



# The **TRUMPET**

## **Reducing Cancer Risks for Firefighters**

### **In this Issue...**

- **Fatality Fires in Kansas this Year Already Surpass 2021 Numbers**
- **Is Your Department NFIRS Compliant?**

## FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

It is disheartening, but not surprising, that cancer has become the second leading cause of death for firefighters across the country. Our office is dedicated to educating the fire service, as well as the public, and creating awareness on the risks of occupational cancer for firefighters. Proper personal protective equipment (PPE) is essential in fighting this threat. We have also been working tirelessly to obtain the funding to keep our Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant (KFRSG) active. Grants issued through the KFRSG program cover the costs of safety gear for volunteer and part-time firefighters.

I am extremely proud of our own investigator, Kris Smyth, for being recognized as the Arson Investigator of the Year by the Kansas Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators in February. It is quite an honor for our office.

Unfortunately, we have seen a drastic increase in fire fatalities across the state this year. The article on page 9 highlights the increase and offers some life-saving fire safety tips to pass along.

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](mailto:doug.jorgensen@ks.gov).

We hope you have a wonderful and safe Spring!



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

Doug Jorgensen  
State Fire Marshal

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# HOT SPOTS @ OSFM

## Welcome to OSFM...



The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to welcome McKinsey Moody as a Senior Administrative Specialist for our Emergency Response and Investigation Divisions. She comes to OSFM as a recent college graduate and teaching assistant at Operation Breakthrough.

McKinsey lives in Baldwin City with her family and pet chihuahua. She likes to draw, watch movies, play volleyball and spend time with her family and friends.

**McKinsey Moody** "When I heard about this position, I thought it would be challenging and interesting," McKinsey said. "I also heard everyone was so nice, and that this was a great place to work."

Welcome, McKinsey!



## OSFM Now Hiring for Several Positions in Topeka and Across the State

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is looking to fill open positions in the Topeka office, as well as across the state. We have Fire Prevention Inspector positions, a Deputy Boiler Inspector position and an open spot in our Search and Rescue Program. These positions offer health insurance, retirement, paid holidays, as well as sick and vacation leave. We also have a legal intern position that is open.

If you have a passion for protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Kansas, you are a hard worker and have a great work ethic, we are looking for someone just like you! Please visit our jobs page [HERE](https://firemarshal.ks.gov/Jobs.aspx) on our website for current job descriptions and to apply today!

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



### 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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# Reducing Occupational Cancer Risks for Firefighters

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF), International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS) and National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) have all recently hosted important cancer prevention and awareness sessions and programs. Statistics have repeatedly shown that occupational cancer is a serious threat to firefighters. We all need to change what we are doing each day so that we lessen our risks.

The nation's fire service is clearly seeing the adverse effects of firefighters getting cancer due to the carcinogens and other contaminants picked up in fires, overhaul, training and residual off-gassing from our PPE. Cancer has become the second leading cause of deaths for firefighters throughout this country.

It has become an epidemic that is killing our fellow firefighters and friends. Every firefighter likely knows at least one fellow firefighter impacted by this disease.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) launched a multi-year study in 2010 to examine if firefighters have a higher risk of cancer due to job exposure (Daniels, 2017). The study found that firefighters have a 9 percent higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer and a 14 percent higher risk of dying from cancer than the general population. In addition, another study found that firefighters have a much higher risk than the general public of certain types of cancer, including double the risk of testicular cancer or mesothelioma. The risk of multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, skin cancer, malignant melanoma, brain cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer and leukemia are also higher for firefighters than the general public (LeMasters et al, 2006).

*Credit: International Association of Fire Chiefs, The Lavender Ribbon Report*

**For more information on Best Practices for Preventing Firefighter Cancer and the complete Lavender Ribbon Report, visit [the International Association of Fire Chiefs website here](#).**



**NO PPE BEYOND  
THIS POINT**

## Ask us for your FREE station sticker

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# BEST PRACTICES

## for Preventing FIREFIGHTER CANCER

- 1 Full protective equipment (PPE) must be worn throughout the entire incident, including SCBA during salvage and overhaul.
- 2 A second hood should be provided to all entry-certified personnel in the department.  

Following exit from the IDLH, and while still on air, you should begin immediate gross decon of PPE using soap water and a brush, if weather conditions allow. PPE should then be placed into a sealed plastic bag and placed in an exterior compartment of the rig, or if responding in POVs, placed in a large storage tote, thus keeping the off-gassing PPE away from passengers and self.
- 3 After completion of gross decon procedures as discussed above, and while still on scene, the exposed areas of the body (neck, face, arms and hands) should be wiped off immediately using wipes, which must be carried on all apparatus. Use the wipes to remove as much soot as possible from head, neck, jaw, throat, underarms and hands immediately.
- 4 Change your clothes and wash them after exposure to products of combustion or other contaminants. Do this as soon as possible and/or isolate in a trash bag until washing is available.
- 5 Shower as soon as possible after being exposed to products of combustion or other contaminants. "Shower within the Hour"
- 6 PPE, especially turnout pants, must be prohibited in areas outside the apparatus floor (i.e. kitchen, sleeping areas, etc.) and never in the household.
- 7 Wipes, or soap and water, should also be used to decontaminate and clean apparatus seats, SCBA and interior crew area regularly, especially after incidents where personnel were exposed to products of combustion.
- 8 Get an annual physical, as early detection is the key to survival. The NVFC outlines several options at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org). "A Healthcare Provider's Guide to Firefighter Physicals" can be downloaded from [www.iafc.org/healthRoadmap](http://www.iafc.org/healthRoadmap).
- 9 Tobacco products of any variety, including dip and e-cigarettes should never be used at anytime on or off duty.
- 10 Fully document ALL fire or chemical exposures on incident reports and personal exposure reports.

FUNDING PROVIDED BY





# FACT SHEET: Cancer Risk in Firefighting

Cancer is of increasing concern to the fire service. Find out what's being done to address this health and safety issue.



**WITHIN THE FIRE SERVICE**, not using SCBA and wearing soiled PPE were long considered badges of fire fighter toughness and bravery. For many fire fighters, those perceptions have been costly, and in some cases deadly. Fire fighters who for years didn't regularly wear SCBA or clean their personal protective equipment (PPE) after returning from fire fighting incidents have developed various forms of cancer, including lung cancer, and other long-term illnesses. There are even cases of young fire fighters with far fewer years of contaminant exposure who have received cancer diagnoses as well.

*Minimizing Contaminant Risk and Exposure* (NEXT PAGE) ►

## Recommended Resource

► *"Healthy In, Healthy Out: Best Practices for Reducing Firefighter Risk of Exposures to Carcinogens"* is a comprehensive resource developed with funding and support provided by the State of Washington, Department of Labor & Industries, Safety & Health Investment Projects. Visit [www.wscff.org](http://www.wscff.org)



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



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## FACT SHEET: Cancer Risk in Firefighting *(continued)*



### Minimizing Contaminant Exposure and Risk

Fire service organizations and individual fire departments have become increasingly aware of the health and safety hazards posed by contaminant exposure, and have been working to educate the fire service about ways to reduce those risks.

At the Fire Protection Research Foundation – the research affiliate of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) - three major initiatives are under way to address fire fighter exposure to contaminants on the fireground and beyond:

**How Clean is Clean:** While general PPE cleaning procedures have evolved as best practices, scientifically established methods for removing toxic chemicals, biological pathogens and other hazardous substances from PPE is lacking. “Validation of Cleaning Procedures for Fire Fighter PPE” (a three-year study due in late 2018) works to identify the contaminants found on PPE and the disinfection/sanitization procedures required to remove them.

(See [nfpa.org/ppcleaning](http://nfpa.org/ppcleaning))

**Contamination Control and Beyond:** It’s quickly becoming recognized that contaminants found on fire fighter PPE are also present far from the fire ground: on hand tools, fire hose, apparatus, stations, and beyond - sometimes even into private vehicles and the homes of fire fighters. The “Campaign for Fire Service Contamination Control” (a one year- study due in late 2017) aims to educate the fire service about the health and safety risks of contaminant exposure in all these locations, and to provide steps for controlling contaminants’ spread. Go to [nfpa.org/contamination](http://nfpa.org/contamination) for more information.

**Long-term Cancer Study:** Medical doctors and others don’t fully understand which exposures are responsible for cancer in fire fighters, the mechanisms by which exposures cause cancer, nor the most effective means of reducing exposures. The “Fire Fighter Cancer Cohort Study” is a long-term (30-year) information collection effort led by the University of Arizona to fully address these questions. Updates will be provided at intervals throughout the study’s duration. Go to [www.ffccs.org](http://www.ffccs.org) for more information.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



For more of these resources,  
**become an NFPA member**  
[nfpa.org/membership](http://nfpa.org/membership)

# OSFM Investigator Recognized with Top 2022 Honor by Kansas IAAI

Office of the State Fire Marshal Fire (OSFM) Investigator Kris Smyth was selected as the Investigator of the Year by the Kansas Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators.

On Oct. 18, 2020, a structure fire was reported at Davis Motors in Syracuse, Kan., which is in Hamilton County. Smyth was the lead investigator on this fire incident. Several investigators from OSFM, as well as the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were all involved in the initial stages of this investigation.

"I am proud of Kris," Wally Roberts, OSFM Investigation Chief, said. "This was a complicated case, but he stuck with it and followed his instincts. He deserves this recognition."

Davis Motors is the only auto dealership in this small, western Kansas town. Damages exceeded over \$1 million, with loss of jobs and tax revenue to the city and county.

After several days of working the scene, the fire was determined to be incendiary, or an arson. The investigative team quickly learned of a person of interest in this case, who was a local firefighter.

The investigators found that the residence of this person had a fire two weeks prior to the auto dealership incident. That fire was determined to be accidental by the local volunteer fire chief. Smyth started looking into that incident, and the facts of the two cases were not adding up. The cause of that fire was determined by the fire chief to have started when a curling iron had accidentally fallen to the floor, coming in contact with a towel, and causing the fire. Smyth located the curling iron, and utilizing the BATFE Fire Research Laboratory, he proved that it did not cause the fire. He was able to show that fire too was incendiary.

Several weeks after the Davis Motors fire, another house fire occurred at that firefighter's residence. Investigators from the OSFM responded and determined that it was incendiary, as well. The house was completely destroyed. The firefighter moved to Texas the next day.

As they continued to work that incident, the investigators learned their suspect was possibly involved with a fire in Texas. During the Texas investigation, the suspect moved back to Syracuse, Kan. Upon

his arrival back in Syracuse, he was arrested and charged with several counts of arson, and aggravated arson for the fire at Davis Motors and the two other house fires. The suspect took a plea deal by pleading guilty to the Davis Motors fire, and one of the residential arsons. As part of the deal, Texas authorities were asked to not charge him in Texas.

"This was a total team effort," Smyth said. "Between the OSFM team, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, ATF and Texas law enforcement, we were able to make the arrest and prove the case. It wouldn't have happened if we weren't all working together."



***If you have helpful information about an arson, please call 1-800-572-7463 or [CLICK HERE](#) for our online form.***

# Fatality Fires in Kansas this Year Already Surpass 2021 Numbers

While we are only four months into 2022, it is disturbing to note we have already surpassed the number of fatal fires from 2021. This year alone, our office has investigated 150 fires with 24 of them being fatal. While last year, at this time, we had investigated 115 fires, and there were 20 fatality fires for the entire year.

These fatality fires have been a mix of accidental, arson and homicides.

“We can’t control the will of someone to commit an arson or homicide,” Wally Roberts, OSFM Investigations Chief, said. “But we can control our own actions. Many of these fires are accidental and preventable through simple fire safety measures.”

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), home fires occur more in the winter than in any other season, and heating equipment is involved in one of every six reported home fires, and one in every five home fire deaths.

Space heaters are the type of equipment most often involved in home heating equipment fires, accounting for more than two of every five fires, as well as the vast majority of deaths and injuries in home fires caused by heating equipment.



The aftermath of a triple-fatality fire in Kansas this year.

Working smoke alarms on each level of a home and in each sleeping room save countless lives every year.

“We know smoke alarms save lives,” State Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen said. “However, they must be working. A few seconds each month to check or change the batteries in a smoke alarm can be the difference between life or death when it comes to a fire. And if they are over 10 years old, replace them.”

The OSFM’s Get Alarmed, Kansas program provides free smoke alarms to fire departments across the state to install free for homeowners in their districts. For more information on this program contact your local fire department or visit: [GetAlarmedKS.org](https://GetAlarmedKS.org). The program also provides smoke alarms for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

There are also many programs that can assist residents with rising utility costs. The Kansas Corporation Commission provides information on assistance with utilities at this website: <https://kcc.ks.gov/consumer-information/utility-assistance-programs>.

“Unfortunately, this has been a very busy time for our investigation team,” Jorgensen said. “There are many factors contributing to the rise in home fires this year. We implore Kansans to think twice before cutting corners to heat their homes and to simply reach out if they need assistance this winter.”

## ***Important Fire Safety Tips***

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.
- Plug one heat-producing appliance (i.e. space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.
- Never use an extension cord for a space heater.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep it outside at least 10 feet from your home and any nearby buildings.
- Keep portable generators outside, away from windows, and as far away from your home as possible.
- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month.
- Make sure to have working smoke alarms on every level of your home and in each sleeping room.

# Half Century of Dedicated Service



At 64 years of age, Major Ray Marbut, of the Augusta Department of Public Safety, has given 50 of those years to the fire service in Augusta, Kan. Marbut was celebrated during the Annual Volunteer Fire Dinner this past January for having 50 years with the Augusta Fire Department. He started the department under Chief Tom Carpenter as a junior firefighter when

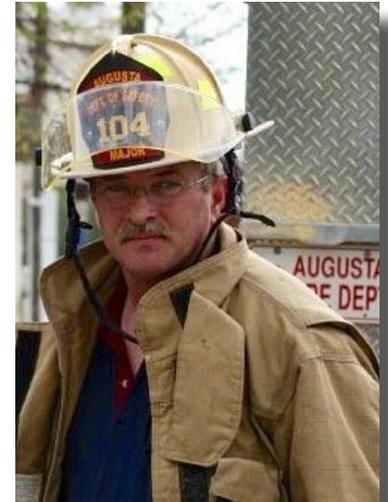
he was 14 years old in 1972. Four years later, he would begin his paid career with the City of Augusta Department of Public Safety, where he is currently the commander of the fire division.

“When I was 14, I lived two blocks from the fire department in Augusta,” Marbut said. “I thought it looked interesting and joined the juniors at the department. I never left.”

Marbut said he has no definite plans or a date to retire as long as his health holds out. When he does retire, however, he plans on traveling with his wife.

“The spouses sacrifice a lot in this profession,” he said. “I want to do all of the stuff I pushed off and missed over the years.”

He’s enjoyed the challenges of working in the fire service for so long and not knowing what to expect each day. He said you have to give 110 percent of yourself in this profession. When people call for help you have to give the best you can.



“Ray is a great guy and has given thousands of hours to the city of Augusta and to the citizens of Butler County,” said Kip Richardson, OSFM Fire Prevention Supervisor and Volunteer Captain with the Augusta Department of Public Safety.

Marbut has enjoyed watching the younger guys come in and develop into firefighters and said it was rewarding to watch them progress.

“It’s been wonderful to work for a city and county with combination police and fire departments that all get along so well,” he said. “We are one big family.”



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## 2022 Hazardous Materials Symposium

June 1–3, 2022

Wednesday-Thursday-Friday

Wichita Fire Department

Regional Training Center

4780 East 31st South, Wichita, KS

**SAVE THE DATES**

It's time to get back to HazMat Training!

**MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!!**

*If you would like to teach a class or help sponsor this event, please [email the OSFM HazMat Coordinator, A.J. Clemmons](#) or [email the OSFM Emergency Response Division Chief, Dirk Christian](#) or phone: (785) 296-4239*

# Is Your Department NFIRS Compliant?

Currently, we have 378 fire departments compliant with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), this is roughly 61 percent of all departments in the state. Our fire service data is only as accurate as the reporting. Ideally, we would have 100 percent of departments reporting.

To be considered compliant, each Fire Department should have a minimum of twelve incident reports processed for each calendar year. For example, a small department, who has no calls for the year, must file twelve NA (No Activity) reports, one for each month.

If your department hasn't been reporting for some time or you are unsure how to report to NFIRS you have the following options:

- The use of an NFIRS compliant vendor software.
- Manual data entry into the eNFIRS web portal.

Whether small or large, departments are encouraged to understand their needs, and then, choose a program that will help them meet those 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.

If you are wanting to use the eNFIRS portal, please contact our State Program Manager, William Hall, for information on getting signed up.

Having an eNFIRS account also gives you access to the NFIRS Data Warehouse. A tool which can be used to pull many standard data reports for your fire department, such as, incident counts, incident types, acres burned, etc.

We are aware of the issues that some of you have been facing since fall of 2020 both with vendor software as well as the COVID pandemic. If you are currently negotiating a software transfer or are short handed in filing reports, please let us know. Additionally, if your department has been deactivated or you have merged with another district/department, please let us know so we can update your information within the state.

For more information on NFIRS, [please visit our NFIRS page on our website](#).



**Current NFIRS Compliance**  
**Kansas Fire Departments**  
**Compliant — 378**  
**Non-Compliant — 241**  
*[Email William Hall](#) to confirm your department's compliance.*

**William Hall**  
**NFIRS State Program Manager**  
**Office of the State Fire Marshal**  
**Phone: (785) 296-4294**  
[William.Hall@ks.gov](mailto:William.Hall@ks.gov)

# Latest Fire Hazard Recalls from CPSC

**Name of Product:** Universal Security Instruments  
2-in-1 Photoelectric Smoke & Fire + Carbon Monoxide Alarms

**Hazard:**  
The alarms can fail to alert consumers to the presence of a hazardous level of carbon monoxide, posing a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning or death. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, poisonous gas.

**Remedy:**

Replace

**Recall Date:**

March 31, 2022

**Units:**

About 8,000



**Name of Product:**  
ToolGuards Portable Water Immersion Heaters

**Hazard:**  
The water immersion heater can overheat, melt or catch fire, posing shock, electrocution and fire hazards.

**Remedy:**

Refund

**Recall Date:**

March 17, 2022

**Units:**

About 5,000



**Name of Product:**  
SOUNDBOKS (Gen. 3) Bluetooth Speakers with Lithium-Ion Batteries

**Hazard:**  
The lithium-ion battery can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

**Remedy:**

Repair

**Recall Date:**

March 31, 2022

**Units:**

About 6,700



**Name of Product:**  
Illuminated Mirrors

**Hazard:**  
There are loose components in the mirror's bulb sockets, which can lead to overcurrent and overheating, posing fire and shock hazards.

**Remedy:**

Refund, Replace

**Recall Date:**

March 16, 2022

**Units:**

About 3,300 (In addition, about 111 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](http://www.cpsc.gov).

**Working smoke alarms save lives!**

**Free Smoke Alarm Program**

**GetAlarmedKS.org**

# Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

## SAFETY TIPS

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.
- » Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

## CHARCOAL GRILLS

- » There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- » If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- » Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- » There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- » When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

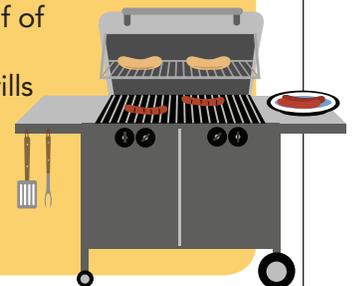
## PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame **goes out**, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **5 minutes** before re-lighting it.

## FACTS

- ! July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ! Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



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