



The TRUMPET

Wildfires in Kansas

TODAY'S FIRE DANGER



PREVENT WILDFIRES

In this Issue...

- **Emergency Preparedness**
- **Arson Awareness Week**
- **Lithium-Ion Battery Safety**

Kansas Elevator Unit Update



William VanAusdall,
Elevator Program Manager
[Email OSFM Elevator Unit](#)

We oversee a team of trained professionals dedicated to the safety of the elevator riding public in the state of Kansas. To date we have 14 licensed elevator inspectors, with five companies. We have also licensed 90 elevator mechanics, who are employed by 18 licensed elevator contractors. Those contractors are constructing, maintaining and inspecting an estimated 10,000 machines statewide. Our counts rise daily, as more elevators are registered with our office.

Daily duties include, but are not limited to, answering telephone calls and emails from contractors, mechanics, inspectors, building officials, county officials, industry consultants, and union officials. We process plan reviews and issue permits for elevator projects and license applications for elevator personnel. We expect elevator modernization and repair projects to increase once inspections are fully scheduled. Our

licensed mechanic numbers are expected to double in the next few months. Inspector applications may grow at a slower pace. We are awaiting board appointments to complete the Elevator Advisory Board.

Having every elevator in the state registered this year is the goal. Due to communication and distance, full compliance may take longer. Currently, we have 1,819 premises with one to 12 elevators per location.

If your facility has not yet registered its elevators, please visit our [elevator website page HERE](#) or call our office at (785) 296-3401 for information on elevator compliance.

STAY CONNECTED



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HOT SPOTS @ OSEFM

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to welcome a new fire investigator, an elevator program manager and 4 new fire prevention inspectors.



Amanda Niemeth

Amanda Niemeth will join our Investigation Division as an investigator for Shawnee County and Northeast Kansas. She comes to OSFM after more than seven years with the Topeka Police Department.

Amanda lives in Topeka with her husband, four rescue dogs and one horse. She enjoys working out, training and learning with her horse.

“I wanted an opportunity for professional growth and development,” she said. “Being able to utilize my law enforcement and investigation skills, while learning new skills, is intriguing to me.”

Bill VanAusdall joins OSFM as the new Elevator Program Manager for Prevention. He spent the last 16 years as an elevator inspector for the City of Kansas City, Mo.

Bill lives in Topeka with his wife, Eleanor. Combined, they have nine children, 11 grandchildren (another one due in March) and one great-grandson. Eleanor operates Jades Mission Animal Rescue and specializes in helping senior dogs find permanent homes. He enjoys spending time with his family.

“I am very excited to be involved with forming the Kansas Elevator Program,” he said.

Tony Edwards joins OSFM as a Fire Prevention Inspector for the northwest corner of Kansas. He was the bar manager at Rustler’s Bar and Grill in Kinsely, Kan.

Tony lives in Kinsely. He has a fiancé, six daughters, one granddaughter and three cats. He enjoys watching TV and grilling.

“I was looking for a new career and a new challenge,” he said.



Bill VanAusdall



Tony Edwards



Anthony Lee

Anthony Lee joins OSFM as a Fire Prevention Inspector for Osage, Franklin and Miami counties. He comes to OSFM from Pathways Family Service where he worked for over seven years.

Anthony lives in Topeka. He has a daughter and two sons. He enjoys coaching sports and public speaking.

“I chose to take this job because it was a career, not a job,” he said.

Dustin Kauffman joins our Prevention Division as a Fire Prevention Inspector for Region I. He brings over 20 years of experience in construction, 10 years in management and seven years as a firefighter.

Dustin lives in Colby with his wife, daughter and two basset hounds. He enjoys golfing, hunting, and making craft beer.

“I was ready to try a new career, and construction was wearing me down,” Dustin said. “I have always enjoyed the fire service, so I figured this would be a good fit with my current skills.”

Welcome to the OSFM, Amanda, Bill, Tony, Anthony and Dustin!



Dustin Kauffman



OUR MISSION

The agency’s mission is to reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through education, enforcement, hazardous material, inspection, investigation, regulation, and search & rescue incident responses.

OUR PURPOSE

To reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through:

- Coordination of Search and Rescue Efforts
- Enforcement
- Fireworks and Explosives Regulation
- Hazardous Material Incident Mitigation
- Inspection
- Investigation
- Plans Review
- Public Education

The TRUMPET

EDITOR

Jill Bronaugh
Communications Manager
jill.bronaugh@ks.gov
(785) 296-3403

CONTACT US

For information on receiving The Trumpet or if you have questions regarding content, please contact [Jill Bronaugh](mailto:jill.bronaugh@ks.gov).

Office of the State Fire Marshal
800 SW Jackson, Suite 104
Topeka, KS 66612-1216
(785) 296-3401

STAY CONNECTED



Investigating Wildfires in Kansas

This year, the OSFM has investigated 25 of the many wildfires that have occurred in Kansas. In total, the wildfires have burned approximately 16,374 acres and threatened more than 800 structures.

Most of the wildfires that were investigated by OSFM investigators were intentionally set and investigated as arson. Arrests have been made, and many were serial cases. There have been some cases that are now facing litigation with insurance companies for not having fires investigated properly.

OSFM investigators are available to assist any fire department or law enforcement agency in Kansas with its fire investigations. For information and/or requests, contact OSFM Investigation Chief Wally Roberts at wally.roberts@ks.gov or (785) 296-4199.

2022

Vegetation/Wildfires – 8,802

Wildfires – 1,041

Total Acres Burned – 156,415

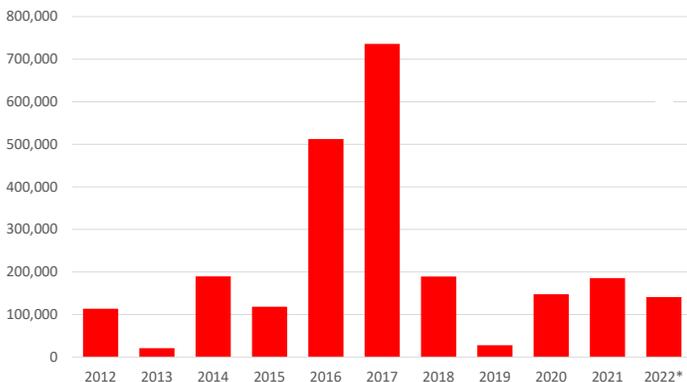
2021

Vegetation/Wildfires – 4,934

Wildfires – 974

Total Acres Burned – 185,467

Total Acres Burned by Wildfire



Recognize in calendar years 2019—2021 there was a change in the national reporting system which has created skewed statistics as departments struggled to report or the reporting system was not available to departments due to system requirements with the new software. System upgrades also delayed by local jurisdictions due to the pandemic.

HOME IGNITION ZONE CHECKLIST

SIMPLE STEPS FROM ROOF TO FOUNDATION TO MAKE A HOME SAFER FROM EMBERS AND RADIANT HEAT

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors - mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles - anything that can burn
- Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches

VISIT [FIREWISE.ORG](https://www.firewise.org) FOR MORE DETAILS

Image by NFPA, with funding from USDA Forest Service



Wildfires across the United States have cost more than 100 lives and more than \$40 billion in property losses since 2017. That's why it's so important to take steps to improve the wildfire safety of your home and community.

**PUT SAFETY FIRST.
ON THE FIRST SATURDAY IN MAY.**

Take the first step by participating in Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on Saturday, May 6, 2023. There are simple things you can do in an afternoon or over a weekend that research shows will help your home survive a wildfire.

PLAN YOUR PROJECT WITH THIS TOOLKIT.

Inside you'll find the tools you need to start your own customized project, step by step. Start with a simple checklist. Then explore a list of possible projects. Move on to promoting your efforts, safety tips, funding, and more. Just turn the page.

YOUR COMMUNITY GROUPS

-  Chamber of Commerce/Business
-  Faith Community
-  Federal and State Land Agencies
-  Fire Department
-  Local Utilities, such as Electric, Natural Gas, etc.
-  Park District
-  Private Land Trusts
-  School District
-  Street and/or Public Works Department
-  Water District

Saturday, May 6, 2023
WILDFIRE
COMMUNITY
PREPAREDNESS DAY

Sponsored by




Learn more at nfa.org/wildfireprepd

Arson Awareness Week, May 7–13

The Office of the State Marshal, along with the US Fire Administration, is recognizing May 7-13, 2023 as Arson Awareness Week. This year's theme, Understanding and Mitigating Youth Firesetting Issues, is a subject that can be difficult to talk about with families. However, it is vital to understand the underlying causes in order to prevent it.

In the United States, more than half of all intentionally set fires are started by individuals under the age of 18. Each year, fires set by children and adolescents are responsible for hundreds of fire deaths, thousands of painful burn injuries and hundreds of millions of dollars in property loss, according to the US Fire Administration.

Tips to Share with your Community for Preventing Arson and Youth Firesetting



Teach your child:

- Fire is dangerous;
- Even small fires can spread very quickly;
- Fire is a tool, not a toy and must only be used by adults.

Keep your home safe by:

- Inspecting your home for fire hazards;
- Keeping lighters and matches away and out of reach from children;
- Supervising children;
- Having working smoke alarms on every level and inside and outside all sleeping areas;
- Planning and practicing your home fire escape plan.

If you feel that your child is at a higher risk of experimenting with fire, contact your local fire department. They may have programs to teach your child about fire safety.

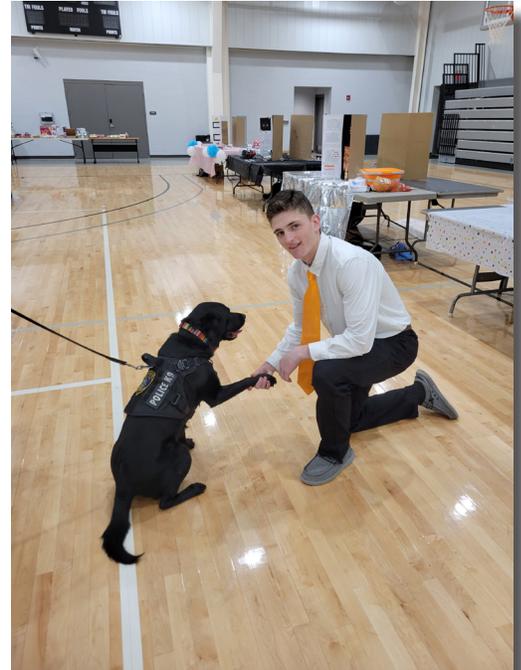
Youth Firesetting Prevention Training Opportunities:

- NFA Online Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Course - The NFA has constructed an online instructor-led version of its highly popular Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention (YFPI) course. The course is based on the requirements of NFPA Standard 1030 pertaining to the Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist and Program Manager. Email [Kellie Spalding at kellie.spalding@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:kellie.spalding@fema.dhs.gov) for more information. Deadline for expressing interest is Thursday, May 18.
- International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) - Curiosity in children is normal; starting fires is not — nor is it a phase. Youth who start fires and their families need help to stop firesetting. Learn more about preventing and providing intervention for youth firesetting. What is it? Who is it? AND Why? Go to IFSTA and register for your free course [IFSTA Account - Login](#).
- National Fire Academy (NFA) - [Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist \(fema.gov\)](#)

OSFM K-9 Team Spends Some Time at School in Colby



OSFM Investigator, Kris Smyth, brought his K-9, Karma, to Colby Middle School in March for its 7th Grade Career Fair. Students were able to come to our booth and watch Karma at work. After that, Kris and Karma stopped at the 8th Grade Entrepreneurship Contest in the gym next door so Karma could visit Bretton Thomas, OSFM Fire Investigator Keith Thomas' son, at his dog-walking business booth.



**NO PPE BEYOND
THIS POINT**

Ask us for your FREE station sticker

CONTACT:

Kelly Ingold

Public Education & Outreach Consultant

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Email: Kelly.Ingold@ks.gov

Phone: (785) 291-3586

Are you Prepared for an Emergency?

By Shawn Alexander
OSFM Staff Development Specialist

As we go through life, at some point, we all face potential emergencies. Being prepared for every kind of emergency can be a daunting task, but not impossible. Sticking to the basics could be your best course of action. The first thing to consider for every family is what potential emergencies might you face. This can depend on many aspects of your life. These could include your family situation, specific location, travel habits, employment, preferred pastimes and much more.

Once you have determined what emergencies you may face, it is time to plan. Planning can be as simple as answering the following questions.

How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?

Each type of emergency may have its own way of alerting you. Whether your alerts come from your television, phone, weather radio or AM/FM Radio, it is crucial to be informed in the event of an emergency.

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) are short emergency messages from authorized federal, state, local, tribal and territorial public alerting authorities that can be broadcast from cell towers to any WEA-enabled mobile device in a locally targeted area. WEAs can be sent by state and local public safety officials, the National Weather Service, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the President of the United States.

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national public warning system that allows the president to address the nation within 10 minutes during a national emergency. State and local authorities may also use this system to deliver important emergency information such as weather information, imminent threats, AMBER alerts and local incident information targeted to specific areas.

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations that broadcast continuous weather information from the nearest National Weather Service office based on your physical location.

The FEMA mobile app allows you to receive real-time weather and emergency alerts, send notification to loved ones, locate emergency shelters in your area, get preparedness strategies and more.

What is my shelter plan?

Whether you are at home, work or anywhere else you frequent regularly, there may be situations when it's best to stay where you are and avoid any uncertainty outside. While a shelter in place plan for home or work may seem obvious, a plan for other places you frequent might not. Either way, it is important to make shelter in place preparations a part of your general emergency plan.

Keep well-stocked, up-to-date survival kits in the home, business, and vehicles. Maintain a supply of emergency food and water and keep a radio and flashlight on hand. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) suggests that every household is supplied with enough food and water for each person for a minimum of three days.



"Are You Prepared for an Emergency," continued on page 10...

How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan

100 YEARS
1922-2022



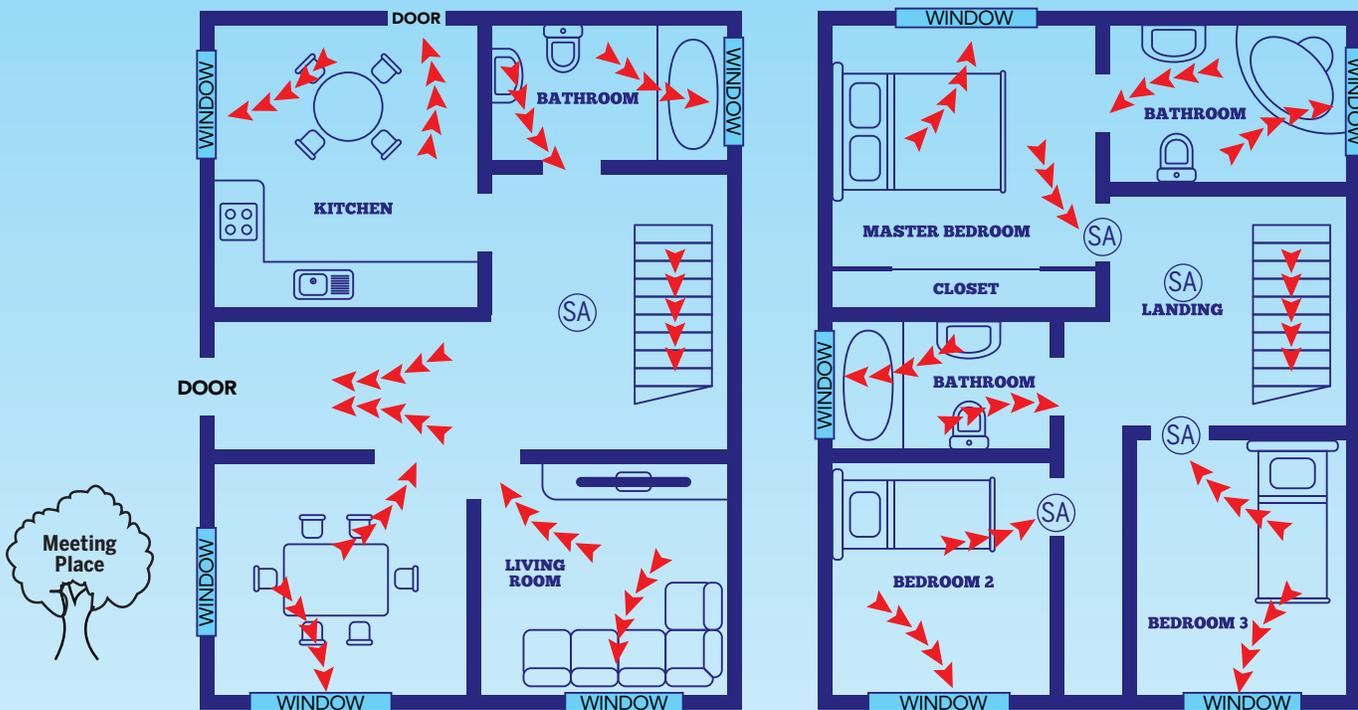
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™



Visit Sparky.org for more activities!

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to dial 911 or your local emergency number.
- Practice your home fire drill!
- Make your own home fire escape plan using the grid provided on page 2.

Sample Escape Plan



1st FLOOR

2nd FLOOR



Kids

Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA®. ©NFPA 2022



What is my evacuation plan?

Each emergency that requires evacuation may require a separate plan. As an example, evacuating your home due to a fire inside your home is going to look much different than evacuating your home due to a fire outside.

Is the home next door on fire? Is a brush/grass fire encroaching on your property? The plan to deal with each of these could differ drastically. Having an evacuation plan for each type of emergency pertaining to your circumstances, can help keep your family safe.

A fire in your home means get out immediately, leaving all possessions behind. If the emergency is outside your home and requiring you to evacuate for an extended period, it is necessary for you to make a list of things that you will need to take with you as an evacuation kit. Food, water, medications, identification, and extra clothes should be at the top of the list for this kit. As you may only have a few minutes to evacuate, this kit should be kept in a single, easily accessible location.

What is my family/household communication plan?

Having a pre-determined meeting site should be part of every emergency plan. However, if separated, having a way to communicate with family and others involved in your emergency plan can be critical to your peace of mind and maybe your survival. Since many of us rely on our mobile devices to store contact information, our ability to use a landline phone could be limited. Creating contact cards with names, addresses and phone numbers, to keep in a purse, wallet, backpack, or desk drawer is an important step to communicating during an emergency. It is also necessary to ensure every person in your emergency plan knows how to use a mobile device, and landline phone.

If you want to take your communication plan to the next level, you could invest in two way or ham radios. Keep in mind, if you plan to use a ham radio to broadcast to others, you must have the appropriate license to do so. It is also important to know that anyone with a similar radio or scanner can listen in on your conversation.

Is my emergency preparedness kit ready?

Creating an emergency preparedness kit can be as simple as gathering items you may already have, or it could require a little more effort. Once your kit is constructed, it should be placed in a single, easily accessible location. As you never know when an emergency might occur, you also may want to consider having multiple kits. It may be necessary to have one for your home, vehicle and maybe even work. Regardless of where you keep them or how many you have; it is important to make sure your kit includes essential items.

In conclusion, your level of readiness for an emergency or disaster will affect the level of your safety and survival. For the safety of your family and loved ones, take a few minutes to consider what your plans are, and maybe a few more elevating the level of your preparations.

FEMA Emergency Preparedness Kit Checklist

- Water: One gallon per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation.**
- Food: Having at least a three-day supply of nonperishable food per person**
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert**
- Flashlight**
- First aid kit**
- Extra batteries**
- Whistle to signal for help**
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air**
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape for sheltering in place**
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation**
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities**
- Manual can opener for food**
- Local maps**
- Cell phone with chargers and backup battery**



KSFFA Annual Conference

Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen was recognized for his 11 years as the Kansas State Fire Marshal by the KSFFA at their 2023 Annual Conference in Mulvane.



From left: Jill Bronaugh, OSFM Public Information Officer, Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen, and Kelly Ingold, OSFM Public Education & Outreach Consultant, at their vendor's table during the KSFFA Annual Conference in Mulvane.

Upcoming Fire Service Grant Opportunities

Local Safety and Security Equipment (LSSE) Grant Program

Grant funds are available from the LSSE Grant Program to award approximately \$6.1 million for the purpose of improving the accessibility and efficiency of delivery of services to Kansans through investments to modernize information technology infrastructure, continuity of operations, and safety and security. The LSSE Grant Program also allows for replacement of wildland firefighting equipment. Eligible applicants for the LSSE grant funding include local governmental entities, specifically for the jurisdictions' emergency response departments, including but not limited to, first responders, public safety answering points for 911 centers, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and paramedics/emergency medical services. **Grant projects will be funded for a period of 15 months from Oct. 1, 2023, through Dec. 31, 2024.**

A copy of the LSSE solicitation, may be downloaded at [https://grants.ks.gov/grant-programs/local-safety-and-security-equipment-grant-program-\(lsse\)](https://grants.ks.gov/grant-programs/local-safety-and-security-equipment-grant-program-(lsse)). All grant applications must be submitted by email no later than 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2023, to kggpapp@ks.gov. For more information, contact the Kansas Governor's Grants Program at kggpapp@ks.gov or (785) 291-3205.

A pre-application webinar will be held, Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. The webinar may be accessed at the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83233006816>.

Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant (KSFRS) Fiscal Year 2024

Information coming soon for the FY 2024 KSFRS grant. For more information, visit: <https://firemarshal.ks.gov/306/Kansas-Firefighter-Recruitment-and-Safet>

Prom Fire Safety for 2023



With prom season right around the corner, high schools around the state, students and faculty are preparing for this exciting time. Committees meet, subgroups

organize, and teams implement plans to select a location, hire a DJ, order refreshments and design decorations for the dance and the after party. With all the excitement and memories that prom can bring, it is easy to overlook potential fire hazards, especially when decorating. Following a few simple precautions can keep this event both safe and fun for everyone.

There are many ways to protect lives and property from fire during what can be an unforgettable night. Begin by ensuring all exits are accessible and free from obstructions. Also make sure that all exit signs can be clearly seen and are not hidden by decorations.

When decorating, a minimum clear width of six feet must be maintained in exit corridors. Artwork and decoration on the walls of corridors shall be limited to not more than 20% of the wall area unless the materials meet an appropriate level of flame resistance. Never hang any decorations from any part of the sprinkler system.



Portable fire extinguishers shall not be obstructed or obscured from view by any decorations. It is equally important to ensure that a minimum of 18 inches of clearance is maintained between sprinkler head and any props or decorations.

When setting up DJ equipment, lights, and refreshments, keep in mind that extension cords and power strips shall not be affixed to structures, or extended through walls, ceilings, or floors. Such cords also shall not be subject to environmental damage or physical impact.

By following this helpful information, everyone participating in this year's prom events can enjoy the excitement and memories without worry of fire hazards.



Now Hiring!

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 several positions open. We offer competitive salaries, state benefits and a great working environment.

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>

www.firemarshal.ks.gov

Fire Hazard Recalls from CPSC

Name of Product:
Anker 535 Power Banks
(PowerCore 20k)

Hazard:
The lithium-ion batteries in the recalled power banks can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy:
Refund

Recall Date:
March 09, 2023

Units:
About 42,000 (In addition, about 620 were sold in Canada)



Name of Product:
Bedsure Electric Heating Blankets and Pads

Hazard:
The controller for the electric heating blankets and pads can malfunction, posing fire and thermal burn hazards.

Remedy:
Refund

Recall Date:
March 09, 2023

Units:
About 350,000



Name of Product:
Pure Outdoor Cooking Systems

Hazard:
The insulation coating on the stove can ignite during use, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy:
Refund

Recall Date:
March 09, 2023

Units:
About 3,780



Name of Product:
SRTH Small Room Tower Heaters

Hazard:
The heaters have a mis-wiring due to a manufacturing error which can cause the tower heater to overheat, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy:
Refund

Recall Date:
March 09, 2023

Units:
About 1,450



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

Working smoke alarms save lives!

Free Smoke Alarm Program

GetAlarmedKS.org

Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

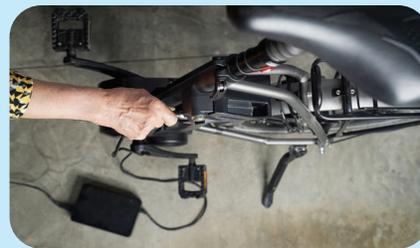
Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

Charging an E-bike

Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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

