



The TRUMPET

Winter Fire Safety

In this Issue...

- Tom McGaughey Award Announced
- Kansas Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grants Awarded
- Space Heater/Power Strip Safety

FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

The holidays are upon us, and I for one, am looking forward to spending time with family and celebrating all that the season has to offer us this year. I hope you will take some time to survey your surroundings for any fire hazards in your homes and work spaces, as colder temperatures can create unique circumstances for danger. This issue of The Trumpet provides many useful tips for winter fire safety.

I am pleased to announce that the Topeka Fire Department won the Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award this year. It is an honor to recognize TFD Station #7 Engine Crew for its heroic actions this past January. You can read more about the crew and incident on page 4.

We awarded our Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grants to 30 Kansas fire departments. Due to lack of funding, I am disappointed to announce that the grant program was suspended for the time being. Please consider contacting your legislators to let them know how important this funding is, especially to the smaller and rural departments. With additional funding in our budget, I am hopeful we could bring the grant program back.

Thank you for having the interest in our agency and taking the time to read *The Trumpet*. 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.

Happy Holidays!



Doug Jorgensen
State Fire Marshal

STAY CONNECTED



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HOT SPOTS @ OSFM

Welcome to OSFM...



Karen Chmidling

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to welcome Karen Chmidling, who has joined our Prevention Division as a Fire Prevention Inspector in Topeka. She comes to the OSFM from the Metropolitan Topeka Airport Authority, where she worked as a firefighter, police officer, EMT, HazMat specialist, and aircraft crash rescue firefighter. She brings over 18 years of public service experience to the OSFM.

Karen lives in Topeka with her min-pin/beagle/chihuahua mix, Molly. She enjoys singing and traveling.

"I truly love public service," Karen said. "I came to the Fire Marshal's Office to remain in the fire service and to do my part in helping maintain a safe environment for the citizens of my community."

Welcome, Karen!

OSFM Now Hiring for Several Positions in Topeka and Across the State

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is looking to fill open positions in the Topeka office, as well as across the state. We have entry level clerical positions, Fire Prevention Inspectors, a Deputy Boiler Inspector and an open spot in our Search and Rescue Program. These positions offer health insurance, retirement, paid holidays, as well as sick and vacation leave. We also have a legal intern position that is open.

If you have a passion for protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Kansas, you are a hard worker and have a great work ethic, we are looking for someone just like you! Please visit our jobs page [HERE](#) on our website for current job descriptions and to apply today!

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



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



Topeka Firefighters Receive 2021 Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award

TOPEKA — The Topeka Fire Department Station #7 Engine Crew was awarded the 2021 Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award for their heroic actions this past January. Each year, the Office of the State Fire Marshal joins with the Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs and Kansas State Firefighters Association to honor a firefighter or team of firefighters for heroic actions above and beyond the call of duty.

After being nominated by Topeka Fire Chief Craig Duke, Firefighter John Payne, Apparatus Operator David McCullough and Lieutenant Ryan Mellen were presented the Tom McGaughey Award for their lifesaving actions at a residential fire in Topeka on Jan. 6, 2021.

"This Engine Crew from Topeka Fire Department displayed what it means to be first responders," Jorgensen said. "Their professional actions and demeanor saved a life that day. And they do it every day in their community. It is an honor to recognize them with the McGaughey Fire Service Award."

The Topeka Fire Department responded to a residential structure fire located in Topeka. On arrival, they found heavy fire coming from the corner of the two-story home. A male occupant of the home was in the front yard and told Mellen that his wife was upstairs. Payne pulled a pre-connected hose line to the front door of the structure. They then both entered the structure for fire attack and to search for the victim. Payne was able to use the hose line to keep the fire at bay, allowing Mellen to search for the victim. Mellen was able to locate the stairs and made his way up, locating the victim at the top of the stairs. He brought the victim down the stairs, and with the help of Payne, carried her out to the front yard.

Mellen started medical care as soon as the victim was removed from the structure. He felt for a pulse and none was found. He initiated CPR as McCullough retrieved the medical bag and monitor from Engine 7. As Mellen and McCullough continued medical care, Payne pulled the hose line from the house and was able to put water on the fire from the front porch of the home. As other companies arrived on scene, McCullough needed to return to his engine to connect a 5-inch hose from the hydrant to Engine 7 and to charge two other hose lines that were pulled from Engine 7. As soon as Engine 7 was supplied with water and all the hose lines were charged, he returned to the patient and used his paramedic skills to assist the responding American Medical Response unit with patient care, including riding to Stormont Vail Hospital with that unit. McCullough, when brought back to the scene, promptly returned to work on Engine 7. The female patient did leave the scene with a pulse.

The Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award recognizes exemplary accomplishments and acts of heroism by firefighters and other persons at fire-related incidents in Kansas. The individual or team is recognized for their acts above and beyond their basic duties and responsibilities, and for exemplifying the finest traditions of the fire service. The award is named in memory of Wichita Fire Chief Tom McGaughey who perished in a fire, along with three others (Chief Fire Inspector Merle O. Wells, Firefighter Jimmy L. Austin and Firefighter Dale J. Mishler) at the Yingling Auto Dealership on November 21, 1968.



Topeka Fire Department Station #7 Engine Crew was awarded the 2021 Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award at the 2021 Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs Conference that took place in October in Topeka. Pictured from left: Firefighter John Payne, Apparatus Operator David McCullough, and Lieutenant Ryan Mellen.

Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- 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.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- ! More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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



Kansas Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grants Awarded



The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) awarded 30 Kansas Fire Departments the 2022 Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant (KFRSG). The award notifications were mailed out to departments on Nov. 30.

The OSFM makes this grant possible through its budget passed by the State Legislature and signed by Governor Laura Kelly. After the grant was suspended last year due to funding, we have reinstated it with a new budget of \$100,000.

"This year, we received grant requests from 42 departments, totaling over \$600,000, while our total available funds to distribute were \$100,000," Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal, said. "While the total amount was lower, I know the funds distributed will make a significant difference for our smaller departments. It is imperative that they have the proper safety gear and recruitment tools to ensure their community's safety."

Departments that applied that were not compliant with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) were not eligible to receive grant funds. NFIRS is an all-incident system designed to portray an accurate picture of what the fire service does for

the citizens of Kansas, not just fighting fires. This information is so valuable most grants, state-wide and nationally, require departments to be compliant with NFIRS before grant money will be awarded.

Grants issued through the KFRSG program cover the costs of safety gear for volunteer and part-time firefighters. We know that 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.

Due to a lack of funding in the OSFM budget, the KFRSG program is scheduled to be discontinued for next year. If fire service supporters would like to see this important program continue, please contact local state senators and representatives and urge them to support the continuation of the KFRSG program with additional funding for the OSFM during the upcoming legislative session. Share with them how important the grant program has been to your department, community, and the state fire service.

Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant 2022 Recipients

Bonner Springs Fire Department

Brownell Fire Department/Waring Township

City of Tonganoxie Fire Department

Colwich Fire Department

Crawford County Fire Department #2

Derby Fire & Rescue Department

Galena Fire Department

Hackberry Township Fire Department

Herington Fire Department

Little River Fire Department

McPherson Fire Department

Mulberry Volunteer Fire Department

Mulvane Fire Rescue

Nemaha County Rural Fire Department #2

Norton Fire Department #12

Osage Township Fire Department

Ottawa & Lincoln Fire Department #1

Ottawa County Rural Fire Department #4

Phillips County Rural Fire Department #3

Riley County Fire Department #1

Robinson Fire Department

Dorrance Rural Fire Department #4

Russell Fire Department

Sedgwick Fire Department

Sherman Township Fire Department

South Haven Fire Department

South Hutchinson Fire Department

Stranger Township Volunteer Fire Department

Syracuse Fire Department

Wamego Fire Department

*In Memory of
Lieutenant Malachi A. Brown
September 11, 1989 - November 10, 2021*



The Office of the State Fire Marshal would like to offer our sincerest condolences to the family of Malachi Abraham Brown, 32, Baxter Springs, who passed away Nov. 10, 2021. He was a Lieutenant for the Baxter Springs Fire Department.

Malachi was injured while working a house fire on Oct. 15. He succumbed to those injuries at Mercy Hospital in Springfield, MO.

Malachi was born Sept. 11, 1989 and is survived by his wife Jessica and their three children, Chance, Addison, and Elijah.

In addition to his wife and kids, Malachi is survived by his father Jack Brown and his mother Malinda (and Danny) Hallett. Malachi has three sisters, Malissa Bise, Kanaan Jones, Nyelah Hallett, and one brother Elijah Brown.

Malachi served his community with pride. He was always looking for an opportunity to better himself, his community, and those around him. He

attended trainings, lectures, fundraisers and helped without being asked. Malachi was a loyal husband, father and friend to everyone. He loved to laugh, joke, work out and spend time with his family and friends.



Cooking Fire Safety

With an average of 470 daily fires, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries according to the NFPA Home Cooking Fires Report.

Did you know...



US fire departments respond to an average of **172,900** home fires per year involving cooking equipment.



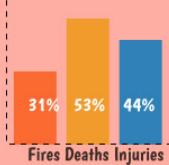
Thanksgiving is the leading day for home fires involving cooking equipment, with more than 3 times the average number!

Contributing Factors

Ranges or cook-tops account for **3 of every 5** reported home fires involving cooking equipment.
Ovens account for 13%.

Unattended cooking

is a contributing factor in 31% of home fires related to cooking equipment, 53% of the associated deaths and 44% of the associated injuries.



Something that could catch fire was **too close** to the equipment in 9% of cooking fires and 15% of deaths.



Trends among those injured or killed

More than half of civilians injured in home fires involving cooking equipment were hurt while attempting to fight the fire themselves.



Adults aged **55 or over** faced a higher risk of cooking fire death than other age groups.

Children under 5 were more likely to be hurt by touching hot cooking equipment or scalded by hot liquids than by actual fire.



Learn how to reduce the risk of a cooking fire in your home by visiting www.nfpa.org/cooking

What you should know about home cooking safety

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.



While cooking some of your holiday favorites, remember to stay alert and focused.

If you are sleepy, have consumed alcohol or have taken medicine or drugs that make you drowsy, don't use the stove or stovetop.

If you have a cooking fire

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.
- If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.
- Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Stay Safe When Using Portable Space Heaters This Winter

In these potentially harsh Kansas winters, you might want to do anything you can to warm up and wait for the thaw in spring.

If you turn to portable heaters, the OSFM warns of potential dangers with these devices. We have some reminders of how to be safe with portable heating units. A simple solution is to keep flammable items at least three feet away from the heaters. Also, it is best to choose a model with a thermostat and overheat protection.

It is highly recommended that you don't plug a portable heater ever into a power strip. They should be plugged directly into a wall outlet always. This is the manufacturer's recommendation for most heaters, and it is recommended that you purchase a product with a qualified testing laboratory seal.

The code involved, which is a good guideline for homeowners, comes from NFPA 101 (2012) in the area for codes for healthcare.

19.7.8 Portable Space-Heating Devices. *Portable spaceheating devices shall be prohibited in all health care occupancies, unless both of the following criteria are met:*
(1) Such devices are used only in nonsleeping staff and employee areas.
(2) The heating elements of such devices do not exceed 212°F (100°C).

You can tell how restrictive the code is, and that should illustrate the dangerous nature of portable heaters.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) warns against the usage of outdoor portable heater units, including fire pits, chimineas and campfires. One of the most dangerous aspects of Kansas is our potential for high winds. It is recommended before you fire up a fire pit, grill, or outside heater, you check the weather and see if there is an outdoor fire warning for your area.

While outdoor heating equipment can continue to be used safely, it's important to remember that they do present potential fire hazards. The risks of these devices can be significantly reduced by following some basic tips. Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions for fuel usage, only using the type of fuel recommended. For fire pits, chimineas, or campfires, never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids to start or maintain a fire.



HEATER checklist

- ✓ Purchase a heater with the seal of a qualified testing laboratory.
- ✓ Keep the heater at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from anything that can burn, including people.
- ✓ Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- ✓ Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- ✓ Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- ✓ Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- ✓ Keep children away from the space heater.
- ✓ Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- ✓ Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed

You should never leave outdoor fire equipment unattended. Turn off any outdoor heater if you leave the area and always have a water hose or bucket of water available. Sand is another good fire suppression material to have on hand. Also make sure any fire you make is completely out before you go to bed.

Carefully consider where you will place your outdoor device. It should be placed well away from anything that can burn well. They should be placed on a flat, sturdy surface and at least 10 feet from the home or structure. In a place where campfires are allowed, make sure they are 25 feet from any structure and make sure to clear away dry leaves and sticks and overhanging low branches.

If fire does spread, call 9-1-1.

Power Strips Offer Convenience But Caution is Required



In today's modern world, everything is electronic. Children, and adults alike, have multiple devices they must charge, each with different power supplies and charging cables.

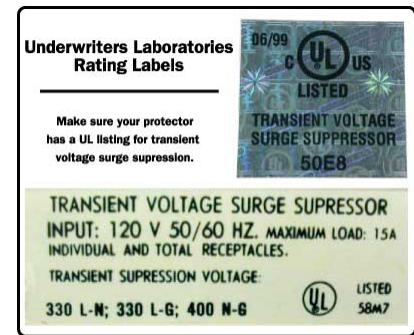
When thinking of power strip safety, most people think of surge protection for our expensive electronic devices. This protection, along with the convenience of charging everything in one place means that power strips have become ubiquitous in these modern times to accommodate all of our digital needs. At the OSFM, we want to issue this warning that an overloaded power strip may be dangerous to your home and family, and their safety.

An underwriting laboratory approval sticker on power strips will give you the peace of mind that it is a safe device to have in your home. It will also provide information that could be critical when you plug in your devices. Be safe with the load you put on a power strip. Be mindful of the amp rating of the power strip and the amp level of each the devices you are plugging in. It is recommended that you do not go above 75 percent capacity on power strips.

We use the example of a coffee pot in a power strip. Coffee makers operate at about 12 amps, so a 20-amp power strip would only be able to accommodate 3 more amps before reaching the 75 percent cap.

Also remember to plug power strips directly into a wall outlet. Never string power strips together or plug them into an extension cord. If you need to provide power to a further location, purchase power strips with longer cords. Following these safety tips ensures that you, your home and your electronics are safe!

If you have further questions, please email us at prevention@ks.gov.



Electrical Fast Fact

The leading areas of origin for home fires caused by electrical failures are the kitchen, bedroom, and attic or roof assembly.



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



© NFPA 2019

Latest Fire Hazard Recalls from CPSC

Name of Product:
AmazonBasics Memory Foam Mattresses

Hazard:
The mattresses fail to meet the mandatory federal flammability standard for mattresses, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy:

Repair

Recall Date:
November 18, 2021

Units:
About 15,300



Name of Product:
Evaporator coil drain pans installed with residential condensing gas furnaces in an up-flow configuration

Hazard:
The molded plastic drain pan located at the bottom of the evaporator coil, when installed with a residential condensing gas furnace in an up-flow configuration, can overheat, melt, and deform, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy:

Repair

Recall Date:
November 18, 2021

Units:
About 298,300 (In addition, about 44,000 in Canada)



Name of Product:
Lambeth Outdoor Metal Torches

Hazard:
Torch fuel can leak from the top of the torch canister and ignite, posing a fire hazard.

Remedy:

Refund

Recall Date:
November 12, 2021

Units:
About 1,200 (In addition, about 40 units were sold in Canada)



Name of Product:
Usines Giant Factories Gas Water Heaters with Emerson control valves

Hazard:
The heater's Emerson control valves can fail to close properly, causing soot to accumulate on the burner, posing a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning to consumers.

Remedy:

Repair

Recall Date:
November 03, 2021

Units:
About 168 (in addition, about 10,832 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.

KANSAS
Office of the State
Fire Marshal
1913

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.



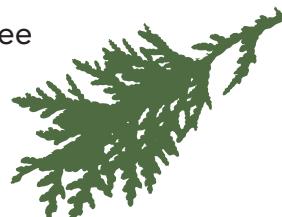
PLACING THE TREE

- 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 are listed by a qualified 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.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

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

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

! Almost one third of home Christmas tree fires are 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 more than **one in every five** of the fires.

