



PREVENTION

Highlights

Fall Back into School



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PREVENTION Highlights

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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.

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Connect with us!



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Edu-Note

by John



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Ah...Fall.

Look around the leaves are brown, look around and the weather is hopefully getting cooler, although the forecast for the fall in the Midwest is a warmer than normal forecast. Although now that I have announced this, I'm sure we'll get some winter weather in the fall now. Sorry folks, we will see.

But fall, with nature weaving its tapestry with oranges, yellows and browns of leaves is an uplifting time in my mind. With the beginning of football and the time of family gatherings coming, fall festivals and fire pits – marshmallows, graham crackers and a piece of chocolate bringing a smile to the faces of children and adults alike.

But here in the Office of the State Fire Marshal, our thoughts turn to the potential danger and how caution must be used as there is plentiful fuel with leaves fallen from trees and dry sticks and twigs.

Whichever activities bring you and your family the most joy, just do them safely. Check out for wind advisories on days you are looking to fire up the fire pit. There is plenty of fuel at hand with dry leaves aplenty that can get a fire started that could damage property and take lives.

A final howdy from the home front. The state of Kansas has recently sent all employees back home due to Covid-19 resurgence we have experienced in Kansas, and across the nation. I write this from a desk I have set up in a spare room. I just hope all your school children are safe and getting settled into school. I would expect they have had their first fire, general crisis and tornado drills of the season.

Hopefully we can turn this around and have a successful school year. Here's to well wishes on a safe and wonderful fall season.

Please reach out if you need any questions answered or would like to set up a presentation. I can be reached by email at john.sprague@ks.gov.

-John Sprague, Fire Prevention Education Consultant

Welcome to OSFM Prevention...



Kaia Treadwell

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to welcome a new Prevention Division employee. KaiaMae Treadwell joined the division as a Fire Prevention Inspector for Chase, Geary, 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.

Welcome, Kaia!

For a list of OSFM current job openings visit

[https://firemarshal.ks.gov/ Jobs.aspx](https://firemarshal.ks.gov/Jobs.aspx)



Pre K- 12 School Safety 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.

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 per school year, per state law.

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

A separate record shall be kept for each separate building used for student occupancy. Fill in the boxes at the top of the page with School District, USD #, Building Name, City, Telephone. 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 facility shall determine a minimum of two different routes to take in the event one path is obstructed and a diagram showing both routes shall be posted in each classroom. 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 roads, 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.

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 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 assure 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 5 years for future verification by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. See sample form on page 6.

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



[CLICK HERE FOR AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE PRE K - 12 SCHOOL DRILLS FORM](#)



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Facility Name	Year(s) of Drills
Address	Responsible Party Name & Title
City, State, Zip	Facility/License #
Phone	Fax

Emergency Preparedness Drills

Type	Date of Drill	Time of Day	Number of Occupants	Responsible Party Name	How long was fire drill evacuation, start to finish?
Fire (1x)					
Fire (2x)					
Fire (3x)					
Fire (4x)					
Tornado September					
Tornado March					
Crisis (1x)					
Crisis (2x)					
Crisis (3x)					

POST IN CONSPICUOUS LOCATION

When ALL REQUIRED DRILLS have been conducted, maintain the original or copy of the drill record IN YOUR FILES ONLY for a period of not less than 5 years for future verification by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.



9-volt Battery Safety

9-volt batteries power our smoke alarms, household items and toys. They can be found in most homes. But these batteries can be a fire hazard if not stored safely or disposed of with care.



The problem

- » 9-volt batteries can be dangerous. The positive and negative posts are close together. If a metal object touches the two posts of a 9-volt battery, it can cause a short circuit. This can make enough heat to start a fire.
- » It is unsafe to store 9-volt batteries in a drawer near paper clips, coins, pens, or other batteries. Do not store common household items such as steel wool, aluminum foil, and keys near 9-volt batteries. If these items touch the two posts, there is a greater risk of a fire starting.
- » Weak batteries may have enough charge to cause a fire. Some fires have started in trash when 9-volt batteries were thrown away with other metal items.

Storing 9-volt batteries

- » Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape. Prevent the posts from coming in contact with metal objects.
- » Keep them someplace safe where they won't be tossed around.
- » Store batteries standing up.
- » 9-volt batteries should not be stored loose in a drawer. Do not store them in containers with other batteries.

Disposal

- » 9-volt batteries should not be thrown away with trash. They can come in contact with other batteries or pieces of metal.
- » 9-volt batteries can be taken to a collection site for household hazardous waste.
- » To be safe, cover the positive and negative posts with masking, duct, or electrical tape before getting rid of batteries.
- » Some states do not allow any type of battery to be disposed of with trash. Check with your city or town for the best way to get rid of batteries.

9-VOLT BATTERY STORAGE

Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape. Prevent the posts from coming in contact with metal objects.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



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

Governor Laura Kelly officially proclaims Oct. 3-9, 2021, as Fire Prevention Week in Kansas. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and Safe Kids Kansas are teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to promote this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety.” 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,” Cherie Sage of Safe Kids Kansas said. “We know that working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms save lives.”

In Kansas, residential fires killed 13 people and injured 129 people in 2020, and fire departments responded to over 3,000 residential fires. In addition, 131 Kansans visited emergency departments in 2019 for carbon monoxide poisoning, according to KDHE Environmental Public Health Tracking.

“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.”

Here are some 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).



Cooking Fires No. 1 Cause of Home Fires and Injuries



The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.

Cooking is one of the top fire causes in the United States and with holidays and the fall festivals coming up the Office of the State Fire Marshal wants to warn citizens to use safety while cooking.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA), Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries, causing 49% of home fires that resulted in 21% of the home fire deaths and 44% of the injuries.

More cooking fire facts include:

- Two-thirds (66%) of home cooking fires start with the ignition of food or other cooking materials.
- Clothing is the item first ignited in less than 1% of these fires, but clothing ignitions lead to 8% of the home cooking equipment fire deaths.
- Ranges or cook-tops account for three-fifths (61%) of home cooking fire incidents.
- Unattended equipment is a factor in one-third (31%) of reported home cooking fires and over half (53%) of the associated deaths.

We suggest the following tips to keep the focus on home cooking safety:

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stove-top.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.

- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stove-top.

Frying dominates the cooking fire problem and Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day, the day before Thanksgiving, Easter, and Christmas Eve.

We just want all your plans for the fall and holidays to go well and safe for your families. Follow these tips and we are sure you will have wonderful food and a safe, wonderful time with your families.

If you have a cooking fire

- **Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.**
- **Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.**
- **If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.**
- **Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stove-top. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.**
- **For an oven fire, turn off the heat and**





Safety considerations for cooking with oil

- **Always stay in the kitchen when frying on the stove-top.**
- **Keep an eye on what you fry. If you see wisps of smoke or the oil smells, immediately turn off the burner and/or carefully remove the pan from the burner. Smoke is a danger sign that the oil is too hot.**
- **Heat the oil slowly to the temperature you need for frying or sautéing.**
- **Add food gently to the pot or pan so the oil does not splatter.**
- **Always cook with a lid beside your pan. If you have a fire, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Do not remove the cover because the fire could start again. Let the pan cool for a long time. Never throw water on the fire.**
- **If the fire does not go out or you don't feel comfortable sliding a lid over the pan, get everyone out of your home. Call the fire department from outside.**



SPOT the violations



A



B



C



D



Answers on Page 11



Historical Fires...

Winecoff Hotel Fire

December, 1946

Now known as the Ellis Hotel, the Winecoff Hotel fire occurred December 7, 1946 and remains one of the deadliest hotel fires in United States history.

The Atlanta hotel, at 176 Peachtree Street, was famously advertised as fireproof due to its construction, which incorporated mainly steel in the wall construction. But originally constructed in 1912, the building was required to only have one staircase, and this proved deadly as the fire was noticed at 3:15 a.m. and quickly made the only staircase unusable for the higher floors.

Also, there were not fire doors on the stair well and when the fire started on the third floor, the stairs acted like a chimney and spread the fire throughout the building effectively shutting down the only means of escape for those staying the night in the hotel. In addition to not having fire doors around the staircase, many doors were left open, and this allowed the fire to spread more rapidly through the hotel.

The fire was first noticed at 3:15 a.m., but the first call to the fire department wasn't made until 3:42 a.m. The first engine and ladder truck arrived 30 seconds after the fire alarm was pulled. But the 30-minute delay in notification and not having the ability to reach the highest floors caused more death. Many lives were saved by the efforts of the fire crew on the lower floors. But those on the higher floors, attempting to escape the fire, jumped out of windows, or tried to make a rope of sheets. These methods ended in death for some of the temporary residents. Many people died in their sleep as no alarm system was in place. Of the 304 guests in the Winecoff that fateful night, 119 died, about 65 were injured and only 120 were rescued uninjured.

The spread of the fire was compounded by wooden transoms above guest room doors; rooms with open transoms readily allowed the fire to spread within. Other factors contributing to the fire's severity were the open stairway (fire doors on each floor would have prevented the fire's upward spread), lack of sprinklers or automated alarms and combustible interior furnishings.

The mayor of Atlanta, at the time, was instrumental in bringing in fire experts from all over the country to determine what the main causes were in the fire.



Winecoff Hotel, December 1946

The group thought it was arson, but Atlanta wanted to move on past the tragedy, so no further investigation was pursued by local officials.

The Winecoff Hotel fire – which followed the June 5, 1946 La Salle Hotel fire in Chicago with 61 fatalities, and the June 19, 1946 Canfield Hotel fire in Dubuque, Iowa with 19 fatalities, spurred significant changes in North American building codes. President Harry Truman demanded a national convention on fire prevention and that led to The Building Exits Code being significantly revised in 1948 to address issues of finish combustibility, detection and warning, and provisions related to the number of people in the building. To highlight its principal emphasis, the Building Exits Code was retitled the Code for Safety to Life from Fire in 1966, which was further developed and re-titled as the Life Safety Code.

Answers to Spot the Violations (page 10)

D. PENETRATION

A. IMPROPER EGRESS DISCHARGE EXIT B. 1-HOUR DOOR STRIKE PLATE COVERED C. HANGING SMOKE ALARM



BE HALLOWEEN Safe

Halloween is a fun, and spooky, time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips.



Sparky® is a trademark of the NFPA.

HALLOWEEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- »» **When choosing a costume**, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so he or she can see out.
- »» **Provide children** with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- »» Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. **Keep all decorations** away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- »» **Use a battery-operated** candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- »» **Remember** to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- »» **Make sure** all smoke alarms in the home are working.
- »» **Tell children** to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)

If your children are going to **Halloween parties** at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

Did you know?



Decorations are the first thing to ignite in roughly **800** reported home fires each year. More than one-third of these fires were started by a candle.



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

