding sources.

# Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award Nominations Now Being Accepted



The deadline for a Kansas Fire Department to submit a nomination for the Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award is October 8, 2021. The Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs (KSAFC), the Kansas State Firefighters Association (KSFFA) and The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) are charged with officially recognizing and commemorating exemplary accomplishments and acts of heroism by firefighters and other persons at fire-related incidents occurring in Kansas. Your fire department or a fellow firefighter could be recognized for their acts above and beyond their basic duties and responsibilities, and for exemplifying the finest traditions of the fire service.

The Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award is given annually at the KSAFC conference in October to a member or members of the fire services in the State of Kansas of whose bravery and courage went above and beyond the call of duty. The award is named in memory of Wichita Fire Chief Tom McGaughey who perished in a fire, along with three others (Chief Fire Inspector Merle O. Wells, Firefighter Jimmy L. Austin and Firefighter Dale J. Mishler) at the Yingling Auto Dealership on November 21, 1968.

Please help us recognize these commendable firefighters with a nomination for the Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award. Nominations can be submitted online by using the link below. You may also [email Jill Bronaugh](#) the PDF nomination form, along with supporting documents, or mail to: Office of the State Fire Marshal, Attn: Jill Bronaugh, 800 SW Jackson St., Suite 104, Topeka, KS, 66612-1216.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE TOM MCGAUGHEY NOMINATION FORM](#)



**Kansas Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grant**

**Now Accepting Applications**

Visit [firemarshal.ks.gov](http://firemarshal.ks.gov) for more information

**Deadline to apply, October 1, 2021**