



# The **TRUMPET**

## **End of an Era: Beloved Investigations Canine Retires**



### **In this Issue...**

- **KS Task Force Hurricane Dorian Deployment**
- **Carbon Monoxide — The Invisible Killer**
- **Thanksgiving, Christmas Fire Safety**

## FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

As we head into the busy holiday season, I want to remind Kansans not only to follow our winter fire safety tips in this issue of *The Trumpet*, but to share them with your family, friends and communities. Being aware and using simple precautions can make all of the difference when it comes to protecting lives and property.

I have mixed feelings on the retirement of our beloved friend and investigative canine, Scout. While I am sad to lose him as an integral team member in our Investigation Division, I am happy that he will get to relax and live out the rest of his days with his loyal handler and best friend, OSFM Investigator Kris Smyth. They have been a wonderful investigative team for our office and will be very hard to duplicate.

As always, thank you for reading *The Trumpet*. We hope you will enjoy it and share it with friends, family and co-workers. We also share many of our safety messages and agency information on our social media pages. So please like and follow us at the links below. 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](mailto:doug.jorgensen@ks.gov).

**Have a safe and joyous holiday season!**



Doug Jorgensen  
State Fire Marshal

**STAY CONNECTED**



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# HOT SPOTS @ OSFM

## OSFM Welcomes HR Director Stacie Creech



**Stacie Creech**  
OSFM Human Resources  
Director

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to welcome Stacie Creech as our new Human Resources Director. Stacie has worked for the State of Kansas for 15 years, most recently as the Statewide Recruiting Coordinator for the Department of Administration.

Stacie lives in Topeka with her husband and has two sons and four grandchildren. She also has a 3-year-old miniature Australian Shepherd, named Kylo Ren. She enjoys spending time with her family, serving in her church, NASCAR and movies.

"I really enjoy working with people and helping in any way I can," Stacie said. "I want to be able to make a difference, in a positive way."

**Welcome, Stacie!**

## Prevention Welcomes Deputy Boiler Inspector



**Bob Wheeler**  
OSFM Deputy Boiler Inspector

We are also pleased to welcome Robert (Bob) Wheeler, who has joined the Prevention Division team as a deputy boiler inspector for Johnson County. Bob comes to OSFM from Taylor Forge Engineered Systems, where he worked as a welder for the past 11 years.

Bob lives in Garnett, with his wife Audrea, two children, Noah, 13, and Arabella 4, and his 19-year-old terrier, Rusty. He also has three adult children, James, Karly and Bobby. He enjoys all sports, especially football and NHRA drag racing. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, everything outdoors and classic cars.

"I have welded most of my life. The last 11 plus years I've done it for a living and enjoyed my time with Taylor Forge," Bob said. "So here I will be working for my home state of Kansas. What a perfect way to finish my working years!"

**Welcome, Bob!**

**For a list of OSFM current job openings visit**  
<https://firemarshal.ks.gov/Jobs.aspx>



[www.firemarshal.ks.gov](http://www.firemarshal.ks.gov)



### 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



# HOT SPOTS @ OSEM



Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen speaking at this year's annual Kansas Association of Fire Chief's Conference in Hutchinson in October.



Norton Fire District #12 during this year's Fire Prevention Week. They received one of our Open House Kits for their school visits. If your department is interested in more information about our fire safety education materials, please contact Kelly Ingold, at [kelly.ingold@ks.gov](mailto:kelly.ingold@ks.gov).



A founding member of the State Urban Search and Rescue Alliance (SUSAR) and past president Jim Riley, from New Jersey Task Force 1, participates in opening remarks at the 2019 SUSAR Conference in Wichita on Nov. 19.



Randy Hill, OSFM Search and Rescue Coordinator, takes part in presentations at the 2019 SUSAR Conference in Wichita on Nov. 19.

# End of an Era: Beloved Investigations Canine, Scout, Retires after 8 Years



After 8 years of dedicated service to the OSFM Investigation Division, Scout is taking an honorable and much deserved retirement.

This month we are celebrating a very special retirement, as we look back on the time spent with our energetic, gentle Scout in the K9 unit. Thinking back on the 8 years of service and about 250 fires, we remember the loving nature and ridiculous nose of this beautiful black Goldador.



Scout started working very young with the intended purpose of being a guide dog for the blind. It wasn't long until Kris Smyth, an OSFM fire investigator, was called up to Maine in August 2011 to meet Scout and take him in.

Smyth recalls the very first time he met Scout.

"I opened that door and got a face full of my new furry four-legged lovable partner," he said. "I got the leash on him through all the jumping and spinning, thinking to myself, 'what did I just get myself into?'"

He learned very quickly how energetic and talented Scout was, and it took chasing after a bird one time to realize why he was no longer in such a program where he might be entrusted with the care and safety of an individual who could not see.

Not long into Scout's 8-year career with the OSFM he quickly proved the value of a good dog. When the K9

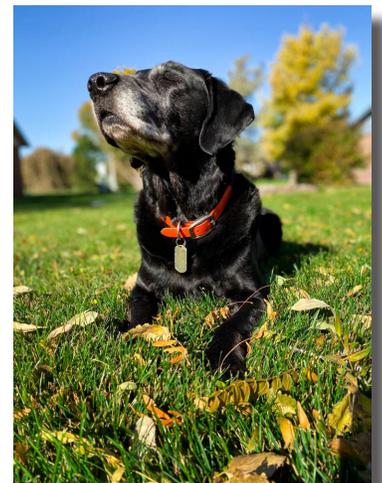
team was called to a fire in Brewster, Ks, the home was completely on the ground with the walls falling over. There was a small partial basement in the center of the foundation. Smyth and Scout were on the north side of the foundation when Scout caught a whiff.

"I recall seeing his nose going into the air and wiggle a bit," Smyth said. "The next thing I knew, we were jumping over burnt sections of downed walls around that basement nearly bouncing all the way to the street on the south side of the home where Scout made his alert by touching the ground with his nose and sitting down waiting for his reward. Between the area he already alerted to and what was left of the home up to the basement, Scout made a few more alerts."

In digging the alerted grounds, the odor from the soil was still strong enough that you could have re-ignited the gasoline. It was a great, triumphant start to Scout's career with the Fire Marshal.

Numerous other instances all came to prove Scout's work and skill. Smyth remembers having to really believe in the words, "Trust your dog" on a regular basis.

Smyth often thinks about the loyalty and even if he is showing Scout the same loyalty in return. Along with being extremely hard-working, Scout truly loved meeting new people and spending time with his friends or those he has already met. He has been a part of the Kansas State Fair each year, showing his love of kids and being gentle with all of them, even with them climbing all over him. Smyth always joked with others that Scout loves kids so much because they smell like Cheetos, but says it really is more than just that.



*Story continued on page 7...*

# Kansas Task Force Team Deployed for Hurricane Dorian Response Effort



State Fire Marshal, Doug Jorgensen, welcomes Kansas Task Force 1 to the Kansas Capitol on Sept. 18 for Governor Laura Kelly's appreciation and recognition ceremony for the team's response to Hurricane Dorian.

In September, Kansas Task Force 1 (KS-TF1), which is an urban search and rescue team, rostered a team of 42 first responders from across multiple Kansas agencies to



KS-TF 1 gathers for Hurricane Dorian deployment.

initially assist with operations in Florida as catastrophic Hurricane Dorian made its way toward the east coast of the US. However, after the storm turned north, and continued to barrel toward the Carolinas, they were requested for deployment in North Carolina.



Governor Laura Kelly gives remarks to members of KS-TF 1 and ceremony attendees at the Sept. 18 event.

The team left Kansas Monday, Sept. 2, for Florida, arrived in Florida on Tuesday, and by Thursday, they were headed to North Carolina. They were officially released from deployment from North Carolina Saturday morning, and returned to Kansas late Sunday afternoon.

*Story continued on page 7...*

**(End of an Era:)**

**...Continued from page 5**

“Scout was raised from a little pup to be protective and I feel like he takes that task very seriously,” Smyth said.

Scout loved getting to go along on trips for the Fire Marshal and all the attention he got from the people he worked with. He especially enjoyed his time with his best friend Bingo, basically becoming a puppy again whenever he sees him.

Now we’re all wondering what Scout will be doing with his well-deserved retirement. Smyth says he gets to “kick back living out the rest of his life as my buddy around the house and going out for walks and talking to him.”

Keeping Scout happy and healthy for as many years as possible will be better for both involved. Scout’s already enjoying his retirement by laying and rolling around in the yard. He’s planning on traveling some to see the kids in their events and finds someone to give him more loving at each one.



**Karma, Scout’s 27-month-old replacement and trainee.**

This retirement isn’t all fun and games for Scout though. He will still have a full-time job trying to keep the cat on the straight and narrow, as well as showing the new dog, Karma, the ropes around the southwest field office and its security. Karma is a “27-month-old, 59-pound, heavyweight full of energy, with a high-speed motor that appears to be stuck at full throttle.” We’ll all be very excited to welcome her when she gets back.

We wish Scout all the best in his retirement and couldn’t be prouder of what he has accomplished in the over eight years he’s worked for the Kansas Fire Marshal.

“I couldn’t have asked for a better partner and friend,” Smyth said.

Now let’s just hope keeping Kris Smyth and the cat in check won’t be too difficult of a job for him.

**(Kansas Task Force Team Deployed)**

**...Continued from page 6**

While the team did not receive any actual rescue assignments during the deployment, it was a great practical exercise and provided the necessary resources in the event the worst-case scenarios took place.



**Governor Laura Kelly greets KS-TF 1 members at the Sept. 18 recognition event.**

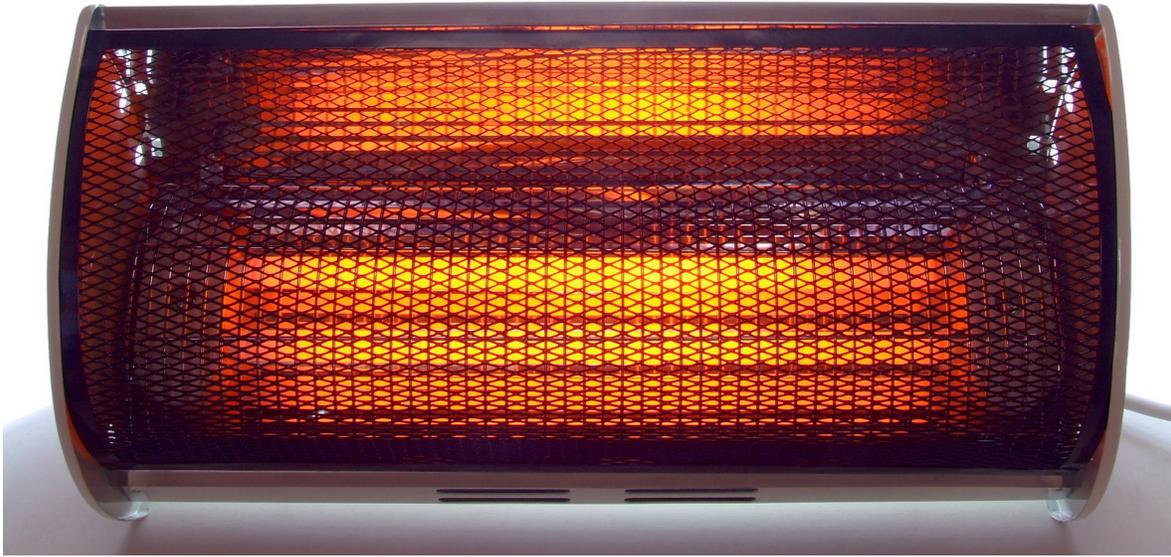
The team responded after an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request from Florida and then one from North Carolina for USAR-typed assets.

Agencies who deployed individuals/equipment included: Chanute Fire Department, City of Winfield, Coffeyville Fire Department, Derby Fire Department, Johnson County MED-ACT, Junction City Fire Department, Kansas City Kansas Fire Department, Kansas Task Force K9, Lawrence Douglas County Fire and EMS, Manhattan Fire Department, Mission Township Fire Department, Olathe Fire Department, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Pittsburg Fire Department, Salina Fire Department, Shawnee County Fire District 4, Shawnee Fire Department, and Wichita Fire Department. Kansas Division of Emergency Management also provided assistance with coordination.

**Stats for the Deployment:**

- Forty-two members deployed, from 18 participating agencies as a Type 3 Urban Search & Rescue Task Force.
- Two separate Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) agreements = State of Florida and State of North Carolina.
- Staging Areas = Jacksonville, FL and Plymouth, NC.
- 146-hour deployment from Activation to Demobilization.
- Average Day = 18 hours for task force members.
- 3,386 miles traveled, convoying through 12 states, with 17 vehicles and 9 trailers.
- Zero accidents and 0 injuries sustained.

# Stay Warm, Safe this Winter



***NFPA provides safety tips for space heater usage. Follow these tips to ensure a safe winter for your family and friends.***

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), heating equipment is the second leading cause of U.S. home fires and the third leading cause of home fire deaths. More than half of all home heating fire deaths resulted from fires that began when heating equipment was too close to things that can burn.

In addition, from 2011 to 2015, portable and stationary space heaters accounted for more than two of every five U.S. home heating fires and five out of six home heating fire deaths. Space heaters can be very useful and safe to use if you follow a few precautions.

***Here are some good tips for your portable heaters:***

- Look for a heater that is listed with a nationally-recognized testing laboratory. These heaters are tested to meet specific safety standards, and manufacturers are required to provide important use and care information to the consumer.
- Before using the heater, read and follow the instructions for its operation and maintenance.
- Never run the heater's cord (or any cord) under rugs, carpeting or furniture.
- Plug portable heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not plug a space heater into a surge protector, multi-outlet box or extension cord. The high current flow can cause components to deteriorate.

- Do not leave the heater operating unattended or operating while sleeping.
- To prevent electrical shocks and electrocutions, always keep portable electric heaters away from water. Never touch an electric heater if you are wet.
- Do not use an electric heater as a dryer by placing clothing over it.
- Keep the heater in a safe working condition in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Replace missing guards, controls or frayed wiring at once. Never operate a defective heater.
- Do not place the heater where children might play near it or where people might trip over or bump into it.
- Have a 3-foot, "kid-free zone," around space heaters.
- Place the heater on a level surface for stability.

The Life Safety Code, NFPA 101, section 19.7.8, prohibits the use of portable space heaters in health care occupancies but provides the following exception: Portable space heating devices shall be permitted to be used in non-sleeping staff and employee areas where the heating elements of such devices do not exceed 212 degrees F. This requirement applies to all hospitals and medical office buildings.

Following these safety tips will help keep you warm, but not too warm!

# Emergency Response Conducts HMEP-Funded HazMat Training

The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) federal grant program was established in 1990 by the Hazardous Materials Transportation Uniform Safety Act. In 1993, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (under the United States Department of Transportation, or D.O.T.) began issuing grants to assist states, territories, and Native American tribes to “develop, improve, and carry out emergency plans” within the National Response System and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986. The HMEP grant program is designed to allow grantees the flexibility to implement training and planning programs that address differing needs for each location based on demographics, emergency response capabilities, commodity flow studies, and hazard analysis.



Each year, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) submits a request for HMEP grant funds through the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. For Federal Fiscal Year 2018-2019, the OSFM Emergency Response (ER) Division was granted \$67,120 in 80/20 match-grant funds to conduct hazardous materials training in the state of Kansas. The Emergency Response Division contracted for an “Advanced Monitoring and Detection” class and conducted an open-enrollment 80-hour, Hazardous Materials Technician class with this year’s grant funds.

The ‘Advanced Monitoring and Detection’ course was held at the Kansas National Guard Regional Training Center in Salina, Aug. 26-30. The course was

contracted with DR. HAZMAT, a hazardous materials training contractor that specializes in HazMat and Weapons of Mass Destruction detection and response training. This 40-hour class was hosted by OSFM and allowed 24 members from the nine Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams, as well as members from OSFM ER Division and the 73rd Civil Support Team (WMD) of the Kansas National Guard to participate. The class met the competency requirements of NFPA 472, Standards for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials – Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents, Chapter 19, for Advanced Monitoring and Detection Specialty.

The 80-hour Hazardous Materials Technician training course was held at Shawnee County Fire District #4 Station 81, west of Topeka, Sept. 16-27. The course was taught by members of the ER Division HazMat instructor cadre. Twenty-two firefighters from across the state of Kansas participated in and completed this rigorous, 10-day training class to become Hazardous Materials Technicians, including several volunteer firefighters. This course met and exceeded the required skills competencies and the Job Performance Requirements (JPR’s) of NFPA Standard 472, the Hazardous Materials Technician training standard. Upon successful completion of the course, each of the students challenged the national certification test through the assistance of the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute.

# Carbon Monoxide — The Invisible Killer

By Kelly Ingold  
OSFM Public Education Specialist

As colder temperatures arrive here in Kansas, damaged or poorly maintained heating equipment may be used, cars may be warming up in the garage, or generators used when electricity is out due to a winter storm. Do we know how dangerous these practices can really be? Any fuel-burning heating equipment like, fireplaces, furnaces, water heaters, space or portable heaters, portable generators, and chimneys can produce carbon monoxide (CO). Using a gas stove for heat can cause CO fumes to fill the home. And a vehicle running inside a garage is a danger zone for poisonous CO that can also fill the home.

Often called “the invisible killer,” CO is a gas you cannot see, taste, or smell. It can be created when fuels, such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane or oil burn incompletely. CO can be deadly.

CO enters the body through breathing. CO poisoning can easily be confused with flu symptoms, food poisoning and other illnesses. Some symptoms include shortness of breath, nausea, drowsiness, light headedness or headaches.

The goal of the Office of the State Fire Marshal is to reduce the number of CO incidents in Kansas. Install CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of accumulating CO. Have your heating equipment inspected by a qualified professional every year before cold weather sets in. Always remove a vehicle from the garage right after starting. Never use a range or oven to heat the home. Portable generators

should be operated outdoors in well-ventilated locations, away from all doors, windows and vent openings. Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow and other debris. Only use barbecue grills outside, away from all doors, windows, and vents. Never use grills inside the home or the garage, even if the doors are open.

- Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a qualified testing laboratory.
- Install CO alarms in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection have CO alarms that are interconnected throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- CO alarms are not substitutes for smoke alarms. Know the difference between the sound of smoke and CO alarms.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- If your CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location (outdoors or by an open window or door) and call 9-1-1 or the fire department. Remain at the fresh air location until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.
- If the audible low battery signal sounds, replace the batteries or replace the device. If the CO alarm still sounds, get out to a fresh air location and call 9-1-1 or the fire department.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal wants everyone to stay safe this winter. Make sure your home has carbon monoxide alarms.



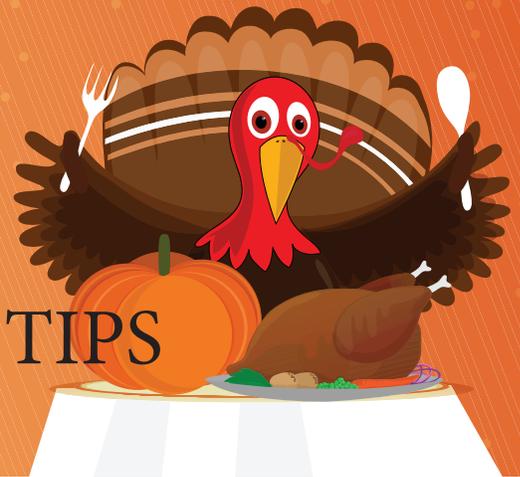
**Install and test carbon monoxide (CO) alarms at least once a month.**

CO is called the “invisible killer” because it’s a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. Breathing in CO at high levels can be fatal.



# Thanksgiving

## COOKING FIRE SAFETY TIPS



As you plan your Thanksgiving menu, don't forget about fire safety. Did you know that the top cause of home fires in Kansas is cooking? During the Holidays we are cooking even more than usual. So, let's add a pinch of fire safety to the menu.

Keep these safety tips in mind as you prepare your meal.

### **Turkey:**

If you are roasting your turkey, make sure you set a timer. This way, you won't forget about the bird as you watch the parade or football game.

### **If you are frying your turkey:**

- Use a fryer with thermostat controls. This will ensure the oil does not become overheated. Thaw your turkey completely. A partially frozen turkey will cause the oil to splatter.
- Don't overfill the pot with oil. If you do, the oil will overflow when you add the turkey causing a fire hazard.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the fryer.
- Always use the fryer outdoors.

### **Stuffing and Potatoes:**

Stand by your stove when you are boiling your potatoes or frying onions for stuffing. It is best to stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling or broiling. If you are in the kitchen, it is easier to

catch spills or hazardous conditions before they become a fire. Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of three feet around the stove.

### **Vegetables:**

- Keep the area around the stove clear of packaging, paper towels, and dish cloths; anything that can burn.
- Be sure to clean up any spills as they happen.
- Be prepared. Never pour water on a grease fire, instead keep a large pan lid or baking sheet handy in case you need to smother a pan fire.
- Turn pot handles towards the back of the stove so you don't bump them.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.



By following these safety tips, you can have a delicious and fire safe Thanksgiving. Let the firefighters have dinner with their families, not yours!





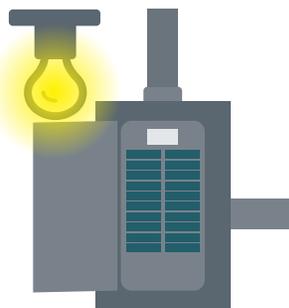
# Be fire smart

## 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.**

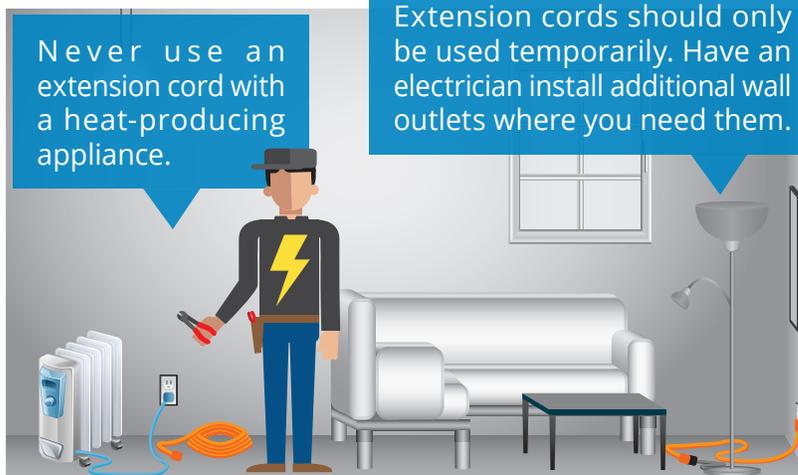


Peak months for electrical fire deaths are **November through March.**

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](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) and [www.nfpa.org/public-education](http://www.nfpa.org/public-education).

# Latest Fire Hazard Recalls from CPSC

**Name of product:**

Kenmore Elite  
Microwave Ovens

**Hazard:**

Incorrect wiring causes the microwave's exterior to reach temperatures exceeding 183 degrees Fahrenheit, posing a burn hazard to the user.

**Remedy:** Repair

**Recall date:** November 14, 2019

**Units:** About 700



**Name of product:**

Series I power adapters for Skylight digital photo frames

**Hazard:**

The power adapter casing can break when plugged into an electrical outlet, exposing its metal prongs, posing an electrical shock hazard.

**Remedy:** Replace

**Recall date:** November 7, 2019

**Units:** About 65,000 (In addition, about 159 were sold in Canada)



**Name of product:**

Lawn Mower Engines, model year 2018 and 2019 Kawasaki FT730V-EFI series

**Hazard:**

The high pressure fuel line can get damaged causing a fuel leak, posing burn and fire hazards.

**Remedy:** Repair

**Recall date:** October 30, 2019

**Units:** About 1,100



**Name of product:**

Bead Landing™ tassel key chain mobile power banks

**Hazard:**

The lithium ion battery in the key chain's mobile power bank can overheat, posing fire and burn hazards.

**Remedy:** Refund

**Recall date:** October 29, 2019

**Units:** About 14,000 (In addition, about 950 in Canada)



*For more information on these recalls and others and to sign up for direct recall notifications, please visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).*

**Working smoke alarms save lives!**

**Free Smoke Alarm Program**

**GetAlarmedKS.org**

# Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



## PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



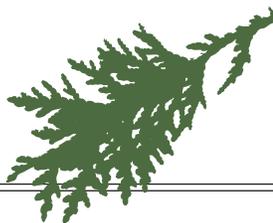
## PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



## LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



## After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

## FACTS

- ! More than **one of every four** home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes **one in every four** of the fires.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

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

