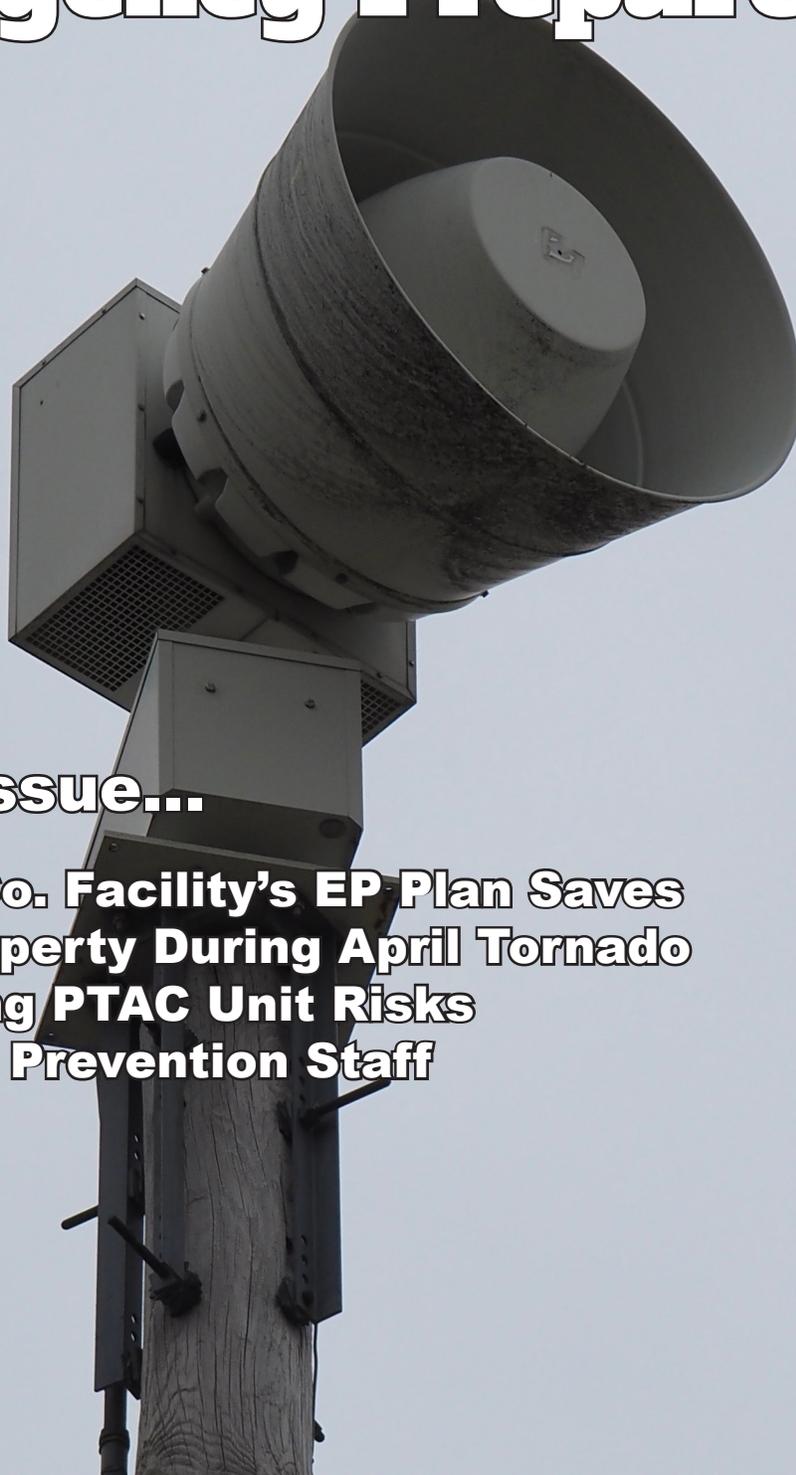




PREVENTION

Highlights

Emergency Preparedness



In This Issue...

- **Wallace Co. Facility's EP Plan Saves Lives, Property During April Tornado**
- **Eliminating PTAC Unit Risks**
- **Spotlight: Prevention Staff**

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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Edu-Note

by Prevention



Wow what crazy spring weather we have had, so far.

Warm days, cold days, rain, snow, and it has been hot and, oh yeah, the Kansas men's basketball team won the NCAA Tournament. So many cries of Rock Chalk Jayhawk Go KU across a proud Kansas.

But it is time now to come out of the gym and there is little doubt warmer weather is here, and hopefully will stay warm into the summer.

Are you ready for Summer? We certainly are and are ready for a great time with many fun gatherings. Baseball, cookouts, swim parties or a day on a boat are just some of the activities Kansans can enjoy as the north end of this spinning orb spends time closest to our sun this time of year.

We have tips for your family having a safe summer, a look at some of our staff, a nursing home emergency plan and proper use of PTAC units in this edition of Prevention Highlights.

It has been great to get to know many different people across the state and give presentations to several different groups. If you would like a presentation to your group, at a facility or virtually, please contact us. We have several options to get you information on a myriad of topics focused on the current fire code.

We just want you and your family to have a great summer. Be cautious and we hope each of your activities are safe and wonderful this summer.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to set up a presentation, please feel free to send us an email at prevention@ks.gov.

Welcome to OSFM Prevention...



Tim Millspaugh

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to welcome Tim Millspaugh, who has joined our Prevention Division as a Fire Prevention Inspector for Area 5, which covers Sedgwick County. He comes to OSFM from Avita Senior Living, where he was the Environmental Services Director. He is a retired fire marshal.

Tim and his wife live in Valley Center with their dog, Skeeter. He has three daughters and eight grandchildren. He enjoys spending time with his grandkids, sports and weather watching.

"I am excited for this new challenge," he said. "I wanted a connection with the fire service again, and I feel like this job plays to my strengths."

Welcome, Tim!



DeShon's Code Knowledge is Key

Office of the State Fire Marshal Fire Prevention Supervisor Randy DeShon has a dual reputation in the office between someone serious about the codes we enforce, but also, he can get a chuckle around the office about the humor of life.

He has 14 International Code Council certifications in fire safety and building safety and is often the person we rely on for code questions.

"We take questions from other agencies and the people that we serve," DeShon said. "I spend a lot of time on code research. I have been doing this for a long time. I started with the fire service in 1983. I worked in the fire service and started doing inspections in 1995 and I have been doing them ever since."

His daily duties fluctuate in supporting his team of inspectors and enforcement personnel.

"My day-to-day varies. I supervise the four enforcement officers and have six inspector positions. I run reports for data info. I send them out their assignments and I am here to answer their questions,"

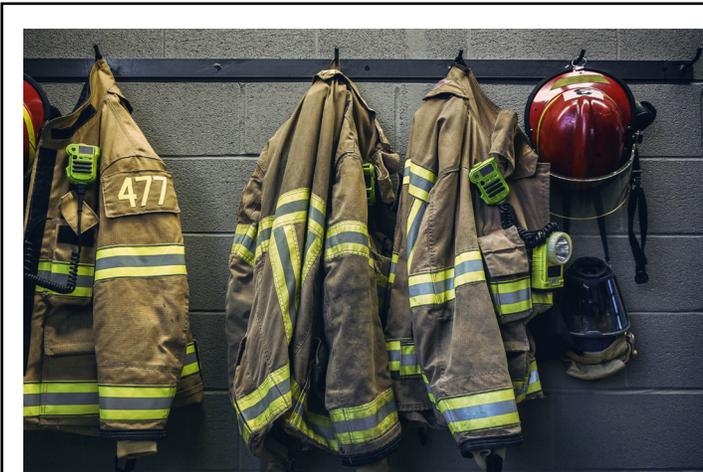
DeShon said of his staff. "I do code research and pick up questions from facilities, enforcement officers and other staff. We run reports and keep track of what inspections have been completed and what needs to still be assigned."

He added that the role his inspectors play is crucial.

"Fire inspections are an important part of fire prevention. You know they are there to help the people not have a problem and help everybody that the facilities serve. Not only loss of life and injuries, but also the cost associated with the loss of your facility," DeShon said. "What they do is very important and that is why we have codes in place. The codes are not placed on what someone wants they are based on something bad that has happened.

"Codes become more restrictive when we find more issues and become less restrictive when we determine that there is not a large issue with something that has been placed in the codes," DeShon said. "So that is why codes change every three years."

If there is a tough code issue, those in the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and those throughout Kansas, can rely on DeShon to shine a light on the code that fits the situation.



**For a list of OSFM current
job openings visit
[https://firemarshal.ks.gov/
Jobs.aspx](https://firemarshal.ks.gov/Jobs.aspx)**



Eliminating PTAC Unit Risks

Since the beginning of time, people have utilized climate control methods. While there is evidence of climate control dating back to prehistoric times, we have come a long way from simple fires and passive air-conditioning techniques through construction methods. The mid 1800s and early 1900s saw the beginnings of modern heating and cooling, with the central heating invented in 1919 and the first home air conditioned in 1914. Today, there are a myriad of options and appliances to heat and cool our world.



Common PTAC unit

One such item is a Packaged Terminal Air Conditioner (PTAC) unit. PTAC units are self-contained units that can provide cooling as well as heating.

PTAC units offer many benefits in a simple, cost-effective package. They are easier to install and less expensive than central heating and air and allow for climate control within a single room or area. This makes them a popular choice for use in long term care facilities, hotels and motels, and office areas.

PTAC unit cord malfunction fire, photos courtesy OSFM



Over the past year, OSFM has investigated four fires involving PTAC units: two in skilled nursing facilities, one in an unoccupied university office and one in a medical facility. Of these four fires, two were caused by mechanical issues within the unit and two were caused by cord malfunctions. In all these fires, the facility fire plan, combined with quick staff response, ensured that there were no injuries to any occupants.

If your facility is using PTAC units, follow the manufacturer's recommendations for proper installation, operation, and maintenance. Facilities should have a documented maintenance schedule which includes seasonal maintenance, monthly cleaning, and any other items required by the manufacturer. If the unit is not hardwired, periodically check the plug while the unit is operating. If the plug or the outlet is hot, immediately turn off and unplug the unit and call for service. Check for recalls. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (www.cpsc.gov/recalls) provides a searchable database for any recalled items.

When properly installed, operated, and maintained, a PTAC unit will provide years of safe, reliable climate-controlled comfort.

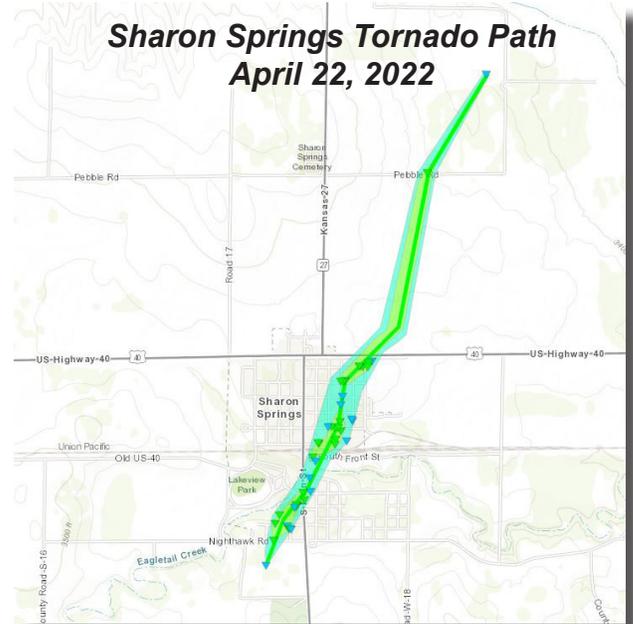
PTAC unit mechanical fire, photos courtesy Manhattan Fire Department



Emergency Preparedness Plan Crucial in Saving Lives, Property



Aerial drone photo of some of the damage from the Sharon Springs Tornado on April 22, 2022, photo courtesy Corey David.



A Kansas nursing home had to put its emergency preparedness plan into action as an EF-1 Tornado came within approximately one block of The Wallace County Community Care Center in Sharon Springs, Kansas on April 22, 2022.

The nursing home was spared major damage and according to staff, they were able to keep all their residents safe as they followed their emergency preparedness plan once they were notified of the severe weather.

The National Weather Service said the wind speed in the Sharon Springs Tornado was at 110 mph, just short of an EF-2 tornado. Wallace County staff said they felt lucky to have sustained only minor damage. Mostly to their shingles and a window. However, just a block and a half away, a few KDOT buildings suffered major damage.

This is a reminder that medical facilities are required to keep their emergency preparedness plan up to date per NFPA 101 (2012) and NFPA 99 (2012). It is critical that staff are properly trained to respond quickly and appropriately during an emergency.

The quick actions of the Wallace County facility staff enabled them to keep their residents, visitors, and staff safe!! We urge all facilities in Kansas to take time to review their emergency preparedness plan, especially as it pertains to severe weather.

Stay safe, Kansas!

NFPA 99 (2012):

12.4.1 Health care facilities shall develop an emergency management program with a documented emergency operations plan based on the category of the health care facility as defined in Table 12.3.

12.4.1.1 The emergency management program shall include elements as required to manage an emergency during all four phases: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

12.4.1.2 The emergency management program shall comply with applicable regulations, directives, policies, and industry standards of practice.

12.4.2 When developing its emergency management program, the facility shall communicate its needs and vulnerabilities to community emergency response agencies and identify the capabilities of its community in supporting their mission.

12.4.3 The medical facility, in combination with the local or federal authorities, or both, shall establish the required category as defined in Table 12.3.

NFPA 101 (2012):

19.7.1.1 The administration of every health care occupancy shall have, in effect and available to all supervisory personnel, written copies of a plan for the protection of all persons in the event of fire, for their evacuation to areas of refuge, and for their evacuation from the building when necessary.

19.7.1.2 All employees shall be periodically instructed and kept informed with respect to their duties under the plan required by 19.7.1.1.

19.7.1.3 A copy of the plan required by 19.7.1.1 shall be readily available at all times in the telephone operator's location or at the security center.

19.7.1.8 Employees of health care occupancies shall be instructed in life safety procedures and devices.



Richardson's Decision Led to Role with OSFM

Forced with a decision on whether to relocate to St. Louis or Seattle, Office of the State Fire Marshal Supervisor Kip Richardson chose to retire from the Boeing, Inc. when they closed its plant in Wichita.

He worked at Boeing for 31 years, but when the aircraft plant closed its doors in 2014, he chose to leave which led him to the OSFM.

"You have your family all established and your home is paid off. It did not make sense to start all over. Not at this stage in life, maybe when I was young," Richardson said, while adding that he is happy with the path that his life took landing him in the OSFM. "I was a Captain/Manager over Security and Fire Protection Services at Boeing as well as the EMS director."

After six years as a certified fire inspector, he recently moved into the supervisory role and finds it very rewarding.

"It is very busy, and I am involved a lot more in the business of [OSFM]. In the field you are doing your assignments and going out every day and dealing with the public," Richardson said. "Now I am not meeting with the public as much, it is more of an administrative role supervising seven field inspectors and one Senior Administration Specialist in the office."

He began his seventh year in December and March 20 of this year moved to his supervisory role.

Richardson has been volunteering in the fire service for 41 years.

"I have been a firefighter for 41 years, I started at the City of Cheney Fire Department," Richardson said of his native home. "I started at the fire department when I was 18 and have been doing it ever since. I am currently a volunteer captain with The Augusta Department of Public Safety."

When he finds leisure time, he enjoys traveling with his wife of 30 years, Lori. He also has grown children and 10 grandchildren.

"What leisure time," Richardson quipped. "When I am not working, I spend a lot of time with family, going to church and traveling. That keeps us busy. My wife and I recently spent a week with friends in Hawaii."

He believes in the role that his inspectors play in keeping Kansans safe.

"I think everything that we do is essential for us to do the best job that we can out there. We are making a difference in people's lives in the State of Kansas. If we are not out there doing our job, people are more likely to be killed or injured in a fire," Richardson said. "We want to make sure the children in schools are safe and protected. Additionally, we want to protect the elderly in residential board and care housing and nursing homes. We all just want to make sure others are safe."

"What we see is the people in the most vulnerable point in their lives, either by age being young or older," Richardson added. "We are hoping to take care of people of all ages. To me that is essential to what we do every day."

Boeing's loss was OSFM's gain, and Richardson is committed to the safety of those in Kansas.



Rachel Martin Continues Family Legacy of Public Service through Work at OSEFM

Rachel Martin, Fire Prevention Enforcement Officer

Rachel Martin came to the Office of the State Fire Marshal with a long personal and family history of public service starting with her parents who were both Sheriff's Deputies, and then her own career with the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office for 16 years.

Interested in government retirement benefits, Martin joined the Office of the State Fire Marshal as an office manager and within a few years accepted her current position as a Fire Prevention Enforcement Officer.

The job of an Enforcement Officer is challenging yet very rewarding, explains Martin.

"As enforcement officers we review facilities' plans of correction to make sure that what they are planning to do to correct violations will bring them into compliance." Martin added that this process also reduces issues for future inspections.

She feels the most rewarding part of her job is helping to protect the citizens of Kansas.

"I like knowing that I play a part in making sure that the people in the state of Kansas are safe... especially the elderly in nursing homes and the children in our schools." Martin added that she really enjoys going into the field occasionally to conduct on-site inspections as it helps build knowledge by having to apply codes to current facility situations.

Outside of her work, Martin enjoys traveling, reading, cross stitch, and cooking from scratch. She is a wife, mother, and a new grandmother.

"I have a grown son in Wichita and a new grandson – the most perfect child ever born," the unbiased and proud grandmother said. She also has a dog and three cats who according to her, "pretty much run our lives."

The Office of the State Fire Marshal truly appreciates Martin and her continued dedication to public safety.



Visit GetAlarmedKS.org
to learn about our *FREE*
Smoke Alarm
Installation Program

Smoke alarms available:

- Smoke & CO combination alarms
- Smoke alarm devices for residents who are deaf or hard-of-hearing





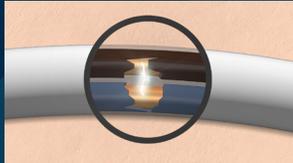
ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (AFCIs)

PREVENT ELECTRICAL FIRES



What is an Arc-Fault?

An arc-fault is a dangerous electrical problem **caused by damaged, overheated, or stressed electrical wiring or devices**. Arc-faults can occur when older wires become frayed or cracked, when a nail or screw damages a wire behind a wall, or when outlets or circuits are compromised.



Why do I need Arc-Fault Protection?

The National Fire Protection Association reported **47,700 home fires** involved some type of electrical failure or malfunction in 2011. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates **more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year can be prevented by Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs)**.

Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters are available as:

Branch/Feeder AFCI Breaker

- First generation AFCI breaker protection. AFCI protection originally required by the 1999 NEC
- Moderate fire prevention
- Trips when a parallel arc between hot and neutral conductors is detected

Combination Type AFCI Breaker

- Branch/Feeder AFCI breakers were phased out as of January 2008 and replaced with Combination Type AFCIs
- Enhanced fire protection
- Provides the **same protection as Branch/Feeder AFCIs and detects lower level series arcing** in both branch circuits and power cords

AFCI Receptacle

- Provides protection from arc-faults beyond branch circuit wiring extending to appliances and cords plugged into the receptacle
- Enhanced Fire Protection
- Protects all downstream wire and appliances from both parallel and series arcs, and also protects from series arcs upstream in the wiring between the source of the circuit and the first outlet on the circuit.



AFCI breakers and receptacles should be tested **monthly**.



All electrical systems should have an electrical inspection if the home is older than **40 years** or has had a major addition, renovation, or large appliance added.



AFCIs should be installed by a **qualified electrician**.

Parallel Arc:
Arc between **hot and neutral conductor** or between the **hot and ground conductor**



Series Arc:
Arc along the **same conductor** or at **connections**



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www.youtube.com/ESFI.org

Please share this free resource to save lives

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

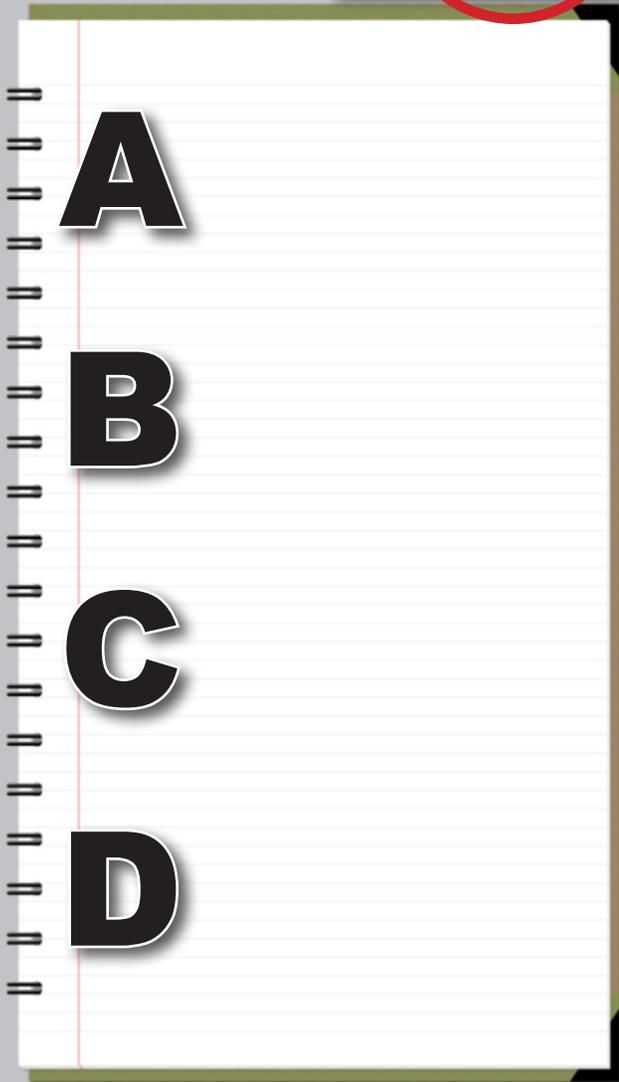
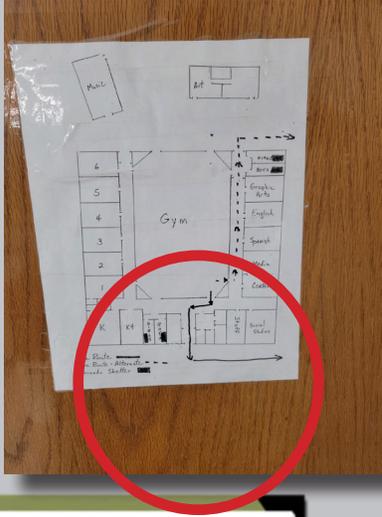
SPOT the violations



A



B



A

B

C

D

C



D



Answers on Page 11



Historical Fires...

Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire May 28, 1977

Supper club fire led to new codes

Changes to fire codes are often spurred by lessons learned via tragic events. Such was the case with the Saturday, May 28, 1977, fire at the Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate, KY. Questionable construction practices, overcrowding, inadequate exits, faulty wiring, and a lack of fire safety equipment led to 165 deaths and more than 200 injuries.

Built in 1937, the club had several additions built between 1970 and 1976 which created a maze-like layout of 18 function rooms and service areas, covering 1.5 acres. Exit signage was very confusing, and the majority of exits led to other rooms, narrow interior corridors with several doors, or dead ends. The building's frame and ceiling tiles were classified as non-combustible, but interior framing and floor joists for the partial 2nd floor were wood. Decorations, furniture, carpeting and wood paneling were all highly flammable. The building was not equipped with smoke detection, an alarm system, or a sprinkler system.

A wedding reception was being held in the Zebra Room near the front of the building. Guests complained that the room was excessively warm and they had heard loud explosions from beneath the floor. The group left the building early, around 8:30 p.m. At 8:59 p.m., an employee smelled smoke and opened the Zebra Room door to check. This allowed oxygen into the room that caused the smoldering fire in the drop ceiling to flash over and rapidly spread.

The fire department was called at 9:01 p.m. and the first crews arrived within 4 minutes. Staff ran from room to room to alert occupants to evacuate, but due to the layout of the building the notification was delayed for the more remote areas of the building. The Cabaret Room was the furthest from the Zebra Room. The fire and the busboy arrived in the Cabaret Room nearly simultaneously at 9:06 p.m., which left little time to evacuate the room.

More than 1,200 people were attending a show in the Cabaret Room that night. Based on the number of exits, the room could safely accommodate 600 people. Fire was blocking 2 of the 3 exits from the room, causing everyone to flee to the remaining exit. Employees outside tried to pull people to safety, but the crush of bodies became so solid, that it became impossible to pull anyone free. By 9:10 p.m., the power failed within the building adding to the



panic. Guests who were able to escape the crush blocking the exit quickly became lost trying to find another way out. Firefighters concentrated their efforts in the area of the Cabaret Room, but it was too little, too late as temperatures soared, making rescue efforts unsafe. Firefighters evacuated the building at 11:30 p.m., fearing the roof would collapse. The fire was not under control until around 2:00 a.m. and parts of the building continued to burn until May 30, two days after the fire began.

Of the 165 deaths, 159 of the bodies were found in and around the Cabaret Room, mostly clustered near the room's north exit. The cause of the fire was officially listed as undetermined, but most likely electrical. Many believed, and still maintain to this day, that this was a mob ordered arson.

Investigation into the fire identified several factors contributing to the high death toll. The piecemeal construction practices resulted in inadequate roof support, faulty wiring (called an "electrician's nightmare"), highly flammable components, and a lack of firewalls to contain fire spread. Based on the number of exits, the club could safely accommodate 1500 people. The total number of people in the club that night was estimated at nearly 3000, with almost half of them in the Cabaret Room. Extreme safety code violations included inadequate and confusing exiting, no smoke detection, no audible alarm system, and no sprinkler system. Poor regulatory oversight meant that even though the safety issues were known by the local fire department, they did not have any authority to require corrective action.

NFPA conducted an investigation into the fire, spanning five months, which triggered major code changes. The 1981 edition of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, required new and existing assembly occupancies with occupant loads exceeding 300 to have a fire alarm system with voice notification. Any newly constructed assembly occupancies exceeding 300 occupants were required to have sprinkler systems installed.

Answers to Spot the Violations (page 10)

A. AIR DAMPER HELD BY VICE GRIP B. NON APPROVED TEMPORARY EGRESS C. REMOVED GROUND ON PLUG
OF POWER STRIP (MODIFIED STRIP BURNED) D. OBSTRUCTED MEANS OF EGRESS





GET READY!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



for Older Adults

Each person's needs and abilities are unique, but with careful planning anyone can prepare for an emergency. A disaster can occur anytime, anywhere, and without warning. Think about how a disaster might affect your individual needs.

Have a Plan

- Plan to make it on your own for at least seven days. You may not have access to a medical facility, pharmacy, or grocery store.
- Think about the resources you use daily and what you would do if they were not available.
- Create your emergency supplies kit.
- Identify local shelters or consider friends and family outside your immediate area with whom you could stay.
- If you have a pet, find out if local shelters or family are willing to accept the pet. If not, plan what you would do with the pet if you need to evacuate.

Create a Support Network

- Talk to family, friends, and others who may be able to help.
- Neighbors helping neighbors is important in an emergency. Make sure you know your neighbors. Introduce yourself and let them know any specific needs you may have.
- Share your emergency plan with everyone in your support network.
- Make sure everyone knows your evacuation plan and where you will go during a disaster.
- Practice your plan with those who have agreed to help you.
- Give an extra key to your home to someone in your support network.

Medications and Medical Supplies

- Make sure medical equipment, such as a cane or wheelchair, is clearly labeled with your name and contact information.
- Keep a list of your medications, dosage, physician, and pharmacy information.

- Be sure to include your eyeglasses, hearing aid and batteries, wheelchair batteries, and oxygen in your emergency supplies kit.
- If you use a battery-powered wheelchair, consider keeping your old un-powered chair for emergency use.

Keep Important Documents Together

- Include copies of important documents in your emergency supplies kit, such as medical records, wills, deeds, social security number, charge and bank account information, and tax records. Keep this information in a place that is secure, yet readily accessible if you need to get it in a hurry.
- Have copies of your medical insurance and Medicare cards available. Include a list of emergency contact numbers.
- If you have any disabilities, especially communication issues, be sure to include a list of them in you emergency information.
- Keep the important documents in a waterproof container.

