



Smoke Signals II

Smoke Signals is a Publication of the Kentucky Firefighters Association

HOME FIRES INVOLVING HEATING EQUIPMENT

NFPA by **John R. Hall, Jr.**

In 2008, heating equipment was involved in an estimated 66,100 reported U.S. home structure fires, with associated losses of 480 civilian deaths, 1,660 civilian injuries, and \$1.1 billion in direct property damage. The estimated home heating fire total was down 0.5% from the previous year and 72% from 1980. Associated deaths were down 17% from 2007 and 53% from 1980. Associated civilian injuries were down by 10% compared to 2007 and by 53% from 1980. Direct property damage adjusted for inflation was up by 79% from the record low seen in 2007 but down by 46% from 1980. "Homes" refers to one- and two-family homes (which include manufactured homes) and apartments (which include townhouses).

Overall these incidents accounted for 17% of all reported home fires, 17% of home fire deaths, 13% of home civilian injuries, and 13% of the direct property damage resulting from home fires. These statistics are estimates derived from Version 5.0 of the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System and NFPA's annual fire department experience survey.

Fixed (stationary) and portable space heaters, excluding fireplaces, chimneys, and chimney connectors, but including wood stoves, accounted for one-third (32%) of reported 2004-2008 U.S. home heating fires, four out of five (82%) associated civilian deaths, nearly two-thirds (64%) of associated civilian injuries, and half (51%) of associated direct property damage.

Creosote is a sticky, oily, combustible substance created when wood does not burn completely. It rises into the chimney as a liquid and deposits on the chimney wall. A conservative best estimate of creosote fires would combine failure-to-clean fires that were confined to chimney or flue or involved solid-fueled space heaters, fireplaces, chimneys and chimney connectors. This produces estimates of 15,200 reported creosote fires (23% of all home heating fires) per year with associated losses of four civilian deaths, 17 civilian injuries, and \$33 million in direct property damage per year.

The leading factors contributing to ignition in home heating equipment fires were failure to clean (25%), heat source too close to combustibles (14%), and unclassified mechanical failure or malfunction (13%). Heat source too close to combustibles accounted for (52%) of associated deaths.

The leading items first ignited for home heating equipment fires were unclassified item (17%), flammable or combustible gas or liquid (15%), structural member or framing (8%), and unclassified organic material (8%).

Space heaters result in far more fires and losses than central heating devices and have higher risks relative to usage.

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Notes From The President's Desk Bob Newman

The first three months of my presidency have been very busy. I have traveled to many different areas of the State. On my way home from Louisville the last day of the conference, believe it or not, my phone started ringing and I believe I had five calls before arriving at home.

The KFA Executive Board held its first meeting at the Meade County Regional Fire School. I would like to thank everyone for their wonderful hospitality during this meeting. It was nice to be in that part of the State, we could not have been more welcomed" Thank you again Meade County Fire School.

On September 29 we met in Frankfort for the Annual Firefighters Memorial Service. The service was well attended as in the past; I would like to thank everyone who took their time from busy schedules to attend the service. This year we placed 3 names on the Memorial wall due to "Line of Duty Deaths". The Family's of the Fallen Firefighters attended the service. I would like to thank everyone for their help getting the Memorial ready for the service.

We are still feeling the economic crunch from this past year. I ask all Departments to help out smaller Departments. Talk with them about the KFA and encourage them to become members. Some of the smaller departments may need financial assistance, I encourage you to do what ever it takes. Help them become members of our organization.

Our projected income for this fiscal year is not coming in as anticipated due to the telemarketing shortfall in income not meeting the budgeted numbers.

Even though we are not in a financial crisis yet, the Executive Board of the KFA has had to make some hard decisions to keep the expenses under control and in line with the income we are receiving. If you are a committee chairman please call to review any expense you might have, Thank you for your cooperation. The E Board will continue monitoring the budget to insure we are in control of all spending.

The Fire school committee for 2011 has been meeting monthly planning your State Fire School. This committee does an excellent job every year

and I would like to commend all who have been connected with the school for the excellent job they are doing. I would like to see all departments take advantage of this wonderful training opportunity by sending their firefighters to this years State Fire School. This is your school please plan to attend.

2011 KFA Conference Owensboro Ky

The 2011 conference committee has been working hard on the up coming conference. The Green River Firefighters Association is excited about hosting the conference in Owensboro. Visit our web site (www.kyfa.org click on Conference Information) to make reservations soon!

The KF A Executive Board will hold its next meeting at the Kentucky State (Green Rivers) Officer's School in Lexington February 2011 (see information about the school in this issue of Smoke Signals).

The Holidays are coming up, Debbie and I send our best wishes to all Firefighters and their Families. Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

Bob Newman

President Kentucky Firefighters Association



Treasurer's Notes

by Terry Keller

Hello, fellow firefighters and E M T's. I hope this writing finds you getting into the Christmas spirit and recuperating from a fine Thanksgiving. Your Executive Board has been hard at work for the past few months.

The Legislative session is about to begin and I am sure the membership will be called upon to talk to their Legislators and Senators about bills. Remember when Howdy or Gerald or Ronnie call upon the general membership it is always for the best in the fire service.

Current membership for departments has been coming in very good. There are 279 dues paying departments at this time. The first issue after the conference, I wrote to challenge all departments in the state to join the K F A. I ask for a 5% increase in membership which would be about 22 new departments. As of today there have been 22 departments pay their dues which did not pay last year. THANK YOU to those departments which stepped up and became members. The K F A can only be as strong as the members they represent.

For all departments in the state, if you would like to know if your department is current in paying their dues, go to the KFA web page. Current membership dues are posted on the web page. The last listing which has been posted is thru November 1, 2010. There are currently 279 departments which have paid their dues.

On a bad note, with the economy in the shape it is in, the fund raising companies have not been able to raise the funds that were budgeted at conference. These new departments memberships will help fill that void. The Executive Board has been discussing many issues and trying to keep cost down.

I have met with the Chairman of the finance committee, who is conferring with his committee to make recommendations to the Executive Board on possible ways to save money and adjust the budget to stay within the guidelines of what was proposed at conference. The K F A may be facing a short fall in finance again this year. Still there is no need to panic, as the Executive Board will make the tough decisions that need to be made.

Remember to keep talking up the K F A and what it does for all departments in the state. Your K F A continues to work close with the Kentucky Professional Firefighters and the Fire Commission on Legislative programs and Health and Welfare. Firefighters are the best group of people and one of the strongest organizations in the Commonwealth.

Until I see you at Green River Officer School or a regional school, stay safe and remember our brothers and sisters in the service, who protect us day in and day out, so that we can be a stronger Commonwealth.

Sincerely, *Terry Keller*

Treasurer, Kentucky Firefighters Association

Report Writing, Dull, But Important Stuff

By Bill Tricarico

Director of Loss Control Services

Emergency Services Insurance Program

You've completed a tough assignment and done a magnificent job. Maybe it was a multiple family dwelling fire, vehicle extrication, or a child who was not breathing. Whatever the situation, you responded safely and efficiently, provided the services required, and mitigated the situation in a professional manner. Don't you wish you had a snapshot of the entire event? Well, you should. Your

report is that picture and should portray the events exactly as they occurred. If not, even after all of your hard work, you've done a disservice to the people you've served, your organization, and yourself.

Report writing or documentation is no one's favorite part of the job, however it may be one of the most important. We may not realize it but the report influences so many parts of what we do everyday. Statistics taken from reports may impact our budgeting for the future, they are a roadmap for training needs and concerns, and they help establish protocol changes and evaluation of existing policies and procedures, as well as individual performance. Should a member be injured, the report may be necessary to substantiate the claim or aid management in a reprimand situation. They could assist the organization in the event of an accident while enroute and in EMS, they are vital in patient care after delivery to a health care facility. Reports are our written record of exactly what happened, or didn't happen, when we need to recall years later, possibly in a courtroom. In a lawsuit, that report could be your greatest asset, or if incorrectly or not written, your worst liability.

An example of this was an EMS agency which responded to a call for a woman with an allergic reaction to a bee sting. Upon arrival, they found the woman to be conscious and having difficulty breathing. The crew administered oxygen, started an IV, and transported. They left the woman at the hospital in the same condition they had found her. Fifteen minutes later, the woman went into cardiac arrest. Someone had administered a drug to which she had an additional allergic reaction. The hospital stated that they had not administered the drug, so it must have been EMS. The report was subpoenaed and the EMS Agency felt comfortable since the report did not indicate that any drugs were utilized on this patient. Unfortunately, the writer did not indicate that the oxygen had been administered. This took the report from being a tool for the defense into an asset for the plaintiff. The plaintiff's attorney used the missing notes on administration of the oxygen not only to show that the agency may have administered the drug without writing it down, but to also indicate that the EMS personnel were not very thorough in their work and could have administered the drug without asking about allergic reactions.

"Report Writing" continued on next page

'Report Writing' continued . . .

In another scenario, a fire department was called back to a building for a rekindle which caused more damage than the original fire. The Officer in Charge said that he had reviewed the overhaul procedures and was fully satisfied that the fire was totally extinguished before leaving the original scene. Had he made a statement to that affect somewhere on the original report, it would have been a much greater aid in the event of future litigation.

Reports are important. The person writing the report should be in some type of leadership capacity and be knowledgeable about what occurred during the incident and how it was mitigated. They should not rush the report writing time, although it should be done as soon as possible after the event so that items are fresh in their mind. The report should be written in a place where there are no distractions and a dictionary should be nearby since a poorly worded report or one with several misspellings could be construed by a jury as signs of incompetence.

The report should be reviewed by someone else to be certain that it contains all pertinent information and is factually correct. Regular quality assurance reviews should be undertaken to see that reports are being completed correctly and completely, and training administered to those who may be in need of it. A good means of accomplishing this would be to review ten percent of all of the previous month's reports at random. You may be surprised at what is found.

Report writing errors impact so many facets of the emergency services that we must be constantly vigilant because they are written at a time when first responders are usually tired, cold or overheated, emotionally distraught and certainly not in the proper frame of mind to do paperwork.

Remember, you only have one opportunity to write a quality report.

9-11 Chin Strap Program

Lighthouse Uniform Company

Things are picking up steam. We just received an order from Green Bay FD for 200 Straps (they plan to retrofit their entire department) and better yet, Green Bays' Chief, Jeff Roemer is the Secretary of the Great Lakes Division of the IAFC and has indicated he would like to be in front of the

charge to get Commemorative Chin Straps on the caps of every firefighter in the Great Lakes Division in time for next year's Ten year Anniversary.

I've also gotten commitments of help from Roy Robichaux, Secretary of the Southwestern Division and Paul Larson, President of the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs. The biggest void, strangely enough, is in the Northeast.

The Straps are turning out to be their own best salesmen and from my end, I would be willing to make complimentary Chin Straps available to one person (preferably the Chief) in every department in KY. Can you get the word out? Maybe present the idea as Christmas presents for the troops (this idea is catching on in Ohio).

While I got you, please take a look at the newest, coolest innovation to come down the dress uniform pike since polyester. We call it a Class A Creator. It enables one to design, build and 'see' personalized dress uniform and it can be used to maintain an individual or a whole department's dress uniform spec. The Class A Creator is available for everyone to use. Please pass it on. <http://catalog.lighthouseuniform.com/fire/#top>

Steve Cohen,

President Lighthouse Uniform Company, Home of the Fallen Fire Fighter Dress Uniform Program

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it".

George Santayana

Code Moment

By Rusty Todd

The holiday season is upon us and decorations can both enhance and endanger family and community celebrations. People often use materials in a manner and form seen on TV, or in magazines, to give a nice environment for Thanksgiving, Christmas and to welcome in the New Year. Tragic fire losses have occurred as a result of combustible decorations, often accompanied by a constant problem – overcrowding. Two examples stand out in my memory, the first of which is the Babbs Switch (OK) school fire on Dec. 24, 1924 that occurred when a Christmas play resulted in the accidental ignition of a Christmas tree by a candle. The resulting fire killed 36 children and adults, most of who died as a result of panic at the only exit door in the one-room

school. Entire families in the small community in southwest OK died together that day.

The second, more famous, tragedy occurred at the Coconut Grove nightclub in Boston, MA on Nov. 28, 1942 and cost the lives of 492 celebrants. This fire occurred when decorations in the Melody Lounge downstairs ignited as an employee attempted to change a light bulb. The fire rapidly involved the extensive combustible decorations and a fireball erupted up the open stairs, and again overcrowding resulted in panicked patrons blocking the primary exit from the building.

We often believe that people are smart enough to properly prepare places they gather, or we mistakenly believe we can respond and effect life-saving rescues in time. How many times do we discuss the constraints of time in suppression training? The dynamic of an assembly compartment fire is based on the involvement of modern combustibles and threatens firefighter safety through flashover and loss of building integrity. We train to perform searches and effect rescues (I hope we never lose that drive) but we usually only budget and prepare for success in single-family residential fires. Often, the reality is that if the public didn't get out during the early stages of a combustible finish or decoration fire event in a crowded assembly building, some may not survive until firefighters reach them.

The NFPA *Life Safety Code* (2006) reads: (chapter 13.7.4.2) "The authority having jurisdiction shall impose controls on the quantity and arrangement of combustible contents in assembly occupancies to provide an adequate level of safety to life from fire."

Your schools, churches, restaurants, etc. are examples of assembly occupancies that can suffer an inordinate loss-of-life through fire and panic. You may be the only "authority having jurisdiction" that sets foot in some of them. The under-funded (and overworked) State Fire Marshal's staff is doing what it can, but has to concentrate on day-cares, educational buildings and health-care in many communities. A great way to help is to become aware of the dangers and help educate your community on basic fire code requirements and common sense use of that code when they set up for any event.

You probably weren't attracted to the fire service by the opportunity to improve life safety through prevention and inspection, but I hope you aren't too

deep in your career when you realize that the only safe fire is the one that never starts. People have died wanting things to "look just so" or "squeezing everyone in" and the holidays are especially prone to those events. Maybe *you* can delay or prevent that next tragic event. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!



Chaplain's Corner

Do You Really Believe What You Say You Believe?

By Woody Will

One of the most sacred of Christian Holidays is rapidly approaching. We celebrate Christmas in many different ways. For many retail stores Christmas buying is the difference between turning a profit for the year or going in the hole. However, in many of those same stores you will hear the cashier say Happy Holidays rather than Merry Christmas just to keep from offending someone. As Christians we have so much to be thankful for because the birth, death and resurrection of Christ means eternal life to all who will receive it. Yet sometimes we won't even bother to share that great news with even our closest friends. Why is that? Could it be because even though we say we believe with our lips but our hearts are not really sure? Do we believe what we say we believe? When a radical jihadist straps a bomb to his chest and blows up a bunch of people we say at least he was committed to his belief. All we are asked to do is spread the Good News of Jesus to those around us and we can't even do a good job of that!

As Christians we need to stop straddling the fence. We need to fish or cut bait! If you truly love Christ and are committed to his ways then we must spread the word to all we can reach! There is a lost and dying world out there that needs the Good News of Jesus. You may be that person's last chance to hear the word of God. Won't you take just a little time this next week to tell someone what Christ has done for you?

Words of Wisdom

Being a Christian is more than just an instantaneous conversion - it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ. [Billy Graham](#)

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

2010 IFSAC SKILLS TESTING SCHEDULE

Date	Area	Location	Phone
12/4-5/10	6	Middletown	888-306-8064
12/11-12/10	4	Bowling Green	888-234-5760

Written testing information is available on the Ky IFSAC testing web site at <http://www.kyffcert.com>. Tests are given at the system office usually on the third Monday of the month. Each time you take the written test you must pay a \$15.00 charge. Contact Duane Suttles for more information about written test location and dates at 888-301-2946. REMINDER: Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and be a member of a Kentucky FD or a full-time student of Fire Science at EKU or KCTCS to be eligible for firefighter testing. Candidates must bring state issued drivers license or ID card to skills testing site for positive identification and verification of age eligibility. Candidates under 18, may complete any of the written exams, and may certify to Haz Mat Awareness only. All Certifications are based on the Professional Qualification standards set forth by the NFPA for Firefighters, except Haz Mat, which is a Job Performance standard. Our accreditation is through the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC).

Coming Events!

January

8 Meade County Winter 1 day school

February

25, 26, & 27 Officers School Lexington

March

11, 12, 13 Dixie Fire School Elizabethtown

2011 Kentucky Officers School

The 24th Annual Green River Officers School is scheduled for February 25th, 26th and 27th in Lexington. A great line up of instructors and classes are being offered.

Deputy District Chief Steve Chikerotis was a hit at the 2010 Officers School and he will be returning for 2011. NVFC 2nd Vice Chair Jeff Cash, a nationally recognized speaker on volunteer fire service issues, will travel from North Carolina to Kentucky to present recruiting, retention, health and safety issues for the volunteer fire service. Eddie Clark, ISFSI President, will present classes on Leadership and Limited Manpower.

Six National Fire Academy classes will be provided including Health and Safety, Training Operations, two Company Operations classes, and two Leadership classes.

Tom Arnold from the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security will lead a class providing the first view of Integrating the Kentucky Fire Service into the Kentucky Fusion Center. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation will present Taking Care of Our Own.

These and many more classes will provide a full range of educational opportunities for current and future fire service leaders.

The Kentucky Fire Commission will meet on Friday at 1:00 with the Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs meeting following at 3:00. The Kentucky Firefighters Association Executive Board will meet on Saturday.

A big part of the Annual Officers School is Saturday Evening with the Vendors. This is a great time to view the latest in equipment and apparatus while visiting with old and new friends.

If you need additional information, including additional brochures, contact the Area 3 Training Center at 888-306-8015 or visit the web site at www.sfrtarea3.org.

2011 OFFICERS SCHOOL

Hosted by the Green River Firefighters Association & Ky Fire Commission / SFRT

February 25th, 26th and 27th, 2011

Downtown Lexington

Brochures will be on the street in December

MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW!

Hyatt Regency Lexington

401 West High Street, Lexington

For Reservations call 800-233-1234

Reservation block is under Green River Firefighters Association, code G-GFAA

Hilton Lexington Downtown

369 West Vine Street, Lexington

For Reservations call 877-539-1648 or 859-231-9000

Reservation block code GRFFAS

Holiday Inn North

1950 Newtown Pike, Lexington

For Reservations call 859-233-0512

Reservation block is under Green River Firefighters Association, code F50

If you need assistance, please call Area 3 Training Center 888-306-8015

THE COURAGE TO BE SAFE

www.everyonegoeshome.com
Chief Marc A. Muench,
EGH State Advocate
marc.muench@florence-ky.gov
Cell 859 991-0721

In this issue of "Smoke Signals" we address **Life Safety Initiative #10** as it relates to grant programs and the implementation of safety requirements in order to receive grants.

"Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement."

Initiative #10 is one of the few that can be considered a bit controversial as it actually requires performance from the grant recipient. In other words, if you want the grant money, you have to give something in return. In this case, your Department may be required to adopt some safety policies if you want to qualify. A classic argument against these types of requirements might be, "What if the grant agency states that any department wishing to apply for a grant needs to have a mandatory seat belt policy" in place. That's all and good however the fact of the matter is, there are many departments across this country whose apparatus is of such an age that they were not equipped with seatbelt at the time of manufacture. Or perhaps there is a requirement to wear orange safety vests on all highway operations, when if the truth be known, there are departments that actually cannot afford to purchase them. So for these or other non-compliance reasons, we are going to exclude these folks from the grant process when in reality, these are the departments that need to be funded the most. The intent of Initiative #10 is clear and it has great value however there are obligations that the grantor (the giver) and grantee (the receiver) must take into consideration.

First, it must be understood that many requests for grant moneys are made in an effort to attain equipment that will, in fact, add to the safer operations of a department. Denying grant moneys simply on the basis of non-compliance may be counter-productive in these cases and actually hinder a department in its quest to operate more safely. Grantors must look at these organizations individually to determine if and what types of requirements could or should be made mandated. It needs to be determined if these departments are making a sincere

effort to operate in a safe manner. Back to our original example. Is it out of line to require a department that has vehicles equipped with seat belts to author a SOG/SOP requiring seatbelt use in order to qualify for a grant? Not at all! Write a seat belt policy or you receive no funding. It's is simple as that.

On the other hand, those wishing to receive grant moneys must buy into the new fire service safety culture. It's very easy to say, "Well we're just a small department" or "We don't make that many runs so we don't need all those rules and regulations." Wrong! Each and every department needs to adopt the framework for protecting their members from harm. If your department is able to write policies in regards to safety issue such as seatbelt use, highway operations, SCBA use and any other topic that can protect your firefighters, then you have a moral obligation to do so. If you decide not to, for any reason...no funding.

Nobody likes being told what to do or how to run their department however, when it comes to safety, we must be listeners and we must be learners. "The times they are a changing" and mandating safe practices as a condition of receiving grant moneys does nothing more than to assure that each of us, "Keeps Going Home, After Each Run and After Each Shift."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the KFA:

On October 31 and Nov. 4 Campbell County Fire District 1 lost two long time volunteer members. Assistant Chief Darryl Newman and recently retired Capt. Joe Johnson, both over 30 year veterans of our Silver Grove Station 51 passed away. While both were battling illnesses, the deaths were sudden and unexpected. I wish to thank the KFA and the entire Kentucky Fire Service for your support, phone calls and E-mails and specifically the donation of two Bibles that were presented at each funeral service by Darryl and Joe's former chief and KFA committee chairman/Hall of Famer Ken Knipper. The Bibles accentuated our service and provided a great comfort to the grieving widows. It is nice to know that the KFA is there to offer support and assistance in our time of need.

Respectfully,

John W. Daley, Fire Chief
Campbell County Fire District # 1



Notes From Fireman Joe

As I write this article, it is the day after Halloween and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves and had plenty of goodies for all the witches and goblins that visited your home. I was thinking here it is November and where has 2010 gone? I have been trying very hard to get myself into Retirement Mode but with a very busy Fire Prevention Month, which by the way started in September and will go unto about the middle of December, I am still doing my thing and have enjoyed being with the schools and communities this year. I miss my association with the KFA but am confident Wanda Isaacs is carrying on the great tradition of our Public Education Committee. By the way, Wanda has advised me the committee will be having a meeting in Elizabethtown on Thursday November 18th. I hope everyone will put that on your calendar and plan to attend and see what is going on and being planned for Kentucky. For more information please contact Wanda at pcwanda@fuse.net I will be there and hope you will be also.

If you missed the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service in Frankfort in September, it was a marvelous display of pageantry, respect and a beautiful day in Frankfort, KY. The monument looks awesome and the event was well attended, I am so grateful we have not forgotten!

After a tasty lunch, I attended a meeting at the Fire Marshal's Office of the Fireworks Committee with my friend Rusty Todd, who by the way has done a spectacular job with working on this vital attempt to have legislation that will protect our citizens and communities. The meeting was also well attended and great information was discussed and planned.

As Thanksgiving approaches, Fireman Joe is grateful to GOD, my Family, Fire Service and my friends. I pray we never take for granted the great gifts GOD has given us. I am so truly blessed, I pray GOD has blessed each of you with the gift of life, peace and comfort for you and your families. Just this morning, I was reminded of how precious life is, and how quickly things can change. Last Thursday I was doing a Fire Station Tour for the children of Silver Grove Elementary School, assisted by our duty crew and my friend and Captain of Station # 51 of the Campbell County Fire District # One, Darryl Newman. Chief Daley has advised me this

morning, Darryl passed away last evening, Darryl has been battling Lung Cancer but seemed to be on the road to recovery and looked good when I seen him last Thursday. We never know! My thoughts are with Darryl and his family, we will honor him with ceremony later in the week.

Be sure to promote Holiday Safety for all your communities and allow me to wish each of you a Blessed and Happy Holiday Season.

Fireman Joe



National Volunteer Fire Council

Ken Knipper, Director Bryant Stiles, Alternate

Bryant and I were both able to attend the Fall Directors meeting in Minneapolis. With 26 NVFC committees and 14 NFPA committees to cover, we were kept quite busy.

The main order of business at the meeting was the legislative agenda. The first motion was to support S.3625 and S.3756 companion legislation to the Broadband for First Responders Act (HR 508) as our top priority. The NVFC also supported the Emergency Medic Transition Act (HR 3199) which has now passed the house and has been sent to the senate. A motion passed to purchase CAPWIZ, a product that has proven to be a fantastic way to increase legislative efforts and outcomes.

An agreement has been signed with the International Code Council to participate in a "Sound The Alarm" project. The "Put it Out" project with Pfizer is up and running. The Fire Corps and Heart Healthy programs continue to grow and improve. Go to www.nvfc.org to get more information on these projects.

As I reported last month The NVFC has been an active member of a work group that is developing a manual on "Safe Transport of Children in an Ambulance". The work group has completed its work and the document is now out for review. It can be viewed at www.ems.gov. FEMA has also released a course on planning for the needs of children in a disaster. Information can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/a3tdW5>.

More work has been completed on the new EMS/Rescue Section. Membership information is available on the web site. This new section will allow volunteer EMS/rescue groups and individuals to join the NVFC and have direct input into the NVFC's EMS and rescue activities. Membership applications are available on the NVFC site.

The Federal Health and Human Services agency has announced the letting of more than \$32 million in FY 2010 funds. The University of Kentucky Research Foundation did receive a grant.

The new American Heart Association CPR and ECC guidelines were released on September 18. They can be accessed at www.heart.org.

The NFPA has released their 1917 document on ambulance design for comment. The document will affect the way ambulances are designed.

I sort of feel like I have given you a homework assignment, but all of these items are important. The Kentucky Fire Service faces challenges every day that bear on their ability to provide the protection our citizens deserve. Many of these proposals could impact our departments unfavorably. Bryant and I fight hard to keep that from happening but we need your help also.

Bryant Stiles and three other NVFC director/alternates just met with Cathie Patterson at the National Fire Academy to discuss AFG/SAFER/FP&S grants issues. He remains very active with training and grant issues.

Ken Knipper

Are You Feeling Lucky?

By Chief David Denniston

Client Education and Training Manager
Emergency Services Insurance Company

Are you feeling lucky? That is what I and 182 other passengers were asking each other on the five hour flight from Philly to Vegas on Friday night. We all had different reasons for going to sin city. There was a group of eight girls from Jersey out for a bachelorette party, two couples getting married, four couples celebrating divorces, several people headed for trade shows and conferences, and the rest of us just looking to relax for a few hours. We all however had one goal in mind, to pull a lever, flip a card or roll the dice and come home just a little better off than when we left. The plane ride was exciting, people singing; chanting and making new friends, after all we were headed to Vegas, what did we have to lose?

The excitement level was almost that of the emergency tones dropping. It seems like every call is for a different reason. Difficulty breathing, motor vehicle crashes, automatic alarm or the royal flush of all calls, the structure fire, they all have their own

level of excitement. We jump on the rigs and fly across town, all with the same goal, to hopefully make someone's life a little better off than it would have been if we never left the station. After all what do we have to lose? I never realized how much a trip to Vegas had in common with an average day at the station, until I realized at both we were simply taking chances.

Most of us come to Vegas to play the odds. We all know the odds are stacked against us; after all they haven't built these mega fancy hotels and attractions by allowing people to go home with more money than they came with. They rely on most of the money getting left right there. Many of us however think we are clever and look for that machine that hasn't paid out in a long time, the team that just can't lose, or for that dealer that looks like they are having a bad day. Yes, we all seem to think we are smarter than the system, but when it's all said and done, most of us come home a loser.

Many of us feel the same way every time we board a fire truck or ambulance. We all know that accidents involving emergency vehicles are the second leading cause of death in the fire service, and yet we tend to think we can beat the system. Hell, we are all great drivers and we have those shiny lights and blaring sirens on our side. I don't need to stop at red lights and stop signs; I can avoid a wreck if someone pulls out in front of me. I don't need a seatbelt; we are never going to crash and I can always brace myself if we do. Real men and women don't need spotters; we always know what is around our vehicle and would never hit anything. Right? Wrong, once again, most of us are not as bright as we would like to believe.

Here are some stats my friends, do with them what you may. Several studies have shown us that we are 41%-46% more likely to get in a collision with the lights and sirens on then we are without them. Studies also indicate that we are 15 times more likely to be killed in crashes when we are in emergency mode. James Madison University tells us that one out of five adults will be in a vehicle crash this year. Seventy percent of those killed in the collisions will not be wearing their seatbelt. Across the country we continue to back over our own people and innocent bystanders when we don't

'Are You Feeling Lucky' continued on next page

“Are You Feeling Lucky” continued

use properly trained and positioned spotters, and yet, we continue to roll the dice every day. I am beginning to think we are betting against some pretty poor odds.

Well here it is Monday morning and you guessed it, I am coming home from Vegas with less in my wallet than I left with on Friday. But the good news is I'm coming home alive! Far too many of our brothers and sisters play the odds responding every day, Far too many of them never get to come home alive. Are you feeling lucky? I'm not. I don't have any tips for Vegas, but here are a few for your next emergency run. Please, please, please limit “emergency” responses, use a spotter, stop at red lights and stop signs, wear your seat belt and slow down. Together we can improve the odds and make sure “Everyone goes home”. This is one game that is way too important to lose!

Product Recalls**Pottery Barn Recalls Lamps Due to Shock Hazard**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of Product: Pottery Barn Lamps

Units: About 7,300

Importer: Pottery Barn, of San Francisco, Calif.

Hazard: The electrical wire that runs through the lamps can be pinched or severed at the lamp's adjustable joint, posing a risk of electric shock to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: Pottery Barn has received one report of a consumer who received an electrical shock when she touched the lamp.

Description: This recall involves Pottery Barn's Clay Task Lamp (Model #2467553), the Montgomery Task Lamp (Model #9691783) and the Montgomery Floor Lamp (Model #9691775). All of the lamps have bronze-colored finishes. “Pottery Barn” and the model number are printed on the bottom of the lamp.

Sold at: Pottery Barn stores nationwide, in Pottery Barn's catalog and on the firm's website www.potterybarn.com from July 2009 through August 2010 for between \$60 and \$300.

Manufactured in: India

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled lamps, unplug them and contact Pottery Barn for instructions on how to return the lamp for a full refund.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Pottery Barn toll-free at (877) 851-7890 between 4 a.m. and 9 p.m. PT seven days a week, or visit the firm's website at www.potterybarn.com

**Hunter Safety System Recalls Carabiners Due to Fall Hazard**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of Product: Carabiners

Units: About 16,000

Manufacturer: Hunter Safety System of Danville, Ala.

Hazard: The pins in the carabiners can detach, causing a climbing strap to break free from the safety harness. This can result in the climber falling.

Incidents/Injuries: The company is aware of two reports of the carabiner pins detaching. No falls or injuries have been reported.

Description: The 2010 Year HSS Ultra-Lite carabiners were supplied with the HSS-300 Ultra-Lite full body climbing safety harness. The carabiners are black with a pin sticking out of the gate. They have “CB20101” stamped on the side opposite the gate.

Sold at: Outdoor hunting retailers and directly from the company via telephone and the company's website at www.hunterssafetysystem.com from June 2010 through September 2010 for about \$100.

Kentucky Firefighters Association

Membership

KFA By-laws regarding Membership

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP; All individuals, shall by virtue of their membership in their respective fire departments, be members of the KFA, so long as said organization remains a member of this association.

Eligible KFA membership shall be limited to public and private emergency response organizations including, fire departments and fire districts “structural” Fire Brigades, hazardous material response team, Fire authorities, Fire Insurance or other salvage corps, {1} Structural fire brigades as defined by KOSHA and or NFPA {2} Meeting minimum requirements of tech level by KOSHA and NFPA

SECTION 3: Active membership may be obtained in the KFA by paying annual dues of \$85.00 per year. Dues are payable on October 1 of each year. Dues not paid by December 1, of each year, render that membership delinquent. The fiscal year of this organization shall be August 1, through July 31. A copy of the KFA Newsletter is sent to each active membership member on a bi-monthly basis. To receive a personal copy of the newsletter, to an address of your choosing, include a check or money order for \$25.00 with the form below to:

Terry Keller, Treasurer
PO Box 16194
Ludlow KY 41016
859-261-9986

KFA Membership Application

Please print clearly and indicate the type of membership by checking the box below

Organization/Individuals Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____ Chief _____

Department Membership (include check for \$85.00)

Smoke Signals II (Newsletter personal membership, include check for \$25.00)

Our organization is only as strong as its membership!

Feel free to duplicate and distribute this form

Comparisons of different fuel or power options within central heating equipment do not show any types to be clearly and consistently better or clearly worse for all types of loss.

- Among central heating equipment, gas-fueled units show a higher rate of civilian fire deaths per user household. However, low usage of some equipment means that the *Home Fires Involving Heating Equipment, 9/10* ii NFPA Fire Analysis & Research, Quincy, MA rankings could change or reverse with changes of only a few deaths a year in the average death tolls for each fuel or power type.
- Liquid-fueled units have the highest risk of fires and direct property damage.
- Electric-powered units have the highest risk of civilian injuries.
- The rankings do not change in the sensitivity analyses.

Among space heating equipment, portable and fixed electric-powered devices have very different levels of risk. Portable electric, liquid-fueled, and solid-fueled devices all have similar risk on all measures, while risks for fixed electric and gas-fueled devices are usually lower.

Water heaters show very large differences with gas-fueled equipment showing higher rates per million population than electric-powered equipment for fires (88 vs. 48), civilian fire deaths (0.7 vs. 0.1), civilian fire injuries (4.8 vs. 0.9), and direct property damage (\$1.8 vs. \$0.4).

One-third (35%) of home heating fires were reported as confined to chimney or flue, and another one-quarter (23%) as confined to fuel burner or boiler.

Home heating fires peak in the mid-morning and in the mid-evening. Home heating fires are less common during 1:00 to 6:00 a.m. This could reflect the practice in many homes of turning down the heat overnight, allowing blankets and bedding to compensate, and of relying less on heating equipment in the middle of the day, when temperatures are at their daily highs and occupants are least likely to be at home (during school and work hours). It also reflects the fact that sleeping occupants are not actively interacting with the equipment, which is how fires begin.

Gas-fueled heating devices, particularly space heaters, pose a higher risk of death due to non-fire not actively interacting with the equipment, which is how fires begin. carbon monoxide poisoning, accounting for 65 of 74 deaths per year involving carbon monoxide poisoning by home heating equipment in 2002-2006. In 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2003, there were 2.5 electrocution deaths per year involving electric water heaters and 1.8 electrocution deaths per year involving electric furnaces. Heating equipment accounted for 58,660 injuries (not limited to fire or burn injuries) reported to hospital emergency rooms in 2009.

Safe Heating Behaviors

- All heaters need space. Keep things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- Use heating equipment that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instruction. Have a qualified professional install the equipment.
- Make sure all fuel-burning equipment is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. CO is created when fuels burn incompletely. CO poisoning can cause illness and even death. Make sure the venting for exhaust is kept clear and unobstructed. This includes removal of snow around the outlet to the outside.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms inside your home to provide early warning of carbon monoxide.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected

For more information go to www.nfpa.org.

Words of Wisdom

A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday but never remembers her age.

[Robert Frost](#)

Kentucky Firefighters Association Sustaining Members

Please remember these members when you have purchasing needs.

911 Fleet & Fire Equipment Michael Amend 11 Lendale Drive Florence KY 41042 877-605-2378 Ext. 4 mamend@911fleet.com	Air Evac Lifeteam Donald Hare 418 Airport Road Danville, KY 40422 859-854-0081 haredonald@air- evac.com	Air Methods Kentucky 2417 Over Drive, Lexington KY 40511 859-288-5220 Fax 859-288-5262 Email drwilliams@airmethods.com
Albert's Men's Shop/Uniforms Fred Schilling 809 Monmouth St Newport KY 41071 859-261-9508	All-American Fire Equipment Inc. PO Box 146 Ona WV 25545 304-733-3581 david@aaf911.com	Bluegrass Fire Equipment John Baker 780 Enterprise Dr Lexington, KY 40510 800-526-8393 Fax 859-233-1167 www.bluegrassfire.com
Bluegrass Uniforms Inc. Jason Colson 3533 Dahlia Way Bowling Green, KY 42101 270-842-7700 jason@bluegrassuniforms.com	Bound Tree Medical Tim Brockmeyer PO Box 8023 Dublin OH 43106-2023 800-282-7904 Ex 5162 tbrockmeyer@boundtree.com	CDS Associates Inc. Jim Turney 11120 Kenwood Road Cincinnati, OH 45242 513-791-1700 jturnet@cds-assoc.com.com
Commonwealth Communications System Inc. Frank Boykin 2331 Fortune Dr. Suite 210 Lexington KY 40509, 859-293-1675 frank@ccsiky.com	Dixie Firefighters Assoc. Dale Dobson PO Box 1656 Elizabethtown KY 42702	Dove Designs Chris 94 Horizon Loop Monticello KY 42633 888-377-4459 www.dovedesigns.com contact@dovedesign.com
///EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT MIKE BRADY Res. Equip./Vehicles (859) 359-4502 (859) 359-4503 FAX http://www.EEResQ.com E-Mail: EEResQ@cs.com	Emergency Reimbursement Services Inc. Debra Murphy 215 McArthur Dr. Louisville KY 40291 502-896-8080 dmurphy@ersbilling.com	Erlanger Fire & EMS Chief Terry J Allen 505 Commonwealth Ave Erlanger, KY 42108 859-727-2488 tjallen@ci.erlanger.ky.us
Excellance, Inc. Thomas Pugh 453 Lanier Road Madison, AL 35758 256-772-9321	FAAC Inc. Bill Martin 1229 Oak Valley Dr. Ann Arbor MI 48108 734-761-5836 Fax 734-761-5368 wbmartin@faac.com	Fire Apparatus Division S.D.C. Bob Stark 8009 Beulah Church Rd. Louisville KY 40291 502-239-3120 sdcfire@iglou.com
Fire Department Service & Supply Jay Trautwein 3920 Bardstown Rd Louisville, KY 40218 800-321-6965 Fax 502-491-1487	Firecom Corporation Barry Jackson 7340 SW Durham Rd Portland OR 97224 800-527-0555 barry.jackson@firecom.com	Gall's 2680 Palumbo Dr. Lexington KY 40509 859-266-7227 wells-david@galls.com www.galls.com
GBC Customized Calanders Kathy Whitmore 420 Rosebud Lane Winchester, KY 40391 859-737-8237 kwhitmore@gordonbernard.com	High Tech Rescue Inc. James Riddle 2116 Frankfort RD. Shelbyville, Ky. 40065 502-633-0149 Fax 502-633-0659 james.riddle@insightbb.com	Hilliard Enhanced Learning Programs (HELP) Mike Hilliard www.4-help.org sales@4-help.org 888-504-4357 Fax 502-532-0800
Inspection, Testing & Maint. I.T.M. Inc. Jim Doyle 578 Crowe Lane Fordsville KY 42343 270-903-1230 itminc67599@bellsouth.net	Kentucky Fire Comm. SFRT KCTCS Director Ronnie Day 300 N Main Street, Versailles KY 42353 (800) 782-6823 (859) 256-3478 Fax (859) 256-3125	Kenwood Communications Larry Sparks, 2060 E. Harbor Road Port Clinton OH 43452 419-734-4200 info@greatlakescomm.com

Kentucky Firefighters Association Sustaining Members

Please remember these members when you have purchasing needs.

<p>Life Star Rescue Inc. Rick Bell 1171 Production Drive Van Wert, OH 45891 419-258-1459 admin@lifestarrescue.com</p>	<p>Morton Buildings Inc. J. J. Hester 2520 State Rt. 5 Ashland KY 41102 606-324-9745 john.hester@mortonbuildings.com</p>	<p>MPH Industries John Noblitt 1140 Moselay Street Owensboro, KY 42303 270-685-6302 red@shopmph.com</p>
<p>National Fire Sprinkler Assoc Ron Brown 1615 Cypress Springs Dr. Ft. Wayne, IN 46814 845-661-6543 brown@nsfa.org</p>	<p>NFPA Russell Sanders 3257 Beales Branch Road Louisville KY 40206 502-894-0411 Fax 502-894-0519 Email rsanders@nfpa.org</p>	<p>Orr Rapid Response Michael Kidwell 11601 Interchange Dr Louisville KY 40229 502-494-3687 Fax 800-800-6774 michaelk@orrcorp.com</p>
<p>PHI Air Medical of Kentucky 1001 Monarch Street Suite 100 Lexington KY 40513 859-219-3053 Fax 859-219-3059 wdukes@phihelice.com</p>	<p>Provident Insurance C.J. Bens 272 Alpha Drive Pittsburgh PA 15238 800-447-0360 Fax 412-963-0415 Email: cbens@providentbenefits.com</p>	<p>QDCIP Fire, LLC Cris Marley 127 Weltmer Circle Perrysville, OH 44864 419-606-0085 gdcip@live.com</p>
<p>Quaker Safety Products Peter Nicholas 103 South Main St. Quackertown, PA 18951-1119 215-536-2991 pnicholas@quakersafety.com</p>	<p>RGC/Public Enity Insurance Michele Finke Barrett 1056 Wellington Way Suite 130 Lexington, KY 40513 888-696-9620 mbarrett@roeding.com</p>	<p>Scheller's Fitness & Cycling Bill Goodwin 1987 Harrodsburg Road Lexington, KY 40503 859-873-0699 bgoodwin@schellers.com</p>
<p>Scott Health & Safety Tim Divine 119 Lakeridge Dr Richmond, KY 40475 859-353-5017 tdvive@tycoint.com www.scotthealthsafety.com</p>	<p>Simulation Technology Darren Basch 375 Fenton Unit A West Chicago, IL 60185 517-592-4499</p>	<p>Summit Fire Apparatus Joe Messmer 11 Sperti Drive Edgewood KY 41017 859-331-0360 jmessmer@summitfireapparatus.com</p>
<p>Super Vacuum Mfg Command Light Pete Leizer PO Box 87 Loveland, CO 80539 970-290-2532 petel@supervac.com</p>	<p>Sutphen Corporation 7000 Columbus Marysville Rd Amlin, OH 43002 614-889-1005 Fax 614-889-0876 hsutphen@gmail.com</p>	<p>Vehicle Systems Inc. Gary L Williams 629 Shelby Street Lexington KY 40505 859-252-1377 800-444-FIRE (3473) gwilliams@vehiclesystems.net</p>
<p>Vogelpohl Fire Equipment, Inc. William Vogelpohl 2756 Cireleport Drive Erlanger, KY 41018 800-797-8317 Fax 859-282-1550</p>	<p>Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services Steve Siereveld P.O. Box 17374 • Dixie Branch Edgewood, KY 41017 steve@kpep.net 800-753-6734 Fax 859-331-3734</p>	<p>Ward Diesel Filter Systems 133 Philo Road West, Elmira NY 14903 800-845-4665 Fax 607-739-7092 www.warddiesel.com lisa.gray@warddiesel.com</p>
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The Deadline for February issue submission of articles is January 10, 2010

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The column to the left is an Area 4 Fire Department Name related word search. Circle the Name to the left from the list below. The solution will be posted in next month's issue.

- AUBURN
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- BONNIEVILLE
- BOWLINGGREEN
- CHALYBEATE
- CUBRUN
- EDMONTON
- FLIPPIN
- FOUNTAINRUN
- GOTT
- HARDYVILLE
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