



The TRUMPET

Kansas Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grants Awarded

Also in this issue:

- OSFM IT Manager Takes Part in Disaster Relief Team in Florida
- Sound Off Fire Safety Education Training
- Schools: Prom Fire Code Reminders



Cover Photo:
Patrick Bronaugh
Topeka West High School
11th Grade

FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

As we move quickly through the first months of the new year, I am looking forward to working closely with Governor Kelly's new administration and a productive Legislative cycle. As always, I enjoy hearing ideas or suggestions from our Kansas Fire Service. If you have any ideas or proposals that could benefit our mutual efforts to create a safer Kansas, please contact me at doug.jorgensen@ks.gov. **And as a reminder, please make sure to use "@ks.gov" for all of your emails to our office. We no longer have access to the "@ksfm.ks.gov" emails.**

I am pleased to highlight the work Randy Drum, our OSFM IT Manager, did volunteering in Florida with the Disaster Relief efforts for Hurricane Michael. You can read more about Randy's experience on page 6.

As Kansans attempt to keep themselves warm during these colder months, our office wants to be sure they are keeping fire safety in mind. In this issue of *The Trumpet*, you will find good information on how to stay warm and safe.

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



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Jorgensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Doug Jorgensen
State Fire Marshal

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HOT SPOTS @ OSEM

Kansas International Association of Arson Investigators Annual Conference



State Fire Marshal, **Doug Jorgensen** gives opening remarks at the 2019 IAAI Conference at the Downtown Ramada in Topeka, Tuesday, Feb. 5.



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

Kansas IAAI Investigators of the Year



Tony Celeste (left), a former OSFM fire investigator, who recently took a position with the Kansas Attorney General's Office, was awarded one of the 2018 IAAI Investigators of the Year Awards at the organization's annual conference in Topeka. Also recognized was Bryan Kloiber (middle), Kansas City Fire Department. Also shown: Todd Kerkoff (right), President of the Kansas Chapter of IAAI.

Congratulations, Tony and Bryan!!

OSFM Welcomes Jill McCarthy



We are pleased to welcome **Jill McCarthy**, who has joined our Administration Division as an accountant. Jill comes to OSFM from the Kansas State Treasurer's Office after eight years, where she was the Cash Management Deputy Director. She brings 15 years of accounting experience to our office. She was also a volunteer firefighter for 18 years.

Jill lives in Topeka with her husband Kevin. She enjoys NASCAR, RVing and camping.

"After being out of the fire service for a couple years, this was a great opportunity to come back to it in a different capacity," Jill said.

Welcome, Jill!



The TRUMPET

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STAY CONNECTED



Kansas Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grant Funds Awarded

Seventy Kansas Volunteer, Part-Time Fire Departments Awarded Funds through Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant Program.



TOPEKA — Seventy volunteer and part-time fire departments across the state received funds this year through the Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant Program administered by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). The grant awards will be used by fire departments for the purchase of safety gear, washer/extractor machines for cleaning bunker gear and physical costs for firefighters with no insurance or ability to be reimbursed by their department.

This program was made possible with the 2018 State of Kansas budget passed by the state Legislature. Last year, 36 departments were awarded grant funds with the previous grant budget of \$200,000. The OSFM was able to award grant funds to nearly twice as many departments this year, with the funding being doubled to \$400,000.

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. There is also a proven increase in cancer diagnoses for firefighters, which can be caused by prolonged exposure to carcinogens, particulates and biohazards. The proper gear, regular

cleaning of that gear and equipment, along with preventative healthcare is crucial for a firefighter's health and well-being.

This year, over \$1.3 million in requests from 79 departments were submitted. Fire departments received approximately \$310,000 to be used for safety gear and \$90,000 for 26 washer/extractor machines. Due to the high number of requests, OSFM will be requesting the 2019 Legislature continue funding this important grant.

"We've seen, by the sheer number of requests for this funding, the need is high among our volunteer and part-time fire departments," Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal, said. "It is simply unacceptable to ask Kansans, not only to volunteer their time as first responders in smaller communities, but to also sacrifice their safety by not giving them the tools they need to protect and serve their communities as volunteer firefighters. This grant allows us to assist in providing some of the funds needed to provide safety equipment the departments otherwise could not afford."

For more information on the Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant Program and a list of the 2018 awards, please visit <https://firemarshal.ks.gov/agency-resources/kfrsg>.

Canine Search Teams Prepare for Testing



Since coming from the Ground Zero Training Center, **Zoom** has spent time getting to know his handler **Mike Searcy** and life around the fire station.

Several Canine Search Teams supported by the Office of the State Fire Marshal have been preparing for certification testing this Spring at Crisis City. These teams, consisting of a handler and dog, have spent countless hours training to obtain the live-find certifications that are required by a national search and rescue standard and will allow them to be deployed to assist in the search for

survivors following a disaster such as a tornado or building collapse.



Cutter, who has previously certified with **Erin McGruder**, demonstrates his ability to navigate difficult terrain and locate a victim.

The first test in March is a Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) and will focus on each dog's obedience and agility, the handler's control of the dog and the team's ability to locate victims in minor search situations. Those teams that pass the FSA will then be tested in April by evaluators from New

Jersey, Texas and Nebraska on their ability to locate multiple victims in more complicated search environments.

The Kansas teams preparing to test include: Troy Long and Hoke; Erin McGruder and Cutter; Lillian Lockwood and Justin; Heather Jones and Kam; Ruth Hensleigh and Dana; Nathan Rewerts and Blue; Chad Winton and Sailor; and Mike Searcy and Zoom.

Sailor and Zoom are the first two dogs that were trained at the Ground Zero Training Center in Oklahoma and paired with handlers from fire departments in Kansas. Ground Zero is a non-profit organization started by former University of Oklahoma and Dallas Cowboys football coach Barry Switzer and his wife Becky.

"Adding these certified canine search teams will dramatically increase our capability in Kansas to locate victims quickly and expedite their rescue and survival," Randy Hill, OSFM Search and Rescue Coordinator, said.



The canines' agility and confidence in rugged environments are critical to the team's success.

KANSAS STATE FIREFIGHTERS
ASSOCIATION
131ST ANNUAL CONVENTION

April 24- 27, 2019

Hosted by the Salina Fire Department

Hilton Garden Inn
3320 S 9th Street
Salina, Kansas
(785) 309-0440

Visit: <https://www.ksffa.com/> for more information.

OSEM IT Manager Takes Part in Disaster Relief Team in Florida

This past fall, Randy Drum, OSFM IT Manager, took part in a deployment for Disaster Relief in response to those affected by Hurricane Michael as member of the Kansas Nebraska Disaster Relief (KNDR) team. KNDR volunteers not only help the physical needs of those in crisis, but are committed to feeding the spiritual needs by sharing the gospel with those being served.

A group of eight individuals from the Midwest were dispatched to the small town of Bristol, Fla., which is about 40 miles north of where Hurricane Michael came on shore and did some of its worst damage. This group was sent for a 10-day deployment to be a part of the “Kitchen Crew,” responsible for setting up and tearing down the tents that made up the mobile kitchen in the parking lot of a local church in Bristol. They were also responsible for cooking the meals that would be delivered daily in, and around, the area for those displaced or otherwise affected by the hurricane. Drum’s primary responsibility was to operate the forklifts, loading and unloading the pallets of food from the semi-trucks that were dispatched to the kitchen, and to help out preparing the food when time permitted. By the time they tore down the operation, the kitchen crew had served over 100,000 meals. Months later, there are still crews in Fla. helping those affected by this hurricane.

Along with the kitchen crews, this Disaster Relief team also deploys chainsaw crews for tree removal and cleanup of yards; “Mud Out” crews, responsible for cleaning debris and mud from flooded basements and houses; and shower and laundry crews, who maintain laundry and shower trailers for workers and folks in the area.

“It was an awesome and rewarding experience to be part of,” Drum said.





With all the cold and snow that is around us right now, it is hard to imagine the nice, warm weather that will come with Spring, but we are not too far from that time of year. Thankfully, Spring brings many great things with it, but 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.

If you have any questions regarding the decoration requirements for your school, please contact Joel Beckner at joel.c.beckner@ks.gov or 785-296-0659.

The Safety Patrol is coming to Kansas...

January brought a new year and a new initiative for fire safety education. On Jan. 9, Kansas joined a small group of states piloting an educational program. This program is unique from many others. It's written as a part of a class. It includes a take-home assignment. It provides research-based narratives and questions. It has pre- and post-

testing. And best of all, it partners educational professionals with fire departments.

We asked three departments to join us to be the pilot sites: Emporia, Junction City and Ottawa. All departments attended a full day of training to get familiar with the program, to

learn about its goals, and to build partnerships with necessary local organizations. Each fire department was asked to choose a local 2nd grade and 3rd grade classroom to receive the Sound Off education. The program uses characters in the Safety Patrol to deliver targeted messages at grade-appropriate reading levels. For anyone unsure what to say in front of a group of children, the Sound Off program is a guiding hand.

The Sound Off program may be new, but its roots go deep. Built by highly experienced educators, researchers and fire safety professionals, each point of education was specifically chosen for highest impact. It's data-informed but very accessible and easily incorporated into the classroom. Through the school assignment, students shared their need for smoke alarms. The Sound Off program strategically provided smoke alarms directly to the participating fire departments, along with carbon monoxide alarms, and smart burners for demonstrations.



Meri-K Appy, project manager and internationally-recognized leader in fire and life safety education, providing the Sound Off training in Topeka, Jan. 9, to the State Teams.

It's easy to be excited about a program like Sound Off, and we are all proud to be helping shape the future of Fire Safety, right here in Kansas. We would like to give a huge thank you to the Emporia Fire Department, Junction City Fire Department, and Ottawa Fire Department for not only giving their time to learn about Sound Off but joining as pilots. This would not be possible without their participation. We look forward to seeing the success of the program during the rest of the 2018-2019 school year and plan to roll the program out to other interested communities in the future.

For more information on Sound Off, please visit:
<http://ymiclassroom.com/lesson-plans/sound-off/>



Partnerships between the school staff and fire departments is foundational to the Sound Off program.

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.



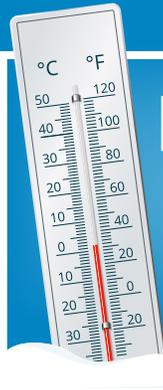
What exactly does the OSFM Boiler Safety Unit do?

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!



Put a

FREEZE

on Winter Fires

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!



Half of all home heating fires occur in the months of December, January and February.



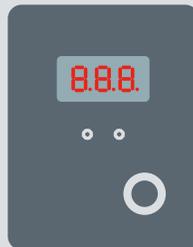
Heating equipment is involved in **1 in every 7** reported home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths.



Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



Keep portable generators **outside, away from windows, and as far away as possible** from your home.



Install and test carbon monoxide alarms **at least once a month**.



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year**.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.

Latest Fire Hazard Recalls from CPSC

Name of product:

Navien condensing tankless water heaters and combination boilers

Hazard:

A kit installed on the tankless water heaters and boilers to convert them from natural gas to propane can cause the unit to produce excessive amounts of carbon monoxide, posing a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning to consumers.

Remedy:

Replace

Recall date:

December 20, 2018

Units:

About 3,400



Name of product:

Children's robes

Hazard:

The children's robes fail to meet the federal flammability standard for children's sleepwear, posing a risk of burn injuries to children.

Remedy:

Refund

Recall date:

December 13, 2018

Units:

About 13,000



Name of product:

Valor H5 gas fireplaces

Hazard:

The trim around the fireplaces can leak hot exhaust air, posing a burn hazard.

Remedy:

Repair

Recall date:

December 20, 2018

Units:

About 1,000 (in addition, about 1,900 were sold in Canada)



Name of product:

Emerson Branded Sensi WiFi thermostats

Hazard:

Contact between the thermostat wires and household line voltage can damage the thermostat, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy:

Replace, Repair

Recall date:

December 12, 2018

Units:

About 135,000 (in addition, about 15,000 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.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!

Where there is



there are smoke alarms.



Roses are red.

Violets are blue.

Test the smoke alarms.

I can't live without you!



Get Alarmed Kansas: Hesston Fire/EMS

Hesston Fire/EMS has installed 225 combination smoke/CO alarms in their community through the Get Alarmed Kansas free smoke alarm program.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to recognize the Hesston Fire/EMS Department for its extraordinary effort and participation in our Get Alarmed Kansas smoke alarm program. They joined the program in October 2018, and since that time installed a total of 255 combination smoke/CO alarms. They have also found and disposed of 101 smoke alarms that were over 10 years old. They currently have 18 homes on their wait list for alarm installations.

After learning about Get Alarmed Kansas, Hesston/EMS had eight volunteers step up to help get the program started.

“At first the program was a little slow,” Misti Uhlman, Hesston Fire Marshal, said. “I think people thought it was too good to be true. I mean how many things are actually free? We had people calling our department to see if it was a scam.”

Uhlman added that after the first handful of installations, the word spread it really was free, and it got busy very quickly.

She said the program was important to them for several reasons. The quicker the resident is alerted to an issue, the quicker they can act, leaving the home and accounting for everyone. It also allows a quicker call to 911.

“We hope that with this program if there is a fire that occurs, we can arrive on scene quicker, know that everyone is out of the house and extinguish the fire before too much damage is done,” she said. “We also love the fact that these are dual alarms and have the CO alarms built in.”

During installation, she said they talk with the residents about fire safety within their home. Typically one installation will generate two more, as the homeowner will call their neighbors and tell them to get signed up. There have been multiple times while installing alarms that the homeowner was on the phone with neighbors telling them about the program.



Hesston Fire/EMS smoke alarm installers, from left, Firefighter EMT Lindsey James, Chief Russ Buller, Operations Officer Zach Bergen and Fire Marshal Misti Uhlman.

“We are excited to be part of this program,” Uhlman said. “It makes the community safer and allows us to have important conversations with residents in a comfortable setting. I would strongly encourage other communities to take advantage of this program. With a small investment of a few ladders and drills we have made a HUGE impact on our community!”

Congratulations, Hesston Fire/EMS, on your hard work and success with Get Alarmed Kansas! You are truly making a difference in your community.

For more information on Get Alarmed Kansas visit: getalarmedks.org.



Free Smoke Alarm Program

GetAlarmedKS.org

Thank you to all of our new partners that joined Get Alarmed KS in 2018!

Attica District #1 Vol. FD
 Augusta Dept. of Public Safety
 Burlingame FD
 Comanche Co. FD
 Cowley Co. FD #4
 Damar FD

Dodge City FD
 Ellis FD
 Hesston FD
 Jefferson Co. FD #1
 Lane Co. RFD #1
 Lindsborg Vol. FD

Meade City FD
 Mission Twp. FD
 Nemaha Co. FD #4
 Osage Co. FD #5
 Phillipsburg FD
 Scammon FD

Solomon FD
 Utica RFD Ness Co. District #3
 Wabaunsee Co. FD #4
 Wakarusa Twp. FD
 Waterville FD

The Office of the State Fire Marshal would also like to thank all that have participated in the Get Alarmed KS smoke alarm program over the past five years! We are grateful for your partnership.

Abilene FD
 American Red Cross
 Anderson Co Fire & Rescue
 Andover Fire & Rescue
 Argonia & Dixon Twp. FD
 Arkansas City Fire/EMS
 Atwood FD
 Baldwin City FD
 Baxter Springs FD
 Bentley FD
 Blue Rapids FD
 Bourbon Co FD #3
 Butler Co. Fire District #8
 Catharine FD
 Centralia FD
 Chanute FD
 Chapman Fire Dept
 Chautauqua Co. RFD #1
 Cherokee Twp. Vol FD
 Cherryvale Fire/Rescue
 Cheyenne Co EMS
 City of S Hutchinson FD
 Clay Center FD
 Clearwater Emergency Services
 Coffey Co FD #1
 Coffeyville FD

Columbus FD
 Colwich FD
 Concordia FD
 Chautauqua Co. RFD #4
 Chautauqua Co. RFD #3
 Derby Fire & Rescue
 Dickinson Co. Fire Dist. #2
 El Dorado FD
 Ellis Co. RFD
 Emporia FD
 Eudora Fire & EMS Dept.
 Eudora Twp. FD
 Fairmount Twp. FD
 Fairview Twp. FD
 Fall River FD
 Florence FD
 Miami Co. RFD #1
 Ford County Fire & EMS
 Fort Scott FD
 Frankfort FD
 Frontenac FD
 Galena FD
 Garden City FD
 Garnett FD
 Gaylord FD
 Geneseo FD

Girard FD
 Graham Co. FD
 Grainfield FD
 Great Bend FD
 Hays FD
 Hiawatha FD
 Holcomb Comm. FD
 Holton FD
 Hutchinson FD
 Jefferson Co. EM
 Jefferson Co. FD #12
 Jefferson Co. FD #4
 Jefferson Co. FD #5
 Jo Co FD #2
 Junction City FD
 Kanwaka Twp. FD
 KCKFD
 Kentucky Twp. FD
 Kickapoo Twp. Vol. FD
 KU Med Trauma
 KVC Health Systems
 Larned FD
 Leavenworth Co. FD #1
 Leavenworth FD
 Little River FD
 Logan FD

Lola FD
 Longton FD
 Lucas Fire & Rescue
 Lyons Fire Dept
 McPherson FD
 Merriam FD
 Milford Vol. FD
 Mount Hope FD
 Mulvane Fire & Rescue
 Nemaha Co. FD #2
 Neodesha FD
 Norton Co. Emergency Mgmt.
 Norton Rural FD #2
 Osage Co. FD #6
 Osage Twp. FD
 Osawatomie FD
 Overland Park FD
 Ozawkie Twp. FD #7
 Pittsburg FD
 Pottawatomie Co. CON FD #1
 Powhattan FD
 Pratt City FD
 Raymond FD
 Rice Co. Station 4
 Rice Co. Station 6
 Riley Co. FD #1

Robinson FD
 Rock Creek Twp. FD
 Rooks Co Health Dept.
 Rush Co FD #2
 Russell City FD
 Salina FD
 Sedan City FD
 Shawnee Co. FD #2
 Shawnee FD
 Shawnee Heights FD
 Soldier Township FD
 South Hutchinson FD
 Stafford Vol FD
 Stevens County Health Dept.
 Sylvan Grove RFD
 Valley Center FD
 Wakefield FD
 Wellington Fire/EMS
 Wichita FD
 Willow Creek FD #3
 Wilson Co. RFD
 Winfield FD

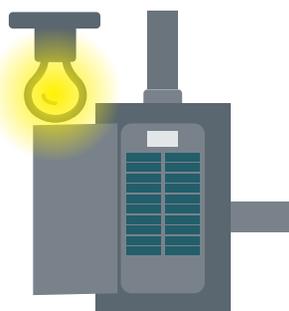


Be fire smart

with electricity in your home.

45,

There are approximately **45,000** home electrical fires each year.



3 in 5 home electrical fires involve lighting equipment or home electrical wiring.



Home electrical fire deaths peak between **midnight and 8 a.m.**



Peak months for electrical fire deaths are **November through March.**

Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, space heater or microwave) directly into a wall outlet at a time.



Never use an extension cord with a heat-producing appliance.



Extension cords should only be used temporarily. Have an electrician install additional wall outlets where you need them.



For more information about electrical fire safety, visit www.usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org/public-education.