



Smoke Signals II

Smoke Signals is a Publication of the Kentucky Firefighters Association

Charles “Sparky” Sparks Dies In Line of Duty

If you have been a firefighter for very long and have taken any Hazardous Materials classes you know the name “Sparky”. He was a very cheery person with an absolute love for the fire service. On June 30th the Adair County Fire Department responded to a house fire at 3043 Liberty Road in Adair County. That house was the historical home of Jody Richards, Speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives. Sparks suffered a heart attack and went into sudden cardiac arrest while inside the burning structure. His fellow volunteer firefighters used CPR and AED on Sparks until the Adair County EMS arrived on the scene. He was transported to Westlake Regional Hospital and then airlifted by Air Evac to Norton’s Audubon Hospital, where he had remained until his death on Friday, July 8, 2011 at 4:35 AM.



He is survived by his parents:

Charley & Helen Hancock Sparks of Columbia

His wife: Tammy Akin Sparks of Columbia

One son: Trent Sparks of Columbia

Sparky was a Deputy Kentucky State Fire Marshal for the past 23 years. He began that job as a Haz Mat inspector for several years and advanced to the position of Hazardous Materials senior plans reviewer for the State Fire Marshal. He was also well known as a fire and rescue instructor for the Kentucky Community Technical College System’s “State Fire Rescue Training” Area 14 for 22 years, Assistant Fire Chief of the City of Columbia Fire Department, a member of the Columbia - Adair County Volunteer Fire Department for 32 years, an Emergency Medical Technician for the Adair County Ambulance Service, he was a member of the Columbia Christian Church and a good friend to many who knew and loved him. He will be greatly missed.



Sparky’s death brings the total number of firefighters killed in the line of duty for 2011 in the Commonwealth to 5 and the year is only half over. In 2010 we lost two brave firefighters in the Line of Duty. Please be safe! What we do is dangerous, never take your life or loved ones for granted.

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INSIDE

2	Presidents letter, KFA Conference Info	9	Fireman Joe, Assistance to FF Grants
3	Treasures Notes, SOP Changes, Flags	10	Dixie, The Crrage to be Safe
4	NVFC, Charles Sparks, A Code Moment	11	Answer to Word Search, For Sale
5	TArea 4 TC, Safety Recall	12	What Age to Drive, A Virtual World
6-7	Educational Opportunities	13	Reducing LODD
7	Inovative Fire Equipment	14-15	Sustaining Members
8	Chaplains Corner, Inspirational Fire Print	16	Fire Service Word Search



Notes from The President's Desk

Bob Newman

I can't believe the 2011 conference year is about to come to a close!

Throughout the year I have traveled visiting different fire departments and organizations across the state of Kentucky. This is a time for me to reflect now that my years of service are about to come to an end! Remembering the new and old friends I've met throughout the eight years of my service in the KFA Executive Board has been so rewarding! Putting a Conference together? I couldn't have put a conference together if it wasn't for all my friends in the Green River Firefighters Association! Thanks for all the dedicated hard work, fundraising and support you gave me during the last four years planning for the 2011 Conference. To all my friends from all over the State, I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again soon, at the KFA 2011 Conference here in Owensboro.

It is with great remorse to inform you that Charles "Sparky" Sparks, age 49, of Columbia, Kentucky passed away Friday, July 8, 2011 from an apparent heart attack he suffered on June 30 while fighting a house fire. I'm sorry to say this is our fifth in line of duty death this year! The Executive Board traveled to attend the service to pay our respects to the family and his department. Charles was a Deputy Kentucky State Fire Marshal, a rescue instructor for the Kentucky Community Technical College System, Assistant Chief for the City of Columbia Fire Department, a member of the Columbia-Adair County Volunteer Fire Department and an Emergency Medical Technician for the Adair County Ambulance Service.

"Sparky" will be truly missed, not only by his beloved wife and son, but also by his whole community who has benefited by his career of saving lives for over 32 years! Our prayers and sympathy goes out to all of you!

This year has been a financially challenging year for the Executive Board with tough economic times! The E-Board has worked very hard to control cost and stay within budget. We have found this is not always a popular decision when we had to tighten our budget, but we are on tract now and moving forward for the future of the KFA!

The State Fire School Committee worked very hard this year to ensure that the school was a huge success! Once again, they had great trainers and impressive speakers from all over the State! Work has already begun on next year's school! The E-Board passed out special plaques to each Vendor at the school for being a sustaining member! This presentation invoked much praise for the KFA in their involvement in thanking each Vendor for their dedication!

The 91st Annual Kentucky Firefighters Association Conference will be held in Owensboro, KY as I first mentioned in the beginning of this article. Our Conference Committee has worked very hard to ensure you will have a great time! There will be events for you and your spouse/guest! Please check out our website www.kfa2011 for registration information! There is still time to register for the many events that are offered in this year's conference.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2011 KFA Conference. Have a safe trip!

Sincerely,

Bob Newman

President KFA

Conference Events & Schedule

Saturday

10:00-3pm

Registration

9:00-3pm

Firefighter Olympics at Horse Fork Creek Park

6:30-?

Pork Producers Cookout

Sunday

9am-1pm

Registration

8am-10am

Religious Service

1pm-2pm

Fire Commission Meeting

4pm

Memorial Service

7pm

Pig Roast Cookout

7pm

Live Music

Monday

7:30am-10am

Registration

8am-11am

Business Session (Breakfast)

11:30am- 4pm

Ladies Outing

11:30am-5pm

Golf Outing

11:30am-5pm

Sport Shooting

6pm-

BBQ Chicken Cookout

8-11pm

Live Music

Tuesday

8am-12pm

Business Session (Breakfast)

12-1:30pm

Lunch on own

1:30-4pm

Business Session

6pm

Cocktail Hour

7-10pm

Banquet



Treasurer's Notes

by Terry Keller

Hello everyone, hope you are enjoying this hot weather. This may end up being one of the hottest July's on record. Maybe by the time the conference starts the weather will be somewhat cooler. Hope to see most of you at this year's conference. Sounds like President and his group have a fine time laid out for us.

This will be a busy conference, as there will be a mid year election for a new Secretary, and the normal election for a Treasure and Vice President at Large. There will be the adoption of a budget to get thru the 2011-2012 year. The license plate issue has been settled and money will start coming in the 1st of August. The K F A was told that a payment would be made one month after the fiscal year ended in June. This is going to be a big help to replace the funds the K F A was receiving from Civic Development. The two funds raising companies that replaced Civic Development has not been raising the funds needed. The License Plates will raise the needed funding.

K F A ended the year with a membership of 395 departments. This is down from the 420 departments paid last year. The Board has been made aware of a few departments that say they just can not afford the dues. There will be a resolution on the conference to maintain the dues structure at the current \$85.00. This will be a constitution and by-laws change, as dues were increased last year at conference to go up the next three years. The Board understands the financial problems of its member departments and has taken a long hard look at maintaining a level of dues that all departments can afford.

Until I see some of you at conference, stay safe and enjoy the heat.

Treasurer,

Terry Keller

Words of Wisdom

America is a Nation with a mission - and that mission comes from our most basic beliefs. We have no desire to dominate, no ambitions of empire. Our aim is a democratic peace - a peace founded upon the dignity and rights of every man and woman.

[George W. Bush](#)

KFA Change to Standard Operating Guidelines

Honor Guard Changes

Below is listed a change to the "Standard Operating Guidelines" as voted on by the KFA Executive Board at its meeting in Lexington June 11th, 2011:

The Kentucky Firefighters Association Honor Guard can only be activated by the President or their designee of the Kentucky Firefighters Association or the Executive Director or their designee of the Kentucky Fire Commission. Activation means that a minimum staffing of 4 honor guard members will be sent to the needed location and all expenses of the honor guard will be reimbursed by the Kentucky Firefighters Association Treasurer, all expenses of the honor guard will be reimbursed by the Kentucky Firefighters Association Treasurer, with approval of the KFA President, after the travel voucher has been submitted. At certain times there may be a need to activate more than 4 members as deemed necessary by the Committee Chair. This will have to be cleared with the President or the Executive Director for anytime the amount would exceed 4 members. The maximum amount of honor guard members for any specific event shall not exceed 10 members.

Governor Beshear orders flags to half-staff in Honor of Charles (Sparky) Sparks

Gov. Steve Beshear has directed that flags at all buildings be lowered to half-staff from sunrise to sunset on July 14, 2011 in honor of Deputy State Fire Marshal Charles Sparks, who passed away on July 8, 2011 from a heart attack he suffered while battling a fire in Adair County.

"Jane and I send our deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Charles Sparks," said Gov. Beshear. "His courage and dedication to protecting the public is an example to us all and we greatly honor his service and his sacrifice. This is a tremendous loss to not only firefighters across the state and citizens of Adair County, but to the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky."

Sparks, 49, was a 23-year employee of the State Fire Marshal's Office. Most recently, he served as an assistant chief with the Adair-Columbia Fire Department, where he served for 32 years. Charles was also an instructor with Kentucky Fire and Rescue Training. He is survived by his wife Tammy, son Trent and parents Charles and Helen Sparks. Sparks' burial services were held at Columbia's Haven Hill Cemetery in Adair County with full firefighter honors earlier this week.



National Volunteer Fire Council

Ken Knipper, Director Bryant Stiles, Alternate

The NVFC has been busy wrestling with the legislative process in Washington. One day it looks good and the next day it looks bad for whatever you are working on. Be assured the NVFC is doing everything it can to retain the fire grant and SAFER programs. Any priorities that involve money are at a complete standstill. I have contacted a number of our legislators in the House and Senate on a number of issues and have received responses from them assuring me that, while cuts may have to be made, they will do what they can to keep the programs viable.

The new NVFC EMS/Rescue Section continues to develop. We now have one state organization that has joined and membership continues to increase. The NVFC and the NAEMT have been collaborating on legislative issues by having monthly phone calls. A major point of discussion centers on financial matters (Medicare reimbursement, etc) and recruiting and retention. I am sure that most of you know that both paid and volunteer responders are under pressure and the numbers are dwindling. I am going to repeat something I posted last issue because it is very important. Make sure that your departments have members sign PSOB beneficiary forms each year and maintain them in your department files. You can go on the PSOB site to get the form. This is a vital step in securing a PSOB benefit payment.

Many Kentucky fire fighters have been affected by storms. The NVFC offers a \$250.00 stipend to volunteer firefighters in case of a state/federally declared disaster through our Volunteer Firefighter Support Fund. If you need help with this contact Ken Knipper at knip613@zoomtown.com. I am happy to report that a Kentucky firefighter has been approved to receive a stipend. The firefighter must be a member of department that is a dues paying member of the KFA and has suffered some uninsured loss.

The full department membership program of the NVFC continues to grow. This program allows departments to enlist all of their members as NVFC members. The members gain the benefits of the NVFC, the department gets department membership at no cost, and the KFA gets a part of the membership cost. Win – Win - Win. Go to www.nvfc.org and get additional information on this membership program.

Attention Fire Departments That Participated in Charles Sparks Funeral

The Columbia/Adair County Fire Department has requested assistance with a special project. They would like a patch from each department and or group that participated in Charles Sparks' Funeral. The patches will be used for a special project. We would like to have all the patches by October 1st. Please mail them to:

**SFRT Area 14, 385 Old Greensburg Road
Campbellsville, KY 42718**

Any questions contact myself (fireresq@kyol.net) or Donald Hare, PIO, Columbia/Adair County Fire Dept. (haredonald@air-evac.com).

Charlie Shaw



Above is pictured Sparky's vault lid.

A Code Moment...

This Code Moment is dedicated to Deputy State Fire Marshal Charles Sparks who lost his life in early July subsequent to a house fire. Like Deputy State Fire Marshal Terry Cannon, in 2010, Sparky was dedicated to making a difference in more than his hometown. They lost their lives in service with their fire department, but they touched more lives than those in their district. I appreciated the opportunity to work with Sparky and Terry on a number of projects over the years, but didn't often cross paths as they performed their inspection duties in their regions.

The vast majority of the Commonwealth of KY is not served through local fire inspection; and Chiefs of many departments depend on the State Fire Marshal's Office to help them with code enforcement. Kentucky brought the world the Beverly Hills Supper Club fire in 1977, and I haven't met anyone in the fire marshal's office that doesn't believe it could happen again in our state. Sparky and Terry are two examples of those who care about preventing a recurrence, and work daily to that end.

To State Fire Marshal Swope and the rest of the dedicated men and women of the State Fire Marshal's Office, we appreciate what you do and know we can depend on you to be there for us. I think everyone is there for you at this time, and beyond.

Rusty Todd

Elizabethtown Fire Department
(Hurry and get well, Richard!)



New Area 4 Training Center Opens

By Director Bryant Stiles

On a sunny June 24th the ribbon was cut as the new Area 4 Training Center opened.

The Area 4 Training Center had been in the planning stage for more than 20 years and will enhance educational programs for future and current emergency responders.

The Center is located at 385 Morgantown Road, sitting on the Campus of Bowling Green Technical College and sits adjoining a Bowling Green Fire Station.

The design of the Center provides for hands on training, class room training and administrative functions, all in one building.

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony included leadership of the College, Fire Commission, Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce, and fire departments from throughout Area 4.

The Area 4 Center will serve as the hub for first responder training for the 10 counties of Area 4, for the students participating in the Fire Rescue Degree Program, for emergency preparedness and response training for business and industry, and for operations of several mobile training units.

Fire Safety Recall

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: Touch Point Oscillating Ceramic Heaters

Units: About 13,000 units (6,700 originally [recalled](#) in November 2010)

Importer: Meijer Inc., of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Hazard: The oscillating mechanism in the heaters can short out, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

Incidents/Injuries: Meijer has received two reports of incidents involving fires that resulted in property damage. No injuries have been reported.

Description: This announcement involves previously recalled Touch Point oscillating ceramic heaters with model number PTC-902. The grey/silver color heaters are about 10-inches tall, have a black screen across the front and controls on the top. The model number and UPC code 7-60236-58339 are printed on a metal label/plate on the bottom of the heater. Some models have an additional digit in the UPC code, making it a 12-digit code. In addition, some heaters will have a UPC code 7-13733-29222 sticker on the bottom of the packaging box.

Sold at: Meijer stores in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio from October 2009 through April 2011 for about \$25. Discount retailers, dollar stores, flea markets and retail liquidators nationwide sold the heaters from November 2010 through April 2011 for various prices. The heaters were sold after the original recall was announced in November 2010.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled heaters and return them to the nearest Meijer retail store for a full refund of the purchase price. Consumers who purchased heaters from other retailers should contact Meijer to arrange a refund.



Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Meijer at (800) 927-8699 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the firm's website at www.meijer.com

Words of Wisdom

If we take the generally accepted definition of bravery as a quality which knows no fear, I have never seen a brave man. All men are frightened. The more intelligent they are, the more they are frightened.

[George S. Patton](#)

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

2011 IFSAC SKILLS TESTING SCHEDULE

Date	Area	Location	Phone
8/20-21	13	London	888-234-0100
9/10-11	1	Calvert City	888-306-7901
? Fall	7	Cold Springs	888-306-8101
9/17-18	15	Richmond	888-234-3961
11/5-6	5	Leitchfield	888-234-7201
11/12-13	6	Middletown	888-306-8064
12/10-11	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!

Firefighter Combat Challenge

August 12 - 13 Lexington

Mountain FF Assn Fire School

August 27 - 28 Hazard

Jefferson County Regional Fire School

September 10 - 11 Louisville

Warren County Fire School

September 23 - 25 Bowling Green

Meade County Fire School

October 1 - 2 Brandenburg

Buffalo Trace Regional Fire School

October 21 - 22 Maysville

Words of Wisdom

It is difficult for the common good to prevail against the intense concentration of those who have a special interest, especially if the decisions are made behind locked doors.

[Jimmy Carter](#)

Advanced ICS (ICS 400)

August 20 - 21, 2011

Alvaton Fire Department

122 JFS Circle

Bowling Green KY

Class provided through KyEM

For more info contact Jamis Roby

270-781-8776

33rd Annual Mountain FF Assn.

Hazard Fire School

August 26 - 28, 2011

All classes are free!

For registration information go to the KFA website at www.kyfa.org

Fire Training

1 Basic Firefighting 16Hr

2 Junior Firefighting 16Hr

3 Hard To Get Hours 16Hr

14 Fire Instructor Update 8Hr repeated Sat & Sun

17 Leadership 1- NFA Class 16

Rescue

4 Firefighter Survival 8Hr Sat only

5 Firefighter Rescue 8Hr Sun only

6 Large Animal Rescue 8Hr Sat only

8 Rope Rescue- Rappelling 16Hr

12 Auto Extrication 16Hr

13 ATV Safety & Rescue 16Hr

18 Mine Site Emergencies 8Hr repeated Sat & Sun

21 Basic Search & Rescue 20Hr Fri, Sat & Sun

22 Managing The Search Operations 20Hr Fri, Sat & Sun

Administrative

7 Kentucky Fire Commission 2011 8Hr repeated Sat & Sun

19 Chaplain Training 16Hr

EMS

9 EMS Continuing Education 16Hr

10 EMS Instructor Evaluator 8Hr Sat only

11 EMS Instructor Orientation 8Hr Sun only

23 Landing Zone 4Hr Sat only

24 Pediatrics 4Hr Sat only

Other

15 Emergency Traffic Control 8Hr repeated Sat & Sun

16 Meth Lab Awareness 4Hr repeated Sat & Sun

20 Emergency Trailer Operations 8Hr repeated Sat & Sun

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY WEEKEND

September 17-18, 2011

LOCATION: Galt House 140 N. 4TH Street
Louisville KY 40202TIME: 8:00am – 5:00pm each day Register ON-
LINE AT WWW.SFRT6.COM**Class #1** - Managing & Leading Change

INSTRUCTOR – Retired Chief Debra J. Jarvis

Class #2 – Health & Safety Officer (Revised)

INSTRUCTOR – Capt. Kenneth W. Cline

Class #3 – Decision Making for Initial Company
Operations

INSTRUCTOR – Arthur P. Mata

It is imperative to have at least 20 persons per
class by August 19 or it will be canceled.For more information contact
Mike Wallingford at 888-306-8064**Haz-Mat Operations Class w/Practicum**

September 21, 22 & 23, 2011

Class starts at 18:30 on 21st and
08:00 on 22nd & 23rdWestwood Fire Department
2039 Main Street - Ashland, KY 41102**For more information, contact:**Rick Bobo KYEM Hazardous Materials
Program Coordinator

(502) 607-5728

(502) 607-5710

Richard.A.Bobo@us.army.mil

Meade County Fire SchoolOctober 1st & 2nd 2011

Meade County High School

\$25 Registration Fee

270-945-4527 Chris Crawford

1. EMS Con Ed
2. Basic Search and Rescue
3. Fire Control (bring turnout gear)
4. Safety and Survival
5. Vehicle Extrication
 - a. Classroom Hybrid Rescues (Saturday)
 - b. Hands-On Extrication (Sunday bring turnout gear)
6. Hard to Get Hours
7. Basic Rope Rescue

2011 Buffalo Trace Regional Fire School

The 2011 Buffalo Trace Regional Fire School will be held in Maysville October 21-23. Final plans will be published in a brochure by late August so watch for them because we hope to see you there this year. Check out www.buffalotracefire.com or www.sfrt9.com for more information as October approaches.

Plans are being made for the following class/subject areas to be offered:

1. 24 hrs of EMT Con Ed
2. Direction/Rules on the Junior Firefighter Program
3. A 4 hr KY Wildland Awareness
4. Initial Fire Attack
5. Basic Thermal Imaging
6. Writing Fire Service Grants
7. When your scene becomes a Meth Lab
8. Auto Extrication
9. A 16 hours class of "Hard to Get Hours"
10. Basic Firefighting
11. Basic Water Rescue
12. KY Firefighter Survival and Rescue
13. Propane Tank Emergencies
14. Flashover Recognition/Survival
15. Preparing to Test for Firefighter 1 and 2 Skills
16. Pump Ops and Testing
17. Arson 1

Innovative Fire Equipment

Liverpool England – Fires: they burn houses down and ruin lives. But they also make fireworks work. smores smore and pipes smoke. What's a fire department to do when they get a rush-hour

call that a child has set a recycling bin full of his sister's Barbies ablaze and the fire has spread to the neighbor's yard?

The City of Liverpool in England has come up with a novel solution, and is testing a couple of specially equipped firefighting motorcycles. The bikes can be deployed when a full response from a fleet of full-sized engines isn't required, or simply can' maneuver through traffic.





Chaplain's Corner



On July 19 at the New Haven/Rolling Fork Fire Departments in New Haven, Dan Ennis was recognized for his tireless effort with the Metro Fire Chaplains/Kentucky Federation of Fire Chaplains. Dan has been the president of that organization since

its inception in 1998. He has stepped down as president for health and family issues but will remain an active part of the organization as President Emeritus. Dan was presented with an engraved chief's trumpet by the organization to commemorate his many years of service. Dan was instrumental in bringing the National Federation of Fire Chaplain's Conference to Louisville two different times; he put together the Chaplains Class and taught it at fire schools all across the Commonwealth for some 10 years. Without his guidance the organization would have had much more difficult times or may not have been started at all. Thanks Dan for all you have done and we look forward to many more years of splendid fellowship!

The officers of the KFFC are Lee Twombly – President, Woodrow (Woody) Will – Vice President, Bueford Stapleton – Secretary, William J. Gawarecki – Treasurer. The Board of Directors include: Karl Lusk, Mike Humble, and Stewart Dawson. Meetings are scheduled for September 20th at Zoneton FD and November 15th at Golden Corral 5362 Dixie Highway in Louisville. All meetings are at 12:00 noon Louisville Time. If you feel you are being guided into a chaplain service for your department the process of becoming a chaplain is not difficult. You begin by taking a Chaplain Course at a Regional Fire School such as The Hazard Fire School August 27 - 28, The Jefferson County Fire School September 9 -10, or The Marion County Fire School October 15 - 16. The other requirements will be explained at the class. Check us out on the KFA Web Page KY Fire Chaplains.



FIREFIGHTER INSPIRA- TIONAL PRINT

The Kentucky Firefighters Association has partnered with www.firefighterprint.com to offer you this very special inspirational print titled

"WHO AM I"

\$10.00 OF EVERY \$20 PRINT SOLD goes directly into the scholarship fund to help deserving individuals realize their dreams of becoming firefighters. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 and you can help by buying this one of a kind inspirational print that touches the heart of everyone that reads it.

PLEASE GO TO:
WWW.FIREFIGHTERPRINT.COM TO PURCHASE

"WHO AM I"

(Below is the inscription on the bottom of the print)

My profession is somewhat unique in comparison to that of the average person. At any one fixed moment in time when duty calls upon me, I am prepared to sacrifice my own life to save the lives of others I may not even know. I am willing to do this because I understand that we all make choices in life. As for myself, this is the choice and path of service I have chosen to follow. Though my job is often rewarding, it can also be unsettling. I often reflect upon the simplicity of one question, "Who am I?" At times, I cannot provide this answer, not even for myself. So, "Who am I" to choose a profession in life that regularly shows no mercy for the preciousness of life? "Who am I" to willingly, without hesitation, invite myself into some of the most uninviting situations known to mankind? "Who am I", so that when duty calls, may never again lay eyes on the loved ones I could leave behind? The assumed simplicity of this question is not so simple after all. Understanding "Who am I" may be difficult to answer at times. However, all I need to do is pause, think about, and remember those lives I have positively influenced and maybe even saved. All I need to do is look back on the years of service I have given to my community and realize that I have helped make the world a safer place in which to live. In my heart, I know I made a difference. "Who am I?" I am a Firefighter !



Notes From Fireman Joe The Ol Fire Dog



I can hardly believe this but it will be a year now since the last KFA Conference which was held in Louisville and now we are back in good ole Owensboro. I am really looking forward to coming back to O-town since I have not been back here since the last Green River School held here several years ago, I miss the Executive Inn.

I hope everyone enjoyed State Fire School this year. I thought attendance was down but those who were here received some great training. It really doesn't matter to me where our Emergency Service Family gets together it is always GREAT to see my many friends and associates. I hope those who attended Fire School enjoyed our Public Education Display we had set up, it was a special history story of what we have done around Kentucky. I can assure you with each lesson or each piece of material there is an interesting story.

My long time friend and associate, Sparky the Fire Dog, is celebrating his 60th Birthday. NFPA has been doing special programs and even had a birthday party for ole Sparky up at NFPA Headquarters several months back. I can tell you, everywhere I go or wherever I have done a Public Education Program the kids and adults all know Sparky the Fire Dog and what he represents. There have been two long time public service programs around, Sparky the Fire Dog and Sesame Street. I have often been envious of their appeal and how the children relate to both of these exceptional programs. I have enjoyed using Sparky to relate our Fire Safety stories; the lovable Dog is well recognized. Chef and Baker Buddy Valestro from the Food Network made a huge cake which was displayed at the recent NFPA Conference in Boston, Mass. Congrats to our friend Sparky and we wish him many more.

I am not sure if it has been happening in your area of the state but we seem to be having a rash of water related incidents which has caused injuries and or deaths, everything from pool accidents, creek and river accidents and what's even worse are folks who decide they can travel through water covered roads. I can't stress enough basic water safety prevention, like wearing a PFD (Personal Floation Device) a life jacket while swimming, boating or canoeing. Never drive through standing water during or after a storm, it doesn't take a lot of water to carry you away or off the road. Watch the little ones with special care, use caution if diving and where you may be swimming. Summer fun is awesome but can be dangerous if we are careless and not following all the rules of safety.

I am looking forward to the Conference and the Hall of Fame selection this year, I know how very special this can be, I am still swelling with pride on my own appointment and know the committee will recognize more worthy inductees.

Until I see all of you, may GOD bless and keep you in HIS care.

Fireman Joe

Assistance to Firefighter Grants Program

Last year 72 Kentucky Fire Departments received \$8,081,907.00 in Assistance to Firefighter Grants (AFG). This program, as I am sure you are aware, is designed to improve the nation's response to emergencies. The Kentucky Fire Commission/ Fire Rescue Training has partnered with FEMA to bring grant writing workshops to your local area. Please take advantage of this great opportunity to update your grant writing skills.

The 2011 grant application period will be opening soon. Don't miss out on this opportunity to bring new equipment, apparatus, or training programs to your department. Go to the FEMA website <http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/afggrants/index.shtm> and click on the "Get Ready Guide" or the "Narrative Assistance Guide" so you will be ready when the grant applications become available.

Words of Wisdom

Through humor, you can soften some of the worst blows that life delivers. And once you find laughter, no matter how painful your situation might be, you can survive it.

[Bill Cosby](#)



Dixie Association say's good bye to a friend.

It is late on Tuesday Night as I set down to write something for this issue of Smoke Signals. Not knowing what others will talk about for this issue, part of what I will mention is the loss of a fellow firefighter and friend with the untimely death of Charley Sparks of the Columbia Fire Department.

I attended the funeral of "Sparky" as I knew him on Monday July 11th. Along with approximately 300 other firefighter from across Kentucky, I stood in the sun to say good-bye to a fellow firefighter, instructor and community leader. I saw firefighters, instructors and members of the Fire Marshall's staff from across the commonwealth standing shoulder to shoulder as we sent a prayer and condolences to Charley and his family. We were joined by the community of Columbia and Adair County at this celebration of life for someone taken way too young from us. I have attended other firefighter funerals in the past, but this time, this death was much more personal to me because I knew Charley.

I first met Charley when we attended Eastern Kentucky University in the early 1980's. As Charley was from Columbia and I am from Brandenburg, we both had a background in small town fire department and the atmospheres they created. Charley was very proud of his fire department. He enjoyed talking about the progress his department was then making and how he wanted to be a vital part of that progress. He described issues he wanted to see improve as well as traditions' he was very proud of. Charley was destined to be a leader in his community and the fire service in Kentucky as well. His life was about service to many people including his parents, his wife and his son. Few people have the opportunity to have such a full life in such a short time on this earth. Charley will be missed by many people including the departments of the Dixie Firefighters Association. Rest in Peace Charley.

The July meeting of the Dixie Firefighters association will be at the Leitchfield Fire Department on July 28th, starting at 7 PM Eastern Time. The menu for the meal has not been finalized yet, but I think we all know it will be tasty. Price will be a donation. Tentatively on the agenda we will be discussing the KFA conference that is coming up in August. One important decision that will be made at this meeting will be who to support for the KFA

vice president at large candidate. Currently two members of the Dixie Firefighter Association have expressed interest and asked for our support at this meeting and at the conference. These two members are Mike Hulsey and Dale Dobson. At the meeting each member will have an opportunity to briefly address the membership and then a decision will be made who we will support for the At Large Vice President position with the KFA.

We will also be receiving up dates from our Branch Directors at the meeting. With the addition of Ira Dyer from Hardin County EMS, we now have a full slate of Branch directors who will provide us with current information important to our operation. We will also be discussing the up coming Dixie Fire School to start the process of selecting classes for the 2012 school. Many important things will be happening in the coming months. Please come out and be a part of Your association.

Sincerely,

Larry Naser,

Chief, Meade County Fire District
President Dixie Firefighters Association

PS. If we have a little time I will be glad to share some information concerning our shopping center fire our District responded to on July 2, 2011. Hope to see you there.

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 the "Everyone Goes Home", **Life Safety Initiative #13** which states:

"Firefighters and Their Families Must Have Access to Counseling and Psychological Support."

The infant you found unresponsive and not breathing in its crib. The mother and father standing outside of their fully engulfed home with that empty look in their tear filled eyes. The obviously deceased teenager entrapped in a twisted wreck. The small body covered with a white sheet being removed after a house fire has been extinguished.

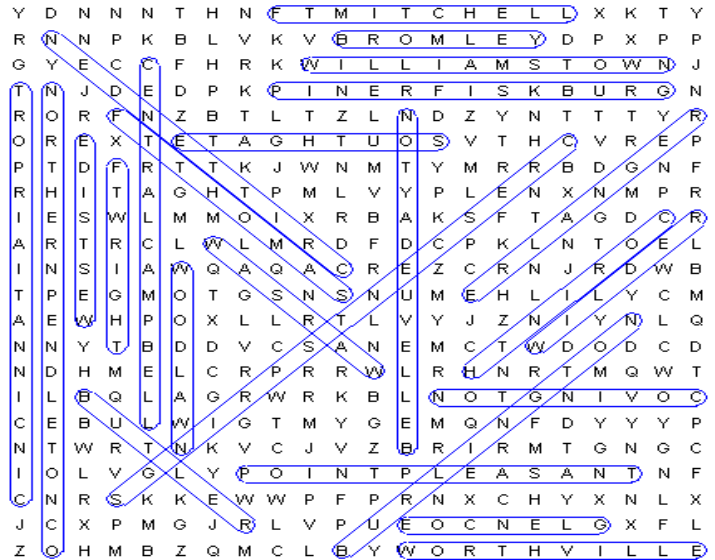
All too often firefighters and fire department leadership concentrate exclusively on the physical hazards of firefighting. While injury and death are a

significant danger to what we do, they are just the tip of the iceberg. The psychological and emotional wear and tear of firefighting can cause great damage and destruction in the lives of the best of us. We often mask our true feelings, after these grim incidents, by using “gallows humor” or playing the part of the tough firefighter but I can tell you that without a doubt, the day that this stuff doesn’t bother you, is the day you need to get help. Our profession requires a lot of compassion and with everything you see and experience in the line of duty, if you have calloused yourself to these events, if your compassion is missing, you need to talk to someone.

Fortunately there are many forms of support available, and professional counseling if needed. As usual, our first line of support is usually our fellow firefighters and supervisors. They know us and they know what we do and a good leader is also a good listener and a good supporter in your times of need. Most clergy are trained to some extent at assisting individuals through hard times so this may be an option for you but, sometimes it goes beyond support. Sometimes a person needs professional help to come to terms with what is going on in their lives. Your department may have a localized crisis response team to assist the members of your department in getting through particularly traumatic events or you can contact the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board. The KCCRB credentials and maintains a statewide network of trained professional responders. They have a 24-hour access number to request response: (888) 522-7228. Most paid departments maintain an Employee Assistance Program (EPA) through their organization. This service is free and totally confidential. The service will assist you in just about any situation you are in be it personal, family or department related. I would highly recommend that if this service is not provided by your department, whether career or volunteer, that your department needs to investigate implementing this valuable service.

Divorces, alcohol abuse and emotional issues occur much more often within the fire service and within the families of firefighters, than they do in the general public. Our jobs are stressful which in turn stresses our lives. It is extremely important that all firefighters and members of their families have the support and counseling to resolve the consequences of these many stresses so that each of us, “Keeps Going Home, After Each Run and After Each Shift.”

Answers to last issues Word Search Puzzle



FOR SALE



**1991 Seagrave
100' Standard Duty Aerial Ladder**

The Highview Fire District has designated the above pictured apparatus as surplus. It is a Model #: JR-OTDF Serial #: Y-T5641 Engine Hours: 421.9 Mileage: 11654 Engine: Detroit 6 cylinder Diesel Transmission: Automatic.

- Equipment on Apparatus**
- 12 KW Onan Diesel Generator
 - Prewired Electric Hannay Wind Cord Reel w/100' 4 mounted scene lights
 - Ground Ladders:
 - 40' Banger
 - 35' Extension
 - 28' Extension
 - 20' Roof Ladder (2)
 - 10' Attic Ladder
 - 12' Combo Ladder
 - Removable Ladder Pipe w/Tips & Fog Nozzle
 - Pike Pole & Axe at tip of Ladder
 - Intercom Sys. from turn table to Tip of Ladder
- (Aerial & ground ladders passed ladder testing in 2010)

\$75,000

Contact Chief Dave Goldsmith at (502) 239-3561 or Email dgoldsmith@highviewfire.com

At What Age Do You Allow Firefighters To Drive Fire Trucks?

By Woody Will

I was intrigued by an article I read recently in *FireRescue 1 Newsletter*. It was about a teenage driver that recently crashed a 28,000 pound tanker. She was 18 years of age. She was under the speed limit, cleared of any wrong doing by the Tenn. State Police and was only returning to the station in a non-emergency mode. It is to me not an issue of sex or shortage of personnel. It is a matter of departmental risk. I know of departments in Kentucky who do the same thing at an even earlier age. So what does your department allow? KRS states in 95A that:

each volunteer firefighter be able to read, write and understand the English language, is a person of sobriety and integrity, is and has been an orderly, law-abiding citizen, is a citizen of the United States, a permanent resident of the United States, or otherwise lawfully present in the United States, and has reached the age of eighteen (18).

So KRS plainly states you must be at least 18 years of age to be on the department but it does not specifically state at what age you are allowed to drive. There are people across the nation pushing for a minimum of 21 years of age and at least 2 years of departmental experience before you are allowed to drive a fire truck.

One area the department needs to be sure they have checked is that of insurance. Many insurance providers have minimum age requirements before the individual will be insured on a fire apparatus. You can also reduce your liability by having your various drivers become certified through the IFSAC accredited program with State Fire Rescue Training. The expense is minimal but the benefit is great.

It is a matter of responsibility. At what age does someone become responsible? Is it 18 or 21? I know of people who would say they know individuals whom are 40 years old and they are still not responsible. Well the law helps us with that issue. It is really simple. The chief of the department is responsible for anything his or her members do in the line of duty. If you as chief are not comfortable with your department policies or SOG's then simply change them to a policy you can live with. After all it is your future and that of your department that lies in the balance!

A Virtual World

By Heather L. Fredenburg
E-Learning and Training Coordinator
Emergency Services Insurance Program

How many times have you said, "if only there were more time in the day" to get everything done that you need to? We live our daily lives with a packed schedule in hope for a moment here and there to take a breath. Now let's add to that "time in the day".....the life of an emergency service provider.

The importance of properly training personnel in the duties associated with Fire and EMS can never be overemphasized. You must rely on your skills, training, and experience to keep yourself safe and help your community. As you invest your time in emergency services, you will find the added value of online training to assist in your learning.

Today's technology allows for learning from almost anywhere, at any time. E-learning provides quick access to materials for first responder, EMT, paramedic, and firefighter education. The virtual world is a critical strategy toward making training and support available on a scale sufficient enough to have significant impact on our members. The virtual world of e-learning is not intended to replace face-to face classroom and hands-on training by any means.

An online presence makes training in Fire and EMS more accessible. Increasing member participation in training and access to information will only strengthen your organization. E-learning has the potential to be utilized in many ways. In some departments it is used as a way to prepare you for training before you get to your scheduled training night, while other departments use e-learning as a follow-up to hands-on training. The virtual learning world is also a great way to pass the time away between calls when you are waiting for the next one to come in. It also provides an opportunity to accomplish the difficult task often faced by departments to adhere to mandated training and required hours by state and federal standards and regulations. It is never an easy task to get everyone in the same place at the same time to accomplish the task of training.

There are a few tips to highlight when you enter the virtual world of training. Look for programming that provides quality courses with knowledgeable instructors. Another positive point to look for is the ability to track your progress or the members in your department if you are responsible for training. Find a program that allows you to track participation

as well as time spent in the course to ensure a quality learning experience. Along with tracking the progress of training courses, some online learning programs offer the ability to print certificates that can be placed in your training folder as documentation. These are just a few of the positive points to look for with online learning. Now it's your turn to take an adventure today, in the virtual world of training.

Reducing Line of Duty Deaths (LODD)

By Woody Will

For a couple of years or more now Chief Marc Muench has been giving you some great material in the Smoke Signals about staying alive so "Everyone Goes Home". I don't know if you read or remember about the initiatives, but to remind you what this is all about I will simply review them for you. There were 87 official LODD last year. The downward spiral of LODD is encouraging. It wasn't long ago that there was never less than 100. My only fear is that as older firefighters are replaced with younger ones they will not have the knowledge of the mistakes of the past and some of those very painful lessons will be revisited. That is why the work of the group that met in Tampa, Florida in 2004 is so important. They determined that there were six areas of fire service activities that need attention. They were 1. Prevention, 2. Structural Firefighting, 3. Wildland Operations, 4. Health – Wellness – Fitness, 5. Vehicles, and 6. Training.

Out the six areas they determined that there were six root causes of LODD. The 6 root causes were: 1. Ineffective Policies and Procedures, 2. Ineffective Decision Making, 3. Lack of Preparedness, 4. Ineffective Leadership, 5. Lack of Personal Responsibility (inappropriate behavior), 6. Extraordinary & Unpredictable Circumstances.

Out of those 6 root causes came 16 Life Safety Initiatives and they are; 1. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility. 2. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety; incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility. 3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning

responsibilities. 4. All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices. 5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular re-certification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform. 6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform. 7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives. 8. Utilize available technology wherever it can help produce higher levels of health and safety. 9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses. 10. Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and / or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement. 11. National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed. 12. National protocols for response to violent incidents (including terrorism) should be developed and championed. 13. Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support. 14. Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program. 15. Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers. 16. Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.

It would be obvious to any reading these initiatives that some must be done at a national level and they require a lot of money. However, there are things YOU can do locally. They are not expensive and for the most part require only a change in your attitude and that of your department. Please pay attention to what Mark has been saying. Aren't you worth that effort? Don't you also believe that "Everyone Goes Home"!!!

Words of Wisdom

Let us be sure that those who come after will say of us in our time, that in our time we did everything that could be done. We finished the race; we kept them free; we kept the faith.

[Ronald Reagan](#)

Kentucky Firefighters Association Sustaining Members

Please remember these members when you have purchasing needs.

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<p>Air Methods Kentucky David Williams 2417 Over Drive, Lexington KY 40511 859-288-5220 Fax 859-288-5262 Email drwilliams@airmethods.com</p>	<p>Akron Brass Equipment Co. Kent Clasen 343 Venture Blvd Wooster OH 44691 800-228-1161 kclasen@akronbrass.com</p>	<p>Bluegrass Fire Equipment John Baker 780 Enterprise Dr Lexington, KY 40510 800-526-8393 Fax 859-233-1167 www.bluegrassfire.com</p>
<p>Bluegrass Uniforms Inc. Jason Colson 3533 Dahlia Way Bowling Green, KY 42101 270-842-7700 jason@bluegrassuniforms.com</p>	<p>Bound Tree Medical Tim Brockmeyer PO Box 8023 Dublin OH 43106-2023 800-282-7904 Ex 5162 tbrockmeyer@boundtree.com</p>	<p>City of Pineville FD Chief James Miracle PO Box 688 Pineville, KY 40977 606-337-7000 pinevillefiredepartment@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Dixie Firefighters Assoc. Larry Naser PO Box 1656 Elizabethtown KY 42702 502-376-1915 lnaser@mcfpd.com</p>	<p>Dove Designs Chris Hays 94 Horizon Loop Monticello KY 42633 888-377-4459 www.dovedesigns.com contact@dovedesign.com</p>	<p>///EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT MIKE BRADY Res. Equip./Vehicles (859) 359-4502 (859) 359-4503 FAX http://www.EEResQ.com E-Mail: EEResQ@cs.com</p>
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<p>KBEMS Bob Hammonds 300 N Main St. Versailles KY 40383 866-975-2367 Fax 859-256-3128 kbems@kctcs.edu</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>KY Emergency Management Charlie O'Neal 100 Minuteman Pkwy Frankfort, KY 40601 502-607-1601 charliem.oneal@us.army.mil</p>

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<p>NFPA Russell Sanders 3257 Beales Branch Road Louisville KY 40206 502-894-0411 Fax 502-894-0519 Email rsanders@nfpa.org</p>	<p>On Duty Depot/MPH Ind. John "Red" Noblitt 1040 Mosley St Owensboro, KY 42303 270-685-6423 red@shopmph.com</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>QDCIP Fire, LLC Cris Marley, 127 Weltmer Circle Perrysville, OH 44864 419-606-0085 qdcip@live.com www.qdcipfire.com</p>	<p>RGC/Public Entity Insurance Michele Finke Barrett 1056 Wellington Way Suite 130 Lexington, KY 40513 888-696-9620 mbarrett@roeding.com</p>
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The Deadline for October issue submission of articles is September 10, 2011

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G R U B S G N I M E L F C K Q D V H
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The column to the left is an Area 9 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.

- BLACKFORD
- CAMPDIX
- DOVER
- EWING
- FIREBRICK
- FIVENINTEEN
- FLEMINGSBURG
- HILLSBORO
- MENIFEECOUNTY
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