

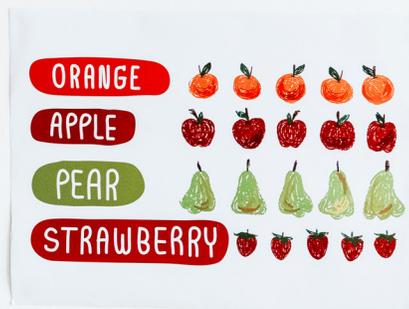


PREVENTION

Highlights

OSEM Assists with Childcare

Grant Inspections



In This Issue...

- Home Daycare Requirements
- Power Strip Use in Healthcare
- Refueling Safety Measures



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 Shawn



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With summer upon us, mother nature is turning up the heat. At the Office of the State Fire Marshal the heat is being turned up on our schedules as we push to finish our fiscal year. Occupancy inspections, vehicle maintenance, equipment updates, education opportunities and propane license renewals are the beginning of everything keeping us busy.

Propane license renewal season will open July 1st, 2023, and runs through July 15th, 2023. In order to renew a propane license, the following items must be submitted to our office during this time.

1. Application for each desired license
2. Proof that all training requirements in K.A.R. 22-8-11 have been met
3. Proof of continuous general liability insurance coverage of at least \$1,000,000

This summer, in cooperation with the Kansas Association of Directors of Plant Facilities, I am introducing an annual training series for K-12 school maintenance staff. This inaugural session will cover fire alarm and sprinkler system maintenance and testing as well as fire watch requirements. I look forward to making connections in this area to improve the safety of our states USD facilities.

Those of us at the Office of the State Fire Marshal are honored to serve the citizens of Kansas. Through our efforts, we strive to reduce deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans.

If you have any questions or would like to set up a presentation, please send me an email shawn.alexander@ks.gov.

—Shawn Alexander, Fire Prevention Staff Development Specialist

Welcome to OSFM Prevention...



Kim Moorcroft

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to welcome Kim Moorcroft and Molly Pisocki to its Prevention Division. Kim begins her career with OSFM as a Senior Administrative Assistant in the Topeka Office. She comes to the position after working as a temporary office assistant at the State Capitol for the past year and 25 years at the Burlingame

Road Animal Hospital in Topeka.

Kim lives in Wakarusa. She has a granddaughter, who is graduating from Topeka High School this year and is planning to attend Emporia State next year. She enjoys reading, crocheting, taking pictures, and taking care of her two elderly dogs and horse in her spare time.

"I thought this sounded like a fascinating and fun place to work," Kim said.



Molly Pisocki

Molly comes to OSFM in a Fire Prevention Inspector – Enforcement position. She worked as a Communications Specialist (911 Dispatcher) for Shawnee County for the past 10 years.

Molly lives in Topeka with her new husband, dog, cat, crested gecko, leopard gecko, white's tree frog, chubby frog, and Kenyan sand boa. She enjoys playing Pokémon Go, buying/selling Pokémon cards, annoying her pets and hanging out with her grandparents.

"I wanted the opportunity to work in the 'background' of the fire service," she said. "And to help the community, while learning a whole new side of a profession I enjoy."

Welcome, Kim and Molly!



Kansas Childcare Grant Expands Access to Safe Quality Daycare



This past February, the state of Kansas established a childcare grant to expand childcare accessibility to all Kansans. This \$160 million grant was designed to assist childcare providers by funding the expansion of existing facilities, as well as the construction and opening of new facilities.

The Childcare Accelerator Grant Programs opened for applications on March 1, 2023. The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) was responsible for completing plan reviews for each facility who applied. As with other new construction and expansions that fall under our jurisdiction, each facility was required to submit a code footprint with a request for review documentation.

The OSFM wanted to ensure that all fire and life safety measures were in place to not only prevent fire, but to ensure the safe evacuation of all occupants in the event of an emergency. After our Plan Review Specialists completed the review of all documentation, an approval or denial was issued.



During the 10-week grant application window, the OSFM received plan review requests from 172 facilities and home daycares across the state.

Of those submitted by the May 15, 2023, deadline, there were 92 facilities and 70 home daycares approved. There were 10 facilities denied.

The 162 new or expanded childcare facilities across the state will now be able to increase the number of families who will have access to childcare. The OSFM is proud to have played such an integral part of this important and necessary program.



OSFM Home Daycare Requirements

Home day care providers must remember the importance of fire safety when taking care of children. Since these types of residences are being used as a business, it is our mission to remind them of these safety requirements.

Home daycare providers are not able to use basements or upper levels of the home for daycare use until the basement and/or upper level has been inspected and approved by the fire authority (local fire department or OSFM).

Every home daycare needs to have a working smoke alarm on each level of the home, in each sleeping room and in every exit pathway. The smoke alarm needs to be hardwired to the electrical system with battery backup or have a ten-year lithium 9V battery installed in them. When you, as a home daycare provider, sign the Fire/Life Safety Agreement upon inspection, you are agreeing to the fact that you will have these smoke alarms in place.

Below are a few other Home Daycare Fire and Life Safety requirements that are required for home daycare providers.

- ▶ Every escape path including hallways and stairways is clear of obstacles and all doors are in proper working conditions.
- ▶ Children can open every closet door from the inside at all times.
- ▶ Child care is on the main level and has two remote exits.
- ▶ Written emergency procedures for fire evacuation are provided and practiced monthly.
- ▶ Monthly fire drills are documented. Drills shall be conducted, and evacuation time shall be within four minutes.
- ▶ All unused electrical outlet in the licensed areas have child-resistant protective covers.
- ▶ All natural gas, kerosene, wood, propane heaters, etc. are properly vented to the outside of the home.

A complete list of the Home Daycare Fire and Life Safety requirements can be found on our website at www.firemarshal.ks.gov.



Power Strip Use in Healthcare



The Office of the State Fire Marshal is often asked what codes cover the use of power strips. These questions generally come after a facility has been issued a violation notice for the improper use of power strips. It is important to understand that there is not a single type of power strip that is suitable for every application in your facility. Each type of power strip is designed and tested for a specific purpose and should not be used for any other purpose.

Our office is beginning to see the use of furniture power distribution units (FPDU) in place of power strips. Examples of these are hotel lamps, lift chairs and microwaves with outlets to power other devices. According to the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) these devices have not been investigated and are not approved for use with general

patient care areas of healthcare facilities as defined in *Article 517 of ANSI/NFPA 70, National Electrical Code*. As an FPDU does not meet code requirements for use as a power strip, these devices will be cited accordingly by our inspectors.

In healthcare facilities, power strips are regulated by *CMS K-Tag 920 Electrical Equipment – Power Cords and Extension Cords* which states the following:

Power strips in a patient care vicinity are only used for components of movable patient-care-related electrical equipment (PCREE) assemblies that have been assembled by qualified personnel and meet the conditions of 10.2.3.6. Power strips in the patient care vicinity may not be used for non-PCREE (e.g., personal electronics), except in long-term care resident rooms that do not use PCREE. Power strips for PCREE meet UL 1363A or UL 60601-1. Power strips for non-PCREE in the patient care rooms (outside of vicinity) meet UL 1363. In non-patient care rooms, power strips meet other UL standards. All power strips are used with general precautions. Extension cords are not used as a substitute for fixed wiring of a structure. Extension cords used temporarily, shall be removed immediately upon completion of the purpose for which it was installed.

Now, let's cover the definition of "Patient Care Vicinity." The patient care vicinity is defined as the space within a location intended for the examination and treatment of patients, extending 1.8 m (6 ft.) beyond the normal location of the bed, chair, table, treadmill, or other device that supports the patient during examination and treatment and extending vertically to 2.3 m (7 ft. 6 in.) above the floor."

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) NFPA 99 10.2.3.6 Multiple Outlet Connection states that two or more receptacles supplied by a flexible cord shall be permitted to be used to supply power to plug-connected components of a movable equipment assembly that is rack-, table-, pedestal-, or cart mounted, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

1. The receptacles are permanently attached to the equipment assembly.
2. The sum of the ampacity of all appliances connected to the outlets does not exceed 75 percent of the ampacity of the flexible cord supplying the outlets.
3. The ampacity of the flexible cord is in accordance with NFPA 70, National Electrical Code.
4. The electrical and mechanical integrity of the assembly is regularly verified and documented.



Power Strip Use in Healthcare continued on page 7...



Power Strip Use in Healthcare continued from page 6...

NFPA 99 also includes the following regarding adapter and extension cords:

- 10.2.4.1 Three-prong to two-prong adapters shall not be permitted.
- 10.2.4.2 Adapters and extension cords meeting the requirements of 10.2.4.2.1 through 10.2.4.2.3 shall be permitted.
- 10.2.4.2.1 All adapters shall be listed for the purpose.
- 10.2.4.2.2 Attachment plugs, and fittings shall be listed for the purpose.

We understand that most residents want that “at home” feeling while in a long-term care facility, but we also want to make sure that they are safe. Personal items within the patient care vicinity such as alarm clocks, TVs, mini-fridges, cell phone chargers, etc. are not to be plugged into a power strip. These items must be plugged in directly to the outlet.

It is very important to understand the regulations in place for power strips in order to keep residents and patients safe from harm. All code related questions can be submitted using our “Code Consultation Form.” It is located on our website at www.firemarshal.ks.gov.

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, including Emergency Response Division Chief, Deputy Boiler Inspector, Search and Rescue Staff Development and several other positions. 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>

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



Fire Drills Requirements in Kansas



Conducting regularly scheduled drills can mean the difference between life or death for people involved in a fire. The way people behave in emergencies is a direct reflection on how they have been trained. We are going to look at a few different facility types and their fire drill requirements.

1.

K-12 Education

This requirement changed with the passing of Senate Bill 128, which was passed into law on April 10, 2019. This bill reduced the total number of drills required. Schools now participate in nine drills total. Four are fire drills, two are tornado drills and the remaining three are crisis drills.



2.

Assisted Living and Home Plus/ Residential Board and Care Facilities

The fire drill requirement from *NFPA 101 2006 Edition*. 33.7.3.1 states “emergency egress and relocation drills shall be conducted not less than six times per year on a bimonthly basis, with not less than two drills conducted during the night when residents are sleeping, as modified by 33.7.3.5 and 33.7.3.6. In continuing with the code section 33.7.3.3 says, “the drills shall involve the actual evacuation of all residents to an assembly point, as specified in the emergency plan, and shall provide residents with experience in egressing through all exits and means of escape required by this code.”



“the drills shall involve the actual evacuation of all residents to an assembly point, as specified in the emergency plan, and shall provide residents with experience in egressing through all exits and means of escape required by this code.”

3.

Healthcare Facilities

The fire drill requirement from *NFPA 101 2012 edition*. 19.7.1.6 says, “drills shall be conducted quarterly on each shift to familiarize facility personnel (nurses, interns, maintenance engineers, and administrative staff) with the signals and emergency action required under varied conditions.” *NFPA 101 2012 edition*. 19.7.1.7 follows by stating “When drills are conducted between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. (2100 hours and 0600 hours), a coded announcement shall be permitted to be used instead of audible alarms.” CMS also requires that when a silent drill is conducted, a test of the alarm is to be conducted before noon the next day.



Please make sure you are taking the time to conduct these drills in a manner that allows all to learn from them. More information can be found on our website at www.firemarshal.ks.gov.



Licensed Propane Company:

2023-2024 Propane License Renewal Season

Propane renewals officially starts July 1st, 2023 and runs through July 15th, 2023

All propane permits expire September 30th, 2023.

Documents that must be submitted (missing Documentation will result in a denial of your application):

Summary and Inventory/Billing Summary

This is your existing inventory locations. Please double-check this inventory sheet to make sure there are no mistakes. If any items are not correct, you may indicate that directly on the inventory sheet. This sheet is **REQUIRED TO BE RETURNED WITH YOUR PAPERWORK.**

Training: Continuing Education Courses

Proof of successful completion of continuing educational training (this must include all employees). All certificates issued are only good for **3 years** from date of issue (this excludes the 1.0 Basic Principles and Practices as that license doesn't expire)

*The Office of the State Fire Marshal will deny any license that does not have current training and education certificates. **We will no longer accept admission into class and issue a license.**

K.A.R 22.8.12 (c) states; each licensee shall submit proof of continuing education to renew a license.

Renewal Information Form

We will need current email address, phone number and one contact person to communicate for the company. **REQUIRED TO BE RETURNED WITH YOUR PAPERWORK.**

Proof of Current Insurance

If your insurance expires during the year, be sure your insurance carrier sends in the renewals via fax @ 785-296-0151. Proof of current insurance is **REQUIRED TO BE RETURNED WITH YOUR PAPERWORK.**

INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE OR OUT OF GAS FORMS are due the 10th of each month, you may now send and report monthly numbers only to us. These may be faxed to 785-296-0151 and/or emailed directly to prevention@ks.gov.





Scald Prevention

Safety Tips

A scald injury can happen at any age. Children, older adults and people with disabilities are especially at risk. Hot liquids from bath water, hot coffee and even microwaved soup can cause devastating injuries. Scald burns are the second leading cause of all burn injuries.

Scald Safety

- Teach children that hot things can burn. Install anti-scald devices on tub faucets and shower heads.
- Always supervise a child in or near a bathtub.
- Test the water at the faucet. It should be less than 100° Fahrenheit (38° Celsius).
- Before placing a child in the bath or getting in the bath yourself, test the water.
- Test the water by moving your hand, wrist and forearm through the water. The water should feel warm, not hot, to the touch.
- Place hot liquids and food in the center of a table or toward the back of a counter.
- Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Open microwaved food slowly, away from the face.
- Never hold a child while you are cooking, drinking a hot liquid, or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- Never heat a baby bottle in a microwave oven. Heat baby bottles in warm water from the faucet.
- Allow microwaved food to cool before eating.
- Choose prepackaged soups whose containers have a wide base or, to avoid the possibility of a spill, pour the soup into a traditional bowl after heating.

Burn Rx

Treat a burn right away. Cool the burn with cool water for 3–5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Get medical help if needed.

FACT!

Prepackaged **microwavable soups** are a frequent cause of scald burn injuries (especially noodle soups) because they can easily tip over, pouring hot liquid (and noodles) on the person.



*Greenhalgh DG, Bridges P, Coombs E, et al.
Instant cup of soup: design flaws increase risk of burns.
Journal of Burn Care and Research, July–August 2006: 27(4):476-81*



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



SPOT the violations



A



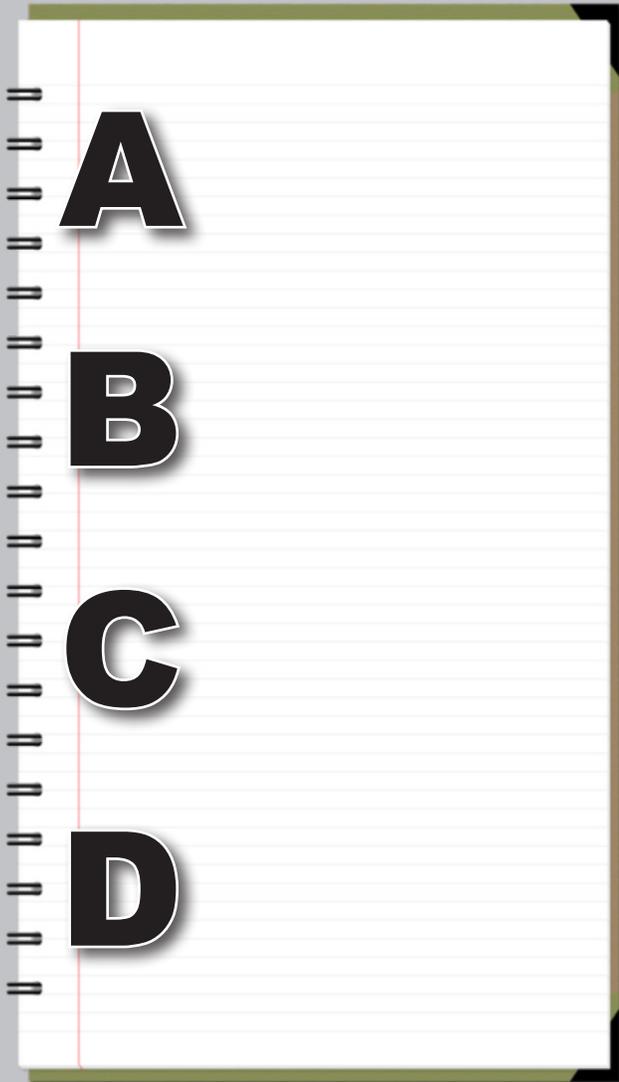
B



C



D



Answers on Page 12



Refueling Safety Measures



When fire inspectors are inspecting convenience stores and fueling locations, they utilize the *2008 Edition of NFPA 30-A for Flammable and Combustible Liquids*, and within this book under **Section 9.2.7**, commonly known as housekeeping, is where combustible merchandise is addressed. “All dispensing areas shall be free of unnecessary stockpile merchandise that would pose a fire risk because it is either combustible or absorptive because it will contribute to ignition or extension of a fire.”

Shrink wrapped material, which is most common packing material used for bulk items on display is highly flammable when exposed to flames. Other material such as bundles of firewood displayed by a gas dispenser, pose a high risk of combustibility.

REFUEL YOUR VEHICLE SAFELY

- Turn off your car before refueling.
- Never allow a child to pump gas.
- Don't smoke, light a match, or use a lighter when refueling your car.
- Remain undistracted while pumping gas. This is the process of transferring a hazardous substance from one place to another, and it demands your full attention.
- Refrain from using a cell phone, computer, or portable radio while refueling. If you must use electronic devices, follow the manufacturer's instructions for use at service stations.
- Never jam the refueling latch on the dispenser nozzle with an object to hold it open. Instead, use the built-in notches if those are present.
- Refrain from getting in and out of your vehicle while the gas is pumping. If you must reenter the car, touch a metal surface of the vehicle far away from the nozzle to discharge static buildup.

- Don't "top off" the tank as this could lead to spills or overfilling your vehicle.
- Once refueling is complete, leave the nozzle in the tank for a few seconds to avoid drips.

REFILL PORTABLE GASOLINE CONTAINERS SAFELY

- Only transport and store gasoline in an approved portable container with the cap intact.
- Never fill gas cans inside a vehicle or in the bed of a truck. Static charges can build up and start a fire. Instead, set the container on the ground and make sure it's in a stable position before filling it.
- Keep the nozzle in direct contact with the container as you fill it. Manually control the flow, filling the container slowly to decrease static electricity.
- Don't top off the gas can. Stop at about 95 percent full to allow for expansion.
- Place the cap on tightly.
- Secure the container before transporting it to guard against tipping and sliding.
- Never leave a gas can in direct sunlight or the trunk of your car.
- Refrain from smoking while in transport.



WHAT TO DO IF A FIRE OCCURS WHILE REFUELING

- Don't remove the nozzle from the vehicle.
- Press the emergency shut-off button on the gas pump or located on the building.
- Immediately notify the station attendant of the fire.

Please take these safety tips into consideration and help keep our convenience stores and fueling locations as safe as we can.

All code related questions can be submitted on our "Code Consultation Form." This form can be found on our website at www.firemarshal.ks.gov.





Deadline to Register Elevators in Kansas is this Month

This is a reminder that the deadline to register elevators in Kansas to comply with the Elevator Safety Act was on July 1.

There is no fee to register an elevator.

Elevators can be registered at this link:

[OSFM ELEVATOR REGISTRATION FORM](#)

After July 1st, 2023, all Elevator Inspections are required to be QEI certified. You have the option of choosing your Inspector from the Kansas Approved list of Inspectors or allowing your Elevator Contractor to choose from the identical list, which can be found [HERE](#).

The OSFM currently has close to 200 licensed mechanics, with 18 licensed inspectors in the State of Kansas. Our registered elevator population continues to increase daily.

According to the Kansas Elevator Safety Act:

- Elevators installed prior to July 1, 2022 will have until July 1, 2023 to register and obtain a certificate of operation with OSFM.
- Elevators installed after July 1, 2022, but prior to Jan. 1, 2023, will be required to register and obtain a certificate of operation within six (6) months before they can be placed in operation.
- Elevators installed after Jan. 1, 2023 will be required to register before being placed in operation.
- There is no fee to register an elevator.

If you have questions regarding elevators in Kansas, please contact us at: ksfm_elevators@ks.gov.

Answers to Spot the Violations (page 11)

A. PROPANE EXCHANGE CABINETS ARE REQUIRED TO BE A LOCKABLE VENTILATED ENCLOSURE OF METAL EXTERIOR CONSTRUCTION; B. HOOD SYSTEM OVERDUE FOR CLEANING, FILTERS GAPPED ALLOWING GREASE VAPORS INTO THE DUCTS; C. EACH CYLINDER SHALL REMAIN UPRIGHT WHEN STORED IN THE EXCHANGE CABINET, WHETHER THE CYLINDER IS EMPTY, FULL, OR PARTLY FULL; D. COOKING SURFACE IS OUTSIDE OF HOOD SYSTEM COVERAGE.





Motor homes, campers, and recreational vehicles are used for living and traveling. Each year, fires in them cause deaths, injuries, and millions of dollars in damages. Fires can start in the kitchen. They can start in the engine area. Sometimes the fires are electrical. With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent these fires from happening.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms. Make sure they work.
- Stay in the kitchen while you cook. Keep anything that can catch fire away from the stovetop.
- Only use one heat-producing appliance plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time. Major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet.
- Refrigerators, furnaces, ovens and stovetops use propane. Check them for leaks. Keep an updated gas leak detector on board.
- Have your propane system inspected to make sure it still works properly.
- Know two ways out. Make sure windows open easily.
- Have everyone practice the home fire escape plan.
- Do not keep camping heaters and lanterns on while sleeping.
- Before setting up a campfire, make sure it is allowed.
- If campfires are allowed, they need to be at least 25 feet away from anything that can burn.
- Have your vehicle serviced by a qualified mechanic.
- Keep a portable fire extinguisher on board. Only adults who know how to operate it should use it. Only use it if the fire is small and can be contained. Make sure everyone else is leaving. Make sure someone is calling the fire department.



Carbon Monoxide Awareness

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. You cannot see it. You cannot taste it. You cannot smell it. CO poisoning can result from leaks in the exhaust. It can happen because of improper use of appliances. Sometimes CO comes from another vehicle. Make sure you have a working CO alarm.

FACT

When the vehicle is used as a structure, the most common area for these fires to start is the kitchen or cooking area. This is followed by the engine area, running gear, or wheel area. Check for safety inside and outside of the vehicle.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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

