



# PREVENTION

## Highlights

### School Safety Drills



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# PREVENTION Highlights

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## Our Mission

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is dedicated to protecting lives and property from the hazards of fire or explosion and will promote prevention, educational and investigative activities to mitigate incidents, promote life safety and deter crimes.

## The Fire Prevention Division

The goal of the Fire Prevention Division is to reduce the potential impact of fire and explosion hazards where people live, work and congregate (other than one- or two-family dwellings) through code enforcement, inspections, plans review, licensing, and public education.

## Prevention Highlights

Prevention Highlights is published quarterly to provide facility managers and others with information necessary to operate fire-safe facilities.

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Connect with us!



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# Edu-Note

by Joel



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The long winter appears to have passed with temperatures finally above freezing. Even though we had a very cold winter, I was keeping the Kansas roads warm with my travels across the state. This winter I spent a great amount of time in different facilities across the state. I personally love being able to go to facilities to do direct training. It gives me time to really connect and build relationships with staff at different facilities across Kansas. This allows me to be more approachable for individuals needing any assistance in the future. This is also very beneficial for staff at these facilities, as they can use the training sessions as in-service training for employees. Most importantly, it brings many people together to talk about how to make a facility as safe as possible, which ultimately is our main goal.

Turning my attention to the upcoming year, there are many training events that I am looking forward to presenting and attending. Every summer, our office partners with a health care association, and this year we will be partnering with the Kansas Health Care Association (KHCA.) We are very excited to host several good sessions focusing on the Emergency Preparedness requirements for health care facilities and many other topics as well. Be on the lookout for more information on both the [KHCA](#) and [Office of the State Fire Marshal](#) websites. I will also have the privilege of spending time on college campuses, bringing awareness to college residential assistants about the danger of fire in on-campus and off-campus housing and providing hands-on, fire extinguisher training. As always, I do love getting out and conducting training as much as possible. So if you are looking for fire safety training, please reach out to me by email at [joel.c.beckner@ks.gov](mailto:joel.c.beckner@ks.gov) or by phone at 785-296-0659.

-Joel Beckner, Education Consultant

## Statewide Prevention Team



# Legislation in Kansas Could Drop Total Number of Yearly Safety Drills Required for K-12 Schools from 16 to Nine Drills



As schools across the state of Kansas know, Senate Bill 109 changed the landscape of how K-12 schools conducted school drills. When Senate Bill 109 passed, schools were required to change the number and type of drills

conducted during the school year.

The change required schools to conduct nine crisis drills, four fire drills and three tornado drills during the school year, for a total of 16 drills per school year.



## Required Drills Under Current Law

- 9 Crisis Drills
- 4 Fire Drills
- 3 Tornado Drill
- Total Drills: 16**

## Required Drills Under SB 128

- 3 Crisis Drills
- 4 Fire Drills
- 2 Tornado Drills
- Total Drills: 9**

## Examples of Types of Crisis Drills

- Water Main Break
- Earthquake
- Missing Student
- Hazardous Spills
- Intruders
- Active Shooters
- Medical Emergencies

\*\*This is just a list of some examples. If you have questions about acceptable types of crisis drills, please contact our office.

The change was positive in bringing about crisis drills to schools. However, the total number of drills proved to be overwhelming for many school districts.

With that in mind, Senate Bill 128 was introduced to change the number of drills required for schools. This proposed bill would change the total number of drills from 16 to nine (four fire drills, three crisis drills and two tornado drills) per school year.

Many people have also asked about what type of drills could be conducted to meet the legislation's

requirements. Here are just a few examples that would suffice for the crisis drills: water main break, earthquake, missing student, hazardous spills, intruders, active shooters or medical emergencies.

This bill is still working its way through the Kansas Legislature, so please watch our website to see if this bill does pass. If you have any questions about this topic, please feel to contact me by email at [joel.c.beckner@ks.gov](mailto:joel.c.beckner@ks.gov) or by phone at 785-296-0659.





*Now that winter has passed, and Spring has sprung, it is time to start thinking about all of the activities that the warmer weather brings to schools across the state. Perhaps none greater for high school students than the highly anticipated Prom.*

*Prom season is always so exciting, from planning the theme, to getting the perfect dress, and making sure the Prom location is as beautiful as possible. However, we urge schools to remember that decorating for Prom does come with a few restrictions from the Fire Code. As much fun as it can be to have all the best decorations, schools will still need to follow a few rules to make sure it is memorable and safe.*

## **Schools: Prom Fire Code Reminders**

- Make sure all exits are accessible and free from obstructions. Also make sure that all exit signs can be clearly seen and are not hidden by any decorations.
- The minimum clear width of six feet in exit corridors must be maintained.
- Artwork on the walls of corridors shall be limited to not more than 20 percent of the wall area unless the materials meet an appropriate level of flame resistance.
- Never hang any decorations from sprinkler pipes.
- Portable fire extinguishers shall not be obstructed or obscured from view by any decorations.
- Maintain a minimum of 18" of clearance between sprinkler heads and any prop or decoration placed underneath it.
- Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings, or floors, or under doors or floor coverings. Nor shall such cords be subject to environmental damage or physical impact.
- Do not overload circuits and follow manufacturer directions when using lights, extension cords and power strips.



# Life Safety Code: Assisted Living and Residential Board & Care



The inspection cycle has once again come around for our office to focus on Assisted Living and Residential Board and Care. When we inspect those types of facilities, our inspectors are using the 2006 NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (LSC), specifically chapters 32 and 33.

These two chapters are divided by the size of the facility. LSC classifies facilities up to 16 residents as “small” and more than 16 as “large.” From there, we will have different requirements for the “small” vs “large.” Please be aware of this if you are buying the 2006 LSC to help prepare for your upcoming inspection.

A main topic of interest for these facilities is that they are not allowed to have total locks or “mag” locks in their facilities. The strictest locking device that is allowed would be an option for a 15-second delay.

Another point of interest for these inspections are the fire drills. The fire drill requirement for assisted living and home plus facilities comes from *Section 33.7.3.1*, which says, “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.”

If you have further questions about the requirements for these facilities before your inspection comes around, please reach out to me at 785-296-0659 or [joel.c.beckner@ks.gov](mailto:joel.c.beckner@ks.gov).

## KANSAS STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION 131ST ANNUAL CONVENTION

April 24- 27, 2019

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# PREVENTION: HOT TOPICS

The Office of the State Fire Marshal would like to provide updates on some current hot topics. Some will be updates on newer requirements and some will be reminders on already established requirements.

# 1.

To start things off, let's look at customary access. **The State Operations Manual (SOM)** and the regulations have always required the determination of customary access when deciding what section of the code is applicable.

If you have a common space that is intended to serve all inpatients, then it would need to follow Health Care Occupancy (HCO.) If you have a common "core area" that is intended to provide services (chapel, beauty shop, etc.) to all inpatients, this "core area" could be



customarily accessed by any number of the SNF residents and must be HCO. No policy limiting access could be imposed to reduce HCO requirements. Other skilled nursing facility (SNF) requirements, such as Resident Rights would also affect this determination.

If you have a space that is not intended to serve inpatients, the Life Safety Code would allow a different occupancy classification, but would limit the number of inpatients that may enter this area simultaneously to less than three. In this case, a policy would be permitted to ensure that four or more patients do not occupy this space simultaneously. For example, if this "core area" was intended to provide outpatient services (e.g., outpatient imaging), was separated & sprinklered, and was not simultaneously occupied by four or more SNF residents, then it could be classified as another occupancy type.

The simplest way to think of it is that it comes down to intended customary access. If you have a common space intended to serve inpatients, then it would need to be HCO. However, if you have a space that is intended to serve outpatients, the Code would allow a different occupancy but would restrict the number of inpatients that may enter this area simultaneously.

It is incumbent on the facility to ensure all program rules are met, including the *NFPA 101*, related references, the regulation, the SOM, and survey and certification letters. If a facility receives a citation for customary access, each facility would be evaluated on its own merits and they might need an FSES or a waiver of time, depending on the situation.

# 2.

Now turning our attention to the important Emergency Preparedness update. When the Emergency Preparedness (EP) requirement was first rolled out in Nov. 2017, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services called for a soft roll-out and asked to keep the tags at a "c" level for all EP Plans. Now that the EP Plan has been out for over a year, the scope and severity will now be determined like the K-Tags, and failure to meet most E-Tag criteria will be considered widespread.

# 3.

The last update is the delayed egress requirements for Assisted Living and Residential Board and Care facilities. **(DOES NOT APPLY TO NURSING HOMES.)** When we are talking about egress locks for these facilities, the strictest locking devices that code allows is a 15-second, delayed egress per *NFPA 101 2006 33.2.2.5.5.1*. No total locks or magnetic locks are allowed for these types of facilities. In certain cases, facilities can apply for a waiver or variance for a stricter locking device, 30-second delay or even a magnetic lock, but that request would be reviewed by our office and be approved or denied. For further information regarding the waiver or variance, please contact our office.

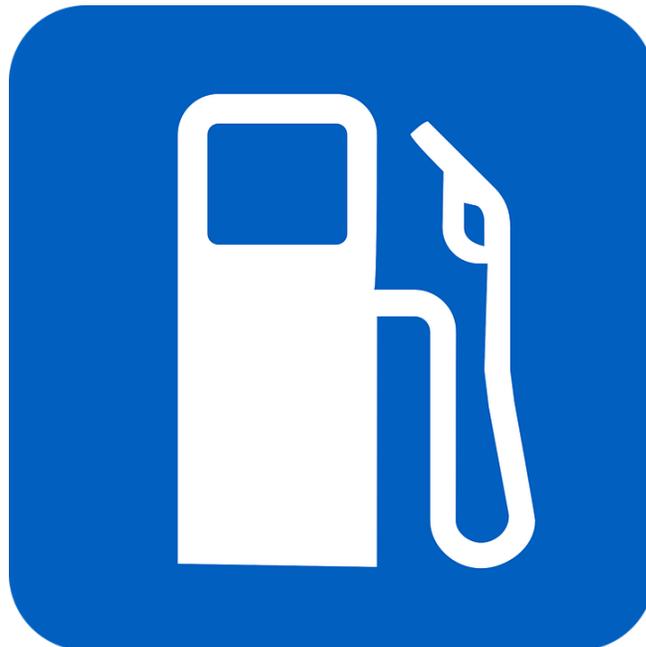
If you have any further questions about any of these topics or any other fire safety questions, please feel free to contact me via email at [joel.c.beckner@ks.gov](mailto:joel.c.beckner@ks.gov) or by phone at 785-296-0659.



# Safety at the Pump!

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 as 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 the most common packing material used for bulk items on display, is highly flammable. Other material such as bundles of firewood by a gas dispenser poses 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.
- Call 9-1-1.

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

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, reach out to me at [joel.c.beckner@ks.gov](mailto:joel.c.beckner@ks.gov) or 785-296-0659.



# Importance of Boiler Data Plates

OSFM Prevention Division would like to expand on the contents of the information found on most data plates and to remind readers that it's illegal to sell or install a boiler, pressure vessel, pool heater or water heater in the state of Kansas that is missing its data plate.

Data plates are the stickers or metal tags that are attached to a piece of equipment and contain information about the object or equipment it's attached to. These data plates inform inspectors and installers alike about who made it, as well as some details on its specifications. There are standard pieces of information found on the data plate, but each manufacturer is different and has different ways of displaying this information.

A data plate will have the name of the manufacturer, model number and serial number. The manufacturer and its information, name of the company, and where their headquarters is located is generally the first piece of information found on the data plate. The model number is a series of numbers, letters or both given to the piece of equipment by the manufacturer to identify its key characteristics. The serial number is similar to the model number but is unique to each particular piece of equipment. The Maximum Allowable Working Pressure (MAWP) will be displayed in pounds per square inch (PSI). Maximum

burner output is displayed in British Thermal Units (BTU). The data plate will also have the certification designations from various agencies that confirm it was tested under the operating conditions and pressures it was designed to withstand. A couple of these are

from the National Boiler Board, who assigns a number similar to the serial number that is unique to that piece of equipment, but it will only be numbers, as well as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), who will assign a letter designation to signify the standard to which it was built.

The inspectors from OSFM and insurance companies use this

information to identify and ensure that the boilers are installed correctly. Installers and suppliers use the information on these data plates to make sure they get the right parts for technicians that repair and maintain the boilers that are installed in Kansas. If you cannot find or read the data plate because it has been removed, destroyed, or just fell off, there is no way to tell what that unit is designed for or if it's being used correctly. This also makes it very hard to ensure that you have the right parts.

So, please make sure if you are installing a boiler or having one installed, that it has a data plate, and it's attached to the piece of equipment.



## What exactly does the OSFM Boiler Safety Unit do?

Here is an example from a recent inspection that shows the importance of our boiler inspectors' jobs:

*An inspection was performed this month at a facility. Their cast iron hot water heating boiler was found to be unsafe for operation. The boiler was running and discharging heat from the cast iron sections. The maintenance director was instructed by the inspector to immediately shut the boiler down with the emergency shutdown switch and to isolate and secure the boiler.*

*This was a near miss, as it could have caught the facility on fire and jeopardized the safety of the people who occupied that building. Our inspector explained that the boiler could not be operated until it was repaired or replaced. This is a prime example of why the Boiler Safety Unit performs these inspections and how dangerous a situation can be. The inspector noted that as soon as he was walking into the basement towards the boiler, he could feel the increasing temperature. And as soon as he entered the boiler room, it was obvious there was an issue.*

**Great job by our Boiler Safety Unit making sure facilities across the state are as safe as possible!**

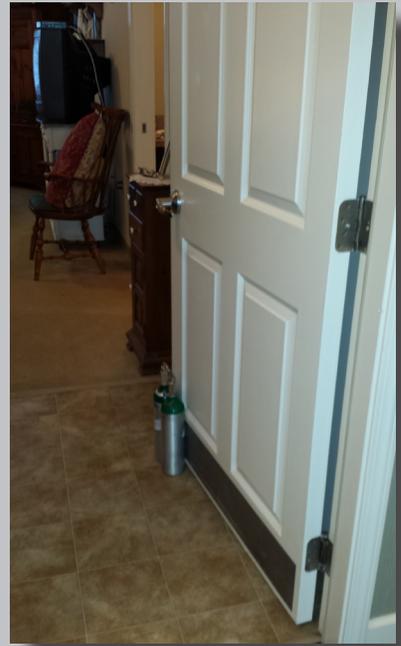


# SPOT the violations

**A**



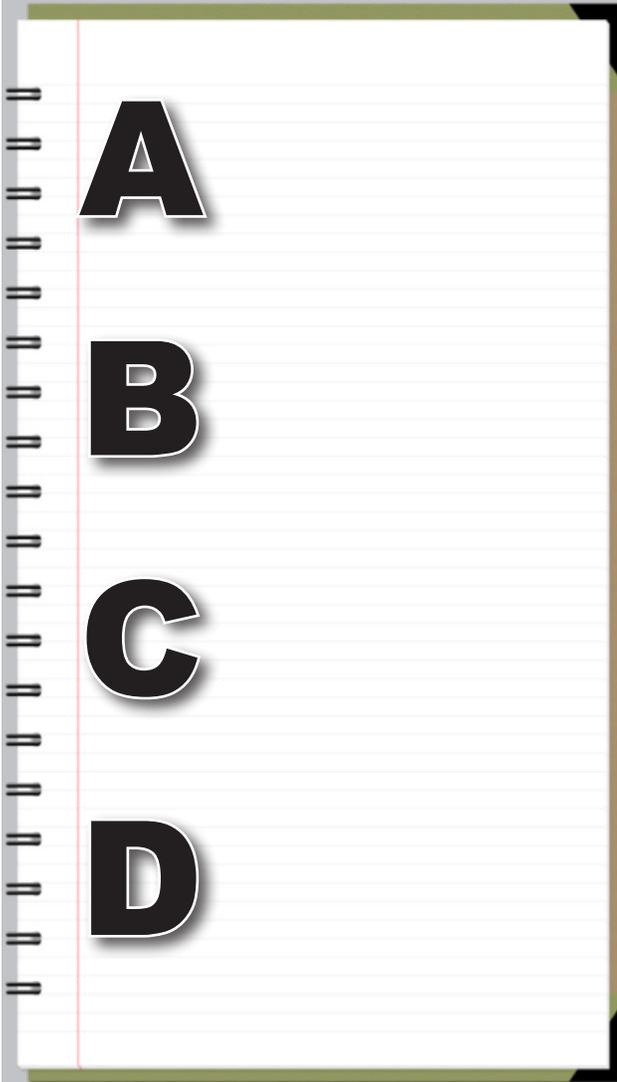
**B**



**C**



**D**



Answers on Page 11



# Grilling Safety Tips to Follow

With the beautiful sun finally coming out once again, many of us take that as the start of the grilling season. Having a barbecue should be a safe and fun experience for everyone. To prevent injuries or damage to property, please take the following precautions:

## Maintenance and Safety First

- Ensure that your barbecue is sound and in good working order.
- Make sure the cooking site for the barbecue is flat and is away from sheds, fences, overhanging branches and utility lines.
- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves.
- Never use a barbecue indoors or in tents. This is a dangerous fire hazard and can cause high levels of carbon monoxide.
- Keep children and outdoor games away from the cooking area. Never leave a barbecue unattended.
- Light barbecues with a long match or mechanical lighter designed for lighting barbecues. Keep all matches, lighters and barbecue lighters out of the reach of children.
- Use long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames.
- Allow the barbecue to cool before attempting to move it.



- When removing the ashes from the barbecue, make sure they are cool or put them into a non-flammable container such as a metal bucket. Water may be added to the cool ashes, remembering to stay back, away from potential hot steam. Empty spent ashes onto bare garden soil—do not put ashes into a garbage can or paper bag. House fires have been caused by hot ashes which later ignited when left on a deck or porch.

## Gas Barbecues

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions. To check the gas cylinder or pipe for leaks, brush soapy water around all joints and watch for bubbles. If you find a leaky joint, try to tighten, but do not over tighten. If ever in doubt about the integrity of your gas cylinder, have it tested.
  - Open the barbecue lid before turning on the gas or lighting.
  - When you have finished cooking with a gas barbecue, turn off the gas cylinder.
  - Change gas cylinders in the open air, not in a confined space. Avoid storing gas cylinders indoors and never in basements.

Following these tips can help ensure you have a fun and safe barbecue.

## Answers to Spot the Violations (page 10)

- A. Storage of combustible material stored too close to propane cabinet. B. Storage of O2 bottles improper and using improper hold open device. C. Grease build up and not cleaned. D. Improper use of extension cord and power strip with highly flammable decoration on the walls.



# Home Safety for People with Disabilities

There's no place like home. It is a place to relax, share laughs with family, and enjoy home cooked meals. But did you know that the majority of fire deaths occur in the home? Help everyone in the home stay safe from fire.



## Home Fire Sprinklers

Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. Sprinklers allow people more time to escape in a fire. When choosing an apartment or home, look for one that has home fire sprinklers.

## Smoke Alarms

- » Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- » Test your smoke alarm at least once a month by pushing the test button. If you can't reach the alarm, ask for help.
- » For added safety, interconnect the smoke alarms. If one sounds, they all sound. This gives more time to escape.
- » Smoke alarms with sealed (long-life) batteries work for up to 10 years. They can be helpful for people who find it hard to change batteries.
- » Smoke alarms expire. Replace them every 10 years.

## People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- » Smoke alarms and alert devices are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- » Strobe lights flash when the smoke alarm sounds. The lights warn people of a possible fire.
- » When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker can wake them so they can escape.
- » When people who are hard of hearing are asleep, a loud, mixed, low-pitched sound alert device can wake them. A pillow or bed shaker may be helpful. These devices are triggered by the sound of the smoke alarm.



## Escape Planning

**Include everyone** in home escape planning. Each person should have input about the best ways to escape. Home fire drills are important. Everyone in the home must participate in them. Keep a phone by your bed in case you can't escape and need to call for help.

## Talk with someone from the fire department

about your escape plan. Ask them **review your plan**. Ask if your fire department keeps a directory of people who may need extra help. If you have a **service animal**, agree on a plan to keep the animal with you during an emergency.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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

