



The TRUMPET

Get Alarmed Kansas!



Overcoming Post Traumatic Stress

Also in this issue:

- New Emergency Preparedness Regulations for USDs
- Kansas Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grant
- Kansas Rescue Conference Registration
- Grilling Safety

FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

I hope you are enjoying your summer as it winds down this year. It is a busy time of the year for our office, as I'm sure it is for everyone. As you can see on the cover of this issue of The Trumpet, we are pleased to showcase our new vehicle artwork promoting OSFM's successful Get Alarmed Kansas program. If you see us out and about across the state, make sure to wave. And please, contact our office if you or your department is interested in participating in Get Alarmed Kansas. So far, we have distributed over 4,500 smoke alarms to departments across the state to install in homes in their communities. Over 2,500 have been installed. You can find more information at GetAlarmedKS.org.

This issue also highlights the difficulties firefighters face when trying to overcome post traumatic stress, which is an important discussion for all of us to be having right now. Thank you, Karl McNorton, for agreeing to be a guest author and writing the article on page 4.

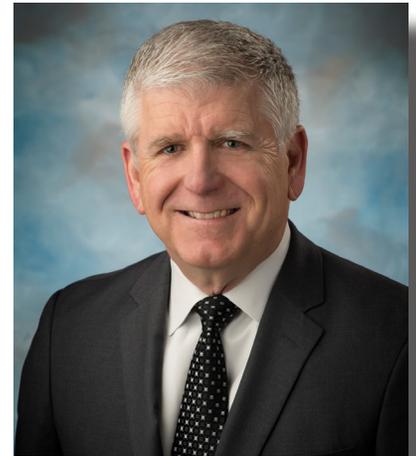
As of July 1, we implemented new emergency preparedness regulations for all Unified School Districts in Kansas. You can find information on those regulations on page 11. We have also opened the application period for our Kansas Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grant, which was doubled this year to \$400,000. Don't forget, October 1, is the deadline to get your application in for those important funds.

Thank you for reading the August issue of The Trumpet. We hope you'll enjoy this issue, and please share it with friends, family and co-workers.

Sincerely,



Doug Jorgensen



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HOT SPOTS @ OSEM

Welcome, New Prevention Staff

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to welcome three new employees to our Prevention Division.

Barbra Burgen joins OSFM as a Senior Administrative Specialist. Barbra comes to us from the Kansas Department of Revenue, where she worked for the past 11 years. She owned and operated a daycare for 14 years prior to joining the State of Kansas.

Barbra lives in Berryton with her husband Dennis. She has five children, Brandon, Cory, Katie, Kourtney and Jake. She also has two Miniature Dachshunds, Abby and Little Mac, as well as a German Shepard, Mya. She loves to go to auctions, take road trips to concerts and most of all spend time with her two grandsons.

“I have a passion for working with public service agencies,” Barbra said. “I thought this would be a good fit for me, and I’m excited for the opportunity.”



Christina Lambotte joins OSFM as a Senior Administrative Assistant. Christina comes to us from BurrellesLuce Information Service, where she served as a general manager. She was with BurrellesLuce for 28 years.

Christina lives in Topeka and has extended family in Dover, Kan. She has a rat terrier dog named Ruby and two cats, MiMi and Abigail. She enjoys reading, crocheting and greeting card making.

“I knew this new job would be a good fit with my skills,” Christina said. “It should be a fun and interesting place to work.”

John Jeffery joins OSFM as a Fire Prevention Inspector. His region will cover Lincoln, Ellsworth, Saline, McPherson, Marion and Harvey counties. John joins our office after seven years in law enforcement, most recently with the Smith County Sheriff’s Office where he served as a Sergeant.

John lives in Salina with his wife, Jessica, and their two, 4-year-old twins, Jace and Jaelynn. He operates a small gym in Smith Center and is a strength and conditioning personal trainer.

“I knew this job was a great fit for my personality,” John said. “It will provide a new and exciting challenge for me.”



OUR MISSION

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

OUR PURPOSE

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

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

The TRUMPET

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STAY CONNECTED



Welcome, Barbara, Christina and John!

Overcoming Post Traumatic Stress

First responders face an enormous amount of situational and personal stress in their lives. The 10-33 Foundation is providing much needed regional assistance.



**By Karl W. McNorton,
Executive Vice President,
10-33 Foundation, Mid-West
Region**

Let me introduce myself. I served the community of Soldier Township in Shawnee County for 42 years, retiring as Fire Chief and Township Administrator. During that period, I also worked for the Office of the State Fire

Marshal, retiring as the Deputy Chief State Fire Marshal.

Working these vocations and advocations has given me many experiences. Some good, and some not so good. Unfortunately, I was raised in the time (as were many of you) that you just suck it up, and move on. Someday, as it did for me, those ghosts, feelings, and emotions will take over. I must thank my wife, Brenda, for recognizing my struggles and insisting that I get help. As a result of those challenging times, I have come to understand the need for education on this subject and want to let everyone know, help is here. Just ask.

Post-Traumatic Stress. What is this?

Essentially it is feelings that we typically have immediately following a traumatic incident. However, this doesn't always have to be triggered by a call we or our co-workers responded to. It can also be some of those everyday things, like giving a presentation, a disagreement with associates or your supervisor. It could be a misunderstanding with a significant other or a financial challenge or maybe having a baby. Not all stress is bad.

Let's understand stress first, and remember that stress can be physical, emotional, environmental or operational.

There are two kinds of stress. Good stress is called Eustress. It improves concentration and focus, keeps you motivated, and there is relief at the conclusion. Bad stress is called distress. It lingers unresolved, reduces concentration and job performance, and can cause illness, depression and suicidal thoughts.

Bad stress can be brought on by a critical or traumatic incident. It is the actual event or events that have the potential to create significant human distress and overwhelms the normal thought mechanisms of individuals or groups exposed to the trauma. You're having a normal reaction to an abnormal situation.

So, what is PTSD? What are these buzzwords known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder?

This is when stress manifests itself where it impacts cognitive, physical, emotional, behavioral and spiritual activity. This can occur from a single incident or an accumulation of many incidents. The problem is when we become focused or triggered with thoughts of the event or events. We are hyper-vigilant, distracted, unable to sleep, eating and drinking improperly and even having thoughts of leaving the service and/or suicide. These are all serious symptoms and need to be addressed, first by admitting there is a problem.

Enough with the doom and gloom. There are tools available to mitigate and manage our stress in a more appropriate manor. The 10-33 Foundation that I am affiliated with provides just those tools. It has been great for me and the many others we have touched. Our organization was born from a need recognized by our founder, Jim Wilson, Vacaville, Calif., when he too suffered from these symptoms, and upon recovering, founded this organization. The 10-33 stands for *Luke 10:33* for the compassionate traveler, who assisted an ailing person. We, as first responders, have compassion for those we serve and render aid at the drop of a hat. The best way to mitigate is through education to train our personnel on how to best deal with and manage stress at all levels.

Currently in Kansas, we have five organized regional groups, with growth taking place in other regions. We are looking at this from the Homeland Security Region standpoint. These groups can provide critical incident stress debriefings, defusings, and group and individual counseling. When a debriefing is requested we will respond with a team, which will include a licensed mental health professional. Each debriefing is done in the strictest confidence.

But our crown is the Stress Awareness Management and Mitigation (SAMM) Class we can provide to educate all responders. Our class, a four-hour program, can be specific to the discipline, such as military, fire, law enforcement, dispatchers, or corrections officers. We are very grateful to have the support of the Kansas State Fire Fighters Association at their regional schools.

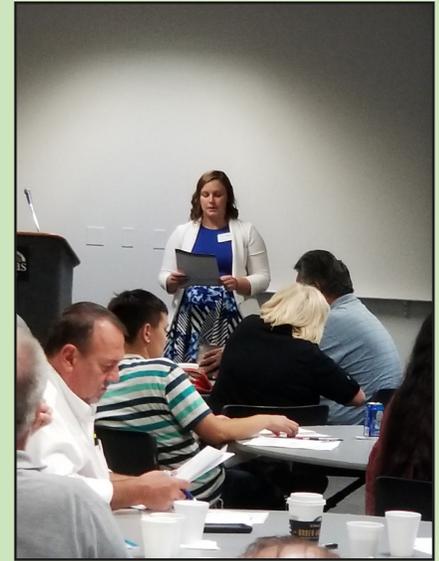
We/I are here to help. Leaders, don't let yourself or your crews suffer and lose personnel. Help make them the best that they can be. Mental health is as important as your physical health.

For more information, contact me at (785)-845-1076 or kmcnorton@1033foundation.org.



Joint Provider Workshops in Topeka, Newton

The 2018 Joint Provider Fire Marshal Workshops in Topeka on July 11, and in Newton on July 12, were an opportunity for Kansas adult care home providers and Kansas State Fire Marshal to come together in a cooperative training. It was coordinated together by the long-term care associations and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.



Hayley Spicer, *Leading Age*, and host of the Joint Provider Workshop, addresses the group in Newton.

Joel Beckner, *OSFM Prevention Education Specialist*, kicks off the day with a recap of code changes, top citations in Kansas and conducting a tabletop exercise.



From left, Jack Chatmon, *OSFM Fire Prevention Supervisor*; Randy DeShon, *OSFM Prevention Field & FPS Supervisor*; and Joel Beckner, *OSFM Prevention Education Specialist*, prepare for the workshop in Topeka.



Workshop attendees begin a series of tabletop exercises in Topeka.

Rose Villa, Leavenworth, Gets Thumbs Up

Jack Chatmon, *OSFM Fire Prevention Supervisor*, inspected Rose Villa in Leavenworth, which is a residential facility for veterans to transition back into the community. "It was a very nice facility and well maintained," Chatmon said.

Congratulations, Rose Villa, for your staff's hard work!

Job Well Done!



Grilling Safety

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

SAFETY TIPS

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

CHARCOAL GRILLS

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



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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

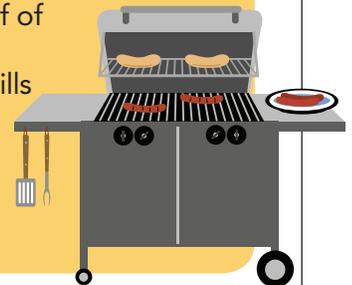
PROPANE Grills

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

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

FACTS

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



IN THE UNITED STATES



GRILLING STATISTICS

from **NFPA**

9,600 home fires are started by grills each year, on average



July is the peak month for grill fires, followed by May, June and August



16,600

patients went to the ER per year because of injuries involving grills, including



8,200 thermal burns



70% of U.S. households own at least one outdoor BBQ, grill or smoker



Gas grills contribute to a higher numbers of fires than charcoal grills.



64% of households own a gas grill



Sources:
HPBA's "State of the Barbecue Industry" consumer survey
NFPA's 2018 "Research Fact Sheet"

IN KANSAS



June and July are the peak months for fires related to grilling in Kansas.



Since 2015, 110 fires related to grilling were reported in Kansas.

Those fires caused five injuries and over \$1 million in property damage.



2018 Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grant Now Accepting Applications

The application period for the 2018 Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant (KFRSG) is now open until the grant deadline of October 1, 2018. The grant is made possible with the State of Kansas budget passed by the State Legislature and signed by Governor Jeff Colyer. This year, the previous grant budget of \$200,000 has been doubled to \$400,000, to assist volunteer and part-time fire

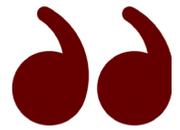
Safety gear which can be purchased through this grant program based on a proven and demonstrated need, includes bunker or wildland gear, to include: coat, pants, helmet, gloves, hood and boots; and new masks for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units for new department members.

This grant program not only addresses safety of firefighters, but their health as well. The OSFM provides grants to

programs. These programs offer a great way for local fire departments to give the youth of their area an opportunity to explore both career and voluntary opportunities in the fire service. All fire departments will be able to apply for funding to cover the Explorer program or the National Volunteer Fire Council National Junior Firefighter Program initiation fees up to \$500, plus a \$100 start-up fund.



In 2017, there were over \$1 million in requests for the \$200,000 grant. The 2018 Legislature and Governor Jeff Colyer approved OSFM's request to double this year's grant to \$400,000.



departments across the state with firefighter safety and recruitment.

Grants issued through the KFRSG program will cover the costs of safety gear for firefighters and physical examinations for firefighters whose physicals are not covered by their departments. It will also provide funds for the purchase of new washer-extractor machines used to clean bunker gear following a fire, with further funds available for the creation of Explorer programs to attract youth volunteers into the fire service.

Volunteer and part-time fire departments face recruitment and retention challenges because they do not have the funding to provide safety equipment. Without new equipment provided by the recruiting fire department, potential volunteers are faced with not only donating their time but also providing their own safety gear, sharing gear with others, or doing without.

local firefighters to assist in paying for physical examinations not otherwise covered by their departments. A physical examination by a doctor could identify underlying health issues and, hopefully, decrease the number of health-related deaths.

The OSFM also uses grant funds to purchase and strategically place washer-extractor machines throughout the state. It is vital to the health of firefighters to properly clean bunker gear following a fire to prevent the transfer of carcinogens, particulates and biohazards to firefighters, and those they serve. Further, as more and more particles attach to protective gear and chemicals remain on clothing, the gear gradually loses its effectiveness – putting firefighters at increased risk.

A key goal for the KFRSG program is firefighter recruitment, which provides funding for the start of Explorer

Grant applicants must be established and recognized volunteer or part-time Kansas fire departments in good standing with OSFM (must be current with NFIRS reporting) or a firefighter in good standing with their local fire department. All safety gear purchased through the program would become the property of the requesting department and not of the individual for whom it was requested.

Applications are available at the link below. The deadline for submission to receive funds through the KFRSG is Oct. 1, 2018. Grant funding will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

[For more information on the KFRSG and Applications, please CLICK HERE.](#)

2018 National Model Performance in CRR Symposium

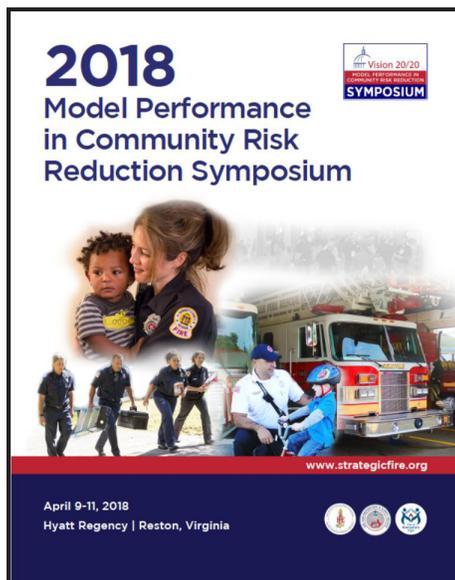
By Kelly Ingold and Sara Wood

Community Risk Reduction programs protect both residents and first responders in our communities, but knowing where to start can be difficult. Thankfully, there is a great resource for curious departments.

In April, the Fifth National Model Performance in Community Risk Reduction Symposium was held in Reston, Virginia. The symposium highlighted a variety of successful community risk reduction programs from local and state levels. Each presentation laid out: the problem, the solution, implementation, and the impact.



Pictured: Public Education State Representatives, Photo Credit: Ed Comeau



A key component to any successful CRR program is using accurate data. This was a consistent message throughout the symposium. The data provides the starting point to identify the problem, but is also key to evaluating the program. By documenting program activities, such as smoke alarm installations, and continually looking at the data, the program stays on track for success. Showing measurable improvements also builds support (financially and otherwise) for continuing the program.

Symposium attendees took home ideas, inspiration, and resources. You can access them, too. The presentations, overviews and audio recordings are all available at the link on the left. Here are a few examples of the presentation topics: Community Service Action Teams; Multi-Family Occupancies;

Tragedy Leads to Success; School Inspection Effectiveness; Teaching and

Technology: A Recipe for Fire Safe Cooking; Causal Chain Analysis and Data Driven Messaging and more. The next Model Performance in Community Risk Reduction Symposium will be in 2020.

If your department is engaged in CRR, consider submitting a proposal for the next symposium. If you're not running a CRR program yet, but you'd like to, reach out to our office. Kelly and Sara can provide direction to help you get rolling.

September is Campus Fire Safety Month

New college students are usually experiencing their first taste of freedom, and fire safety might not be their biggest priority. This issue is very important and should be on the radar for students and their parents alike.

The requirements for dorm rooms on college campuses are well protected today. The biggest thing students should consider with fire safety on campus is cooking fires. Cooking fires are the most common types of fires. Here are a couple of easy solutions to keep in mind while cooking to help reduce the risk of fires greatly. First, stay in the kitchen while cooking. It is easy to start something, set it down, and then get distracted while cooking. The next thing you know, your quick snack of a frozen pizza has turned the kitchen into a large fire. The other thing to consider while cooking, is to only cook when you are alert, not when you are sleepy or drowsy from medicine or alcohol. Being impaired while cooking is extremely dangerous and can easily lead to starting a fire.

Off campus fires are a serious issue. Many times, apartments or houses don't have basic fire safety systems installed. If you do live off campus, make sure smoke alarms are installed in each sleeping room, outside every sleeping area, and on each level of the apartment unit or house. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the apartment unit or house should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound. Another common fire related issue is the mixture of alcohol and smoking. Many off campus fires come from improper disposal of cigarettes. Make sure cigarettes are placed in sturdy, deep, non-tip ashtrays, and never smoke in bed or while intoxicated.

Following some of these simple safety precautions can make your college dorm or off campus housing into a safer environment. If you have any further questions about campus housing and fire safety, call or email Joel Beckner at 785-296-0659 or joel.c.beckner@ks.gov.

See It Before You Sign It

#OffCampusFire



94% of fatal campus fires took place in off-campus housing (2000 to 2015/USFA study)



58% of fatal campus fires had no smoke alarm or smoke alarm did not have batteries



29% Smoking was the leading cause of fatal fires in campus housing



11% of fatal campus fires are electrical



9% of fatal campus housing fires involved cooking



Before signing a lease, make sure off-campus housing has these:

- Working smoke alarms
- Fire sprinklers
- Two ways out of each room for a safe escape. Make sure all windows and doors open easily
- Off-campus housing that can handle power demands for your computers, phones, TVs, etc. Ask the landlord.

FACT SHEET » RESEARCH

Dormitory, Fraternity, Sorority, and Barrack Structure Fires

In 2011–2015, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 4,100 structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and barracks. These fires caused annual averages of 35 civilian injuries and cost \$14 million in direct property damage.

Leading Causes of Fires, Civilian Injuries, and Direct Property Damage in Dormitory-Type Properties by Time of Day, 2011–2015 Annual Averages

Category	Fires (%)	Civilian Injuries (%)	Direct Property Damage (%)
Cooking equipment	87%	50%	30%
Intentional	5%	11%	13%
Smoking materials	3%	7%	3%
Heating equipment	2%	2%	6%
Electrical distribution & lighting equipment	2%	5%	15%

- ▶ Most fires started in the kitchen or cooking area.
- ▶ 87% of the reported structure fires involved cooking equipment. The majority of fires were reported as contained or confined to cooking equipment.
- ▶ Structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and barracks are more common during the hours between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. and on weekends.

Structure Fires in Dormitory-Type Properties by Time of Day, 2011–2015 Annual Averages

Time of Day	Percentage (%)
Midnight-12:59 a.m.	4%
1:00-1:59 a.m.	3%
2:00-2:59 a.m.	3%
3:00-3:59 a.m.	2%
4:00-4:59 a.m.	1%
5:00-5:59 a.m.	1%
6:00-6:59 a.m.	2%
7:00-7:59 a.m.	2%
8:00-8:59 a.m.	3%
9:00-9:59 a.m.	3%
10:00-10:59 a.m.	4%
11:00-11:59 a.m.	5%
12:00-12:59 p.m.	5%
1:00-1:59 p.m.	5%
2:00-2:59 p.m.	5%
3:00-3:59 p.m.	5%
4:00-4:59 p.m.	5%
5:00-5:59 p.m.	7%
6:00-6:59 p.m.	7%
7:00-7:59 p.m.	8%
8:00-8:59 p.m.	7%
9:00-9:59 p.m.	6%
10:00-10:59 p.m.	6%
11:00-11:59 p.m.	5%

For more of these resources, become an **NFPA member**

Source: NFPA Research: www.nfpa.org/research
Contact information: 617-984-7451 or research@nfpa.org



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

This information is provided to help advance fire safety. It does not represent the official position of the NFPA or its Technical Committees. The NFPA disclaims liability for any personal injury, property, or other damages of any nature whatsoever resulting from the use of this information



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
CPSC Hotline: (800) 638-2772
www.cpsc.gov

Source: U.S. Fire Administration "Campus Fire Fatalities in Residential Buildings (2000–2015)"

New Emergency Preparedness Requirements for USDs

The safety of our children is always of the utmost importance. The school setting should be a place of growing and learning. However, with so many recent scares across the Nation, it has become necessary to shift some of that focus. With the safety of the schools in the forefront, a bill was recently passed that will make Kansas schools more prepared when an emergency arises. Starting July 1, there was a substituted bill passed for all Unified School Districts in Kansas to perform 16 emergency preparedness drills during a school year. The drills will consist of the following:

1. Four fire drills
2. Three tornado drills
3. Nine crisis drills

To see the full bill, you will need to look for "House Substitute for SENATE BILL No. 109 – page 41. Then look for the State Fire Marshal heading and it will be under (c).

We have been asked, specifically, "What constitutes as a crisis drill?" The bill states, "nine crisis drills that shall include, but not limited to, intruder response drills and lockdown drills." We have posted to our website a new Emergency Preparedness Drill log that schools will use to record the times and dates of the 16 drills performed for the school year. That log can be found at www.firemarshal.ks.gov. Please reach out to Joel Beckner, OSFM Prevention Education Specialist, if you have any further questions. He can be reached at 785-296-0659 or joel.c.beckner@ks.gov.

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www.firemarshal.ks.gov

July 13, 2018

Attention All Superintendents and Principals

The Office of the State Fire Marshal will be issuing a State-Wide Variance of the Kansas Fire Prevention Code, K.A.R. 22-18-2(a). The recent passing of House Substitute for Senate Bill 109, taking effect July 1, 2018, amends K.S.A. 31-133 with a new legislative initiative requiring 16 emergency preparedness drills during the school year.

There was no individual bill passed by the legislature and the changes were made under the "State Fire Marshal" appropriations and are detailed on page 41 of the above appropriations bill:

expenditures shall be made by the above agency from such moneys appropriated from any special revenue fund or funds for fiscal year 2019 to require administrators of public and private schools and educational institutions, except community colleges, colleges and universities, to conduct at least 16 emergency preparedness drills during the school year at some time during school hours, aside from the regular dismissal at the close of the day's session, and to prescribe the manner in which such emergency preparedness drills are to be conducted: Provided, That such emergency preparedness drills shall include at least: (1) Four fire drills; (2) three tornado drills conducted pursuant to the tornado procedures established by administrators of public and private schools and educational institutions, except community colleges, colleges and universities and subject to approval by the state fire marshal; and (3) nine crisis drills that shall include, but not be limited to, intruder response drills and lockdown drills.

Current state regulations prohibit emergency preparedness drills from being announced beforehand. Due to concerns from several Kansas school administrators that these types of drills could be used by individuals meaning harm to the students and staff in the school, our office is issuing a statewide variance allowing the emergency preparedness drills (Fire, Tornado and Crisis Drills) to be pre-announced with the following stipulation: that the Emergency Preparedness Drill (Fire, Tornado and Crisis Drills) only be announced within 5 minutes of the drill taking place.

If you have any further questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact our office at 785-296-3401



Kansas Rescue Conference

October 17-19, 2018

Kansas Training Center/Crisis City

Salina, Kansas

The 2018 KANSAS RESCUE CONFERENCE is scheduled for October 17-19, 2018 at the Kansas Training Center and Crisis City in Salina, Kansas. Our 11th annual conference will be even bigger and better this year and will certainly provide another excellent training opportunity in a variety of areas related to rescue operations and disaster response.

Day 1 will include Opening Ceremonies, the presentation of the William C. Brubaker Memorial Award, and a keynote presentation, followed by a catered lunch and several break-out sessions in the afternoon. Days 2 & 3 will provide participants with an opportunity to receive 12 hours of hands-on training in a variety of rescue disciplines.

Once again, the 2018 conference is an excellent opportunity to network and train with responders, vendors, and some of the best instructors in Kansas and across the country!

EACH BREAK-OUT AND HOT TRACK WILL HAVE LIMITED SPACE SO REGISTER EARLY!

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: TRAINING FOR ADAPTABILITY

Generational differences in experience require a shift in training methodology. Today's workforce candidates are not bringing many of the life skills previous generations had with them. In order to produce a well-rounded firefighter that can make decisions and adapt to changing situations and environments, training must be structured and methods must be used that create experiences. Training for adaptability explores how we learn and how to put lessons in context that can build experiences that will transfer to decision making on the scene.

David Rhodes is a 33-year fire service veteran currently serving with a large urban fire department in Georgia. He is a Chief Elder for the Georgia Smoke Diver Program, a member of the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) Executive Advisory Board, a Hands-on-Training Coordinator for the FDIC conference, an Editorial Advisor and author for Fire Engineering, Fire Rescue and Fire Apparatus and Equipment Magazine and Creator of the Hump Day SOS Blog of Fire Engineering.com. He also serves as an adjunct instructor for the Georgia Fire Academy and Advisory Board Member for Underwriters Laboratory Firefighter Safety Research Institute. He serves as an Incident Commander for the Georgia Emergency Management Agency - All Hazards Incident Management Team and is a Task Force Leader for the Georgia Search and Rescue Team. Mr. Rhodes is also President of Rhodes Consultants, Inc. which provides public safety training, consulting and promotional assessment centers.



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)

Questions? Contact Randy Hill, Search & Rescue Coordinator-OSFM, (785) 207-4144 or randy.hill@ks.gov.

Latest Fire Hazard Recalls from CPSC

Name of product: 2018 Can-Am Outlander and Renegade all-terrain vehicles (ATVs)

Hazard: Fuel can spray from the fuel tank when opening the gas cap, posing a fuel leak and fire hazard.

Remedy: Repair

Recall date: June 29, 2018

Units: About 13,300



Name of product: Women's scarves

Hazard: The women's scarves fail to meet the federal flammability standard for clothing textiles, posing a risk of burn injuries to consumers.

Remedy: Refund
Recall date: June 19, 2018
Units: About 640



Name of product: Stanley workbench LED light and power stations.

Hazard: The recalled workbench and power stations are wired incorrectly,

which can result in reverse polarity, posing shock and electrocution hazards.

Remedy: Refund/Replace

Recall date: June 26, 2018

Units: About 20,000



Name of product: Amnon floor lamps

Hazard: The incorrect label on the lamp states that consumers can use 40 watt lightbulbs in the product. However, the socket is only designed to support 25 watt lightbulbs. Use of incorrect wattage lightbulbs can melt the power switch, posing a burn hazard.

Remedy: Refund

Recall date: June 12, 2018

Units: About 900 (in addition, about 100 were sold in Canada)

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

Working smoke alarms save lives!

Free Smoke Alarm Program

GetAlarmedKS.org



Hoarding and Fire: Reducing the Risk

Do you have a person in your life who may be a hoarder? Hoarding is a condition where a person has persistent difficulty discarding personal possessions. The large amount of possessions fill the home and prevent the normal use of the space. Living space becomes cluttered. It may be unusable. Hoarding brings distress and emotional health concerns.

WHY HOARDING INCREASES FIRE RISKS

- Cooking is unsafe if flammable items are close to the stove or oven.
- Heating units may be too close to things that can burn. They might also be placed on unstable surfaces. If a heater tips over into a pile, it can cause a fire.
- Electrical wiring may be old or worn from the weight of piles. Pests could chew on wires. Damaged wires can start fires.
- Open flames from smoking materials or candles in a home with excess clutter are very dangerous.
- Blocked pathways and exits may hinder escape from a fire.

HOW HOARDING IMPACTS FIRST RESPONDERS

- Hoarding puts first responders in harm's way.
- Firefighters cannot move swiftly through a home filled with clutter.
- Responders can be trapped in a home when exits are blocked. They can be injured by objects falling from piles.
- The weight of the stored items, especially if water is added to put out a fire, can lead to building collapse.
- Fighting fires is very risky in a hoarding home. It is hard to enter the home to provide medical care. The clutter impedes the search and rescue of people and pets.

How Can You Help Reduce the Risk of Fire Injury

- ✓ When talking to a person who hoards, focus on safety rather than the clutter. Be empathetic. Match the person's language. If they call it hoarding, then you can call it hoarding.
- ✓ Help the residents make a home safety and escape plan. Stress the importance of clear pathways and exits. Practice the plan often. Exit routes may change as new items are brought into the home.
- ✓ Install working smoke alarms in the home. Test them at least once a month.
- ✓ Reach out to community resources. Talk to members of the fire department to alert them of your concerns. They may be able to connect you with members of a hoarding task force for additional help.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

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

