



# Smoke Signals II

*Smoke Signals is a Publication of the Kentucky Firefighters Association*

**The 90<sup>th</sup> KFA Conference Is Just Around the Corner!!**

**July 31 - August 3rd**

The Kentucky Firefighters Association was founded in 1919. Our first conference was held in 1920 and this is 2010 which makes this our 90<sup>th</sup> KFA Conference. It is an event historic in nature you will not want to miss. President Cowherd and the conference staff as well as Jefferson County Bluegrass Emergency Services Association and the many departments of Area 6 want you and your family to come and have a wonderful time with them.

Schedule of events:

Time	Event
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	
10am-3pm	Registration
9am-3pm	Firefighter Olympics at Middletown FD
6pm-11pm	Louisville Bats Baseball Game
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	
9am-1pm	Registration
8am-9am	Religious Service
12pm-2pm	Fire Commission Meeting
4pm-5:30pm	Memorial Service
7pm-10pm	Monte Carlo Night
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	
7am-8am	Breakfast for Registered attendees
8:00am-11:00am	Business Session
12:00pm	Golf Outing
10am-3pm	Ladies Outing
10am-3pm	Childcare
6pm-?	Pool party
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	
7am-8am	Breakfast for Registered attendees
8am-12pm	Business Session
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch on own
1:30pm-4:00pm	Business Session
6pm-7pm	Cocktail Hour
7pm-10pm	Banquet
10pm-12pm	Dance



Conference Logo



Above is a picture of the Hurstborne Holiday Inn where the conference will be held

More conference Information is located on page 13

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### Notes From The President's Desk Bobby Cowherd

The 2010 regular legislative session of the Kentucky General Assembly concluded in April-without a budget! I want to sincerely thank our KFA Lobbyists Mike "Howdy" Kurtsinger and Gerald Stewart who work tirelessly in Frankfort throughout the session to ensure the voice of the fire service is heard. Our interest could not have been represented by two more knowledgeable and valued people.

I want to thank the Dixie Firefighters Association for their hospitality as I joined them for their annual Dixie Fire School in March. I enjoyed seeing everyone and having the chance to answer questions at the KFA booth during the school.

For the second year I had the pleasure to represent the KFA in Washington, D.C. April 28-30 during the Congressional Fire Service Institute events. Past President Troy Newcomb attended as well as our National Volunteer Fire Council representatives Ken Knipper and Bryant Stiles. We joined nearly 20 other fire and emergency service representatives from Kentucky in meeting with our congressmen on federal legislative matters affecting the fire and emergency services. The main issue discussed this year was the continued support and financing of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and the Safer Grant.

The Homeland Security Conference and 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Kentucky State Fire School will be held June 9-13 in Lexington. Your departments should have received brochures of classes and other information on the school. You can view the brochure on the KFA website [www.kyfa.org](http://www.kyfa.org) and on the Kentucky Homeland Security website. I want to encourage every firefighter and emergency responder to attend this year's school. The committee has worked hard to put together top of the line training opportunities for "Kentucky's Bravest" this year.

The opening ceremony on Thursday morning will feature Dr. Carl Hurley, a humorous motivational speaker. Hope you make plans to attend. On June 12, the Kentucky Firefighters Association Executive Board will meet in Lexington in conjunction with the Kentucky State Fire School. Our meeting will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday and continue throughout the day. If you get a chance on a break from class, stop by and see us. The Executive Board

and I are here to serve you and we value your input and support.

The KFA's agreement with American Income Life last month was signed for renewal. The benefit of the accidental death benefit has been raised from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for each firefighter in KFA dues paying departments.

If you have any question about membership in the KFA please contact the Executive Board member or Director in your area. This information can also be found on the KFA website [www.kyfa.org](http://www.kyfa.org). Become a member today. Encourage your neighboring departments to join the KFA. Help shape the future of the Kentucky Fire Service and help us help you. For more information, check out the website at [www.kyfa.org](http://www.kyfa.org).

Please don't forget the 90<sup>th</sup> annual Kentucky Firefighters Association conference that will be held at Holiday Inn Hurstbourne in Louisville, Kentucky, July 31-August 3, 2010. Our conference committee has been very busy working hard to ensure all will have a great time. There will be events for you and your spouse/guest. Check out our website [www.kfa2010](http://www.kfa2010) for registration, golf outing and other information. Reserve your room and Register now!

I look forward to seeing everyone at State Fire School. Until then Be Safe!

Sincerely,

*Bobby Cowherd*



### Treasurer's Notes by Terry Keller

The legislative session is over and to no great surprise nothing was completed during the session. It has been a very busy time since the session for the Executive Board trying to get the license plate fees straighten out. The K F A license plate will have an option of a \$10.00 donation to the K F A upon renewal. This is an item the Executive Board has been working on since the passage of the plate in 2008. There have been a total of 6790 license plates issued thru May 1, 2010. This shows a tremendous support for our firefighters.

The Executive Board has signed two companies to do fundraising for the K F A. These companies should start raising money the first of June. The Board will be in negotiations with our person who

does the Smoke Signals II, our Legislative Representatives, and the assistant to the Special Events coordinator. All this will take place during the Executive Board meeting at Fire School.

As of this writing, there are 391 paid dues to the K F A. This is down just a little, so all you members please check with your department and make sure they have paid the dues for 2009 - 2010 year. The K F A has been trying to increase membership. We know in these hard times that the \$75.00 dues seem like a lot of money, but the benefits outweigh that cost. Just for one example the \$3000.00 accidental death life insurance policy. There have been two checks paid out this year. There is no cost to you as a member yourself; just your department has to pay their dues. Also remember, if you want to come to the conference in August your department dues must be active. The conference delegate forms and registration will be mailed out soon.

The finance committee had a meeting in May to prepare a budget for the new year, which begins at the end of the conference. Fiscal year is from August 1, 2010 thru July 31, 2011. This is a well thought out process, for the Board to operate under the following year. This is another reason why it is so important for your department to be a member.

If you have any questions what the K F A does for you and your department, just ask one of the Executive Board members, or directors. If you need one of us to come to your department to discuss anything, just call us. We can only be as strong as the departments we represent. United we stand.

Until I see some of you at Fire School, stay safe and remember our brothers and sisters in the military, who protect our rights, just as we protect the citizens we serve here at home.

Thank You!! For all you do for your community!!

*Terry Keller*

## Words of Wisdom

I don't pity any man who does hard work worth doing. I admire him. I pity the creature who does not work, at whichever end of the social scale he may regard himself as being.

[Theodore Roosevelt](#)



### **KFA Accidental Death & Dismemberment insurance Increase**

American Income is excited to announce the KFA Accidental Death & Dismemberment insurance has increased this year to \$3000 from the previous \$2000. The chief of each department will be receiving the new cards for you to submit. These cards should be available from your chief in early June.

Thank You!

Elizabeth G. Likins  
American Income Life

### **EMS Liability**

**By, Bill Tricarico**

**Director, Loss Control Services**

### **Emergency Services Insurance Program**

When discussing EMS liability, most people immediately think of medical malpractice issues such as spinal injuries, intubation, drugs, and all of the other really bad things that could affect the patient as a result of medical errors. A recent study indicated something quite different however. The study which was hosted by ESIP provided results which will not surprise those in the EMS community.

Lawsuits against EMS providers including commercial, volunteer, and municipal providers were found to be as follows:

- 51% Vehicle Related (Emergency Vehicle collision or movement)
- 28% Patient Handling (Tips, drops, movement or falls)
- 9% Medical Management (Airway mgmnt., procedural, drug reaction, improper assessment)
- 5% Response or Transport Error (Navigational, improper or no transport, delayed response)
- 4% Equipment Problems (Lack of or malfunction)
- 3% Other (Assault, improper staffing, incorrect or inappropriate paperwork)

The study also noted the major causes for each of these areas include:

#### **Vehicle accidents:**

- Inappropriate use of lights and sirens
- Excessive speed

**'EMS Liability' continued . . .**

- Lack of adequate driver training
- Poor vehicle maintenance

**Patient Handling:**

- Improper selection and use of equipment
- Improper balance/strength of crews
- Improper evaluation of physical hazards
- Improper maintenance of equipment
- Equipment failure/malfunctions

**Medical Management:**

- Poor airway management
- Improper assessment (Spinal or fracture immobilization)
- Failure to follow protocol

**Response Transport:**

- Navigational (Got lost)
- Failure to transport
- Transport to improper facility

**Equipment:**

- Lack of equipment
- Failure of equipment

Each and every one of these is preventable with proper training and/or maintenance.

Management of EMS providers must be certain that all drivers have good driving histories, that they are fit to drive, and are properly trained. Vehicles must be maintained in accordance with manufacturer's standards. They must also be certain that crews understand the limitations of patient handling equipment and that such equipment is inspected regularly. In addition they must see that all providers are properly trained and certified and fully understand protocols and response areas.

Reducing EMS liability is a difficult job, but knowing where problems are encountered is a good start to finding the means to reduce exposure. For further information on the results of this important survey please contact us at [btcarico@mcneilandcompany.com](mailto:btcarico@mcneilandcompany.com)



## Wanda Isaacs Public Fire Educators Committee

I hope this writing finds everyone well. Since my last writing I have been very busy working on some of our projects. I would like to thank everyone who has filled out the

surveys for our Fire & Life Safety Educator Directory. The directory is coming along quite nicely.

I have been working closely with the Kentucky Safe Aging Coalition. The KSAC is working on making the lives of our older adults safer and more independent. I am looking into taking our work at keeping our older adults safe by getting Remembering When a statewide initiative.

I will be attending the NFPA Public Education Conference June 5-8 in Las Vegas. When I get back I will give a full report and hopefully have lots of ideas for our committee. And I will be assisting in the Basics in Fire & Life Safety Education Programs at the Lexington Fire School.

There will be a committee meeting Friday, June 11 from 4:30-6PM. This meeting will take place immediately following the class in Lexington. After the meeting I will send out a report for those unable to attend.

Remember if there is anything you need help with or if you have any questions feel free to contact me at [pcwanda@fuse.net](mailto:pcwanda@fuse.net).

*At a certain point, you have to go to the edge of the cliff and jump – put your ideas into a form, share that form with others. ~Meredith Monk*

Stay safe & keep educating!

Wanda Isaacs

KFA Public Education Committee Chairman



## 9-11 Commemorative Chin Strap Program

Preparing to Honor, Celebrate and Remember 9-11

### Starts at the Top

Lighthouse Uniform Company, in conjunction with the Kentucky Firefighters Association is introducing the 9-11 Commemorative Chin Strap™ Program to Firefighters in our state.

Designed to retrofit to any existing dress cap, the 9-11 Strap with the red bloodline down the middle serves as a connector to the efforts and heroics of those lost to 9-11.

It also provides a visual and permanent reminder to the next generation of Firefighters and their children that something very momentous took place and if we don't remain vigilant, it will happen again.

In addition, KFA has been designated beneficiary and will receive \$5.00 for each chin strap purchased in Kentucky. The 9-11 Commemorative Chin Strap™ is not available on the open market. You can access the program by going to [www.lighthouseuniform.com/commemorative](http://www.lighthouseuniform.com/commemorative).

Please take this information back to your department. Share the idea of an individual/group, permanent way to honor, celebrate and remember those taken by 9-11.

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## Fireworks 2010

Anyone that lights fireworks is *playing with fire!* Firefighters normally urge parents to teach their kids not to play with matches and lighters, and adults will try to use caution with fire, but fireworks seems to be an exception that many will make. Many people who would never let their six-year old play with a lighter won't think twice about giving them a sparkler to hold on July 4<sup>th</sup>. No fireworks are truly safe, but with educated fire departments, an educated public, and enforceable laws we may improve community safety in the long term.

Unfortunately, the KFA Fireworks Committee efforts at improving state law ended prematurely at this year's legislative session. Despite great work by Mike "Howdy" Kurtsinger, Gerald Stewart, State Fire Marshal William Swope, committee members and others, we were unable to move certain persons to bring the bill out of a House committee. This bill, sponsored by Johnny Bell (D-Warren Co.) would have required fire department notification of storage locations, and greater enforcement capabilities for local and state officials in return for "opening" the State of Kentucky to the retail sale of the entire "Consumer" classification of fireworks. Currently the only legal sale of retail fireworks in Kentucky involves items that "emit showers of sparks" or are novelty items. Items that have the words "explosive," "report," etc., have wings, fins, or are otherwise designed to fly, are not legal for retail sale. Nor, are those prohibited items legal for use in the State of Kentucky except by persons who have filed a lawful permit application. These prohibited types of "Consumer" fireworks require the same permit required for the "Display" classification.

As we enter the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday season, tents will spring up everywhere in the Commonwealth and our border states will advertise heavily that you can get "the good stuff!" from them. This year it

appears that some of the major companies supplying those retail sale fireworks are also going to sell those other items, in Kentucky, as "wholesale" with a waiver to be signed by the purchaser. The waiver reads that the purchaser is buying for transport out of state for use. This is currently legal under Kentucky state law, and we know that some vendors may have the best intent, but in the majority of purchases this appears as a "waiver with a wink." In other words, some vendors may be having you sign the paper so you can buy the good stuff knowing no one is probably going to enforce any law as you use them in Kentucky. No vendor wants anyone to get hurt, or start a fire by accident, but if the fireworks sale was legal in Kentucky the purchaser is on their own to use them legally, and in a safe manner.

Kentucky firefighters have a bit of recourse in that the Building and Fire Codes in Kentucky empower us to ensure that the storage and sale of fireworks can be regulated to lessen public risk. Both sets of codes prohibit any more than 125 lbs. of "Consumer" classification pyrotechnic material in Kentucky occupancies. Some types of occupancies are even more restrictive, but this covers mini-storage warehouses, storage warehouses, retail stores, tents, stands, businesses, etc. If an inspector or fire chief can't determine the specific amount of pyrotechnic material they could estimate this as ¼ of the total weight of the case lot. An easy example would be that a vendor for fireworks in a community could have only twenty 25 lb. cases of consumer fireworks in the entire building (or control area) and still be exempt from a more hazardous building classification.

All "public display" of fireworks (that are not currently legal for retail sale in Kentucky) require a permit application from the fire marshal's office. The Fire Chief, Mayor, County Judge, or other designee has to sign the display permit application. This should mean that those persons are knowledgeable about NFPA 1123 "*Code for Fireworks Display*" and that they have checked the persons conducting the display for competency and liability insurance.

All retail wholesale of fireworks in Kentucky must be in accordance with Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 227, the *International Building Code* and NFPA 1124 "*Code for the Manufacture, Transportation, Storage and Retail Sale of Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles*."

**'Fireworks 2010' continued on page 6**

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### 2010 IFSAC SKILLS TESTING SCHEDULE

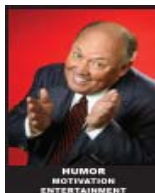
Date	Area	Location	Phone
9/11-12/10	1	Calvert City	888-306-7901
9/18-19/10	13	London	888-234-0100
9/18-19/10	15	TBA	888-234-3961
10/16-17/10	5	Elizabethtown	888-234-7201
Fall TBA	6	TBA	888-306-8064
Fall TBA	7	TBA	888-306-8101
12/11-12/10	4	Bowling Green	888-234-5760

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).

### Homeland Security Conference & 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Kentucky State Fire School June 9 – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Lexington Convention Center, Lexington  
Kentucky

Opening Ceremony Special Speaker  
Carl Hurley June 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM



#### Thursday Only Classes

1. "Meth" Lab Awareness
2. EMS Instructor Orientation
3. Courage To Be Safe
4. Grant Programs of the KY Office of Homeland Security
5. Basic Sprinkler Systems
6. Basic Chaplaincy

#### Friday Only Classes

1. EMS Evaluator
2. Elevator Emergencies
3. Seminar for Chief Officers
4. The Basics of Fire & Life Safety Ed Programs

#### Friday Repeated on Saturday (1 Day Class)

1. Fire Alarms

#### Saturday Only Classes

1. Improving Your Thermal Camera Operations
2. ISO Grading Schedule
3. How to Start A Fire Explorer Program

#### Saturday Class Repeated on Sunday (1 Day Class)

1. ICS 100 Introduction to Incident Command
2. Rail Car Incident Response Class

#### Sunday Only Class

1. Fire Dept. Planning & Response to Weather Related Emergencies

#### Thursday & Friday Repeated Saturday & Sunday (2 Day Class Repeated)

1. Aircraft Firefighting (Bluegrass Airport)
2. F.A.R.M. – Fundamentals of Agricultural Rescue Mechanics
3. Fire Commission Update (New 2009) (NIFIRS & Workers Comp)
4. Sprinklers Inspections

#### Thursday & Friday Only Classes (2 Day Course)

1. NFA Leadership 1

#### Friday & Saturday Only (2 Day Course)

1. Structural Firefighting (House Burn)
2. Advanced Chaplaincy / Firefighter Maintenance

#### Friday, Saturday & Sunday (3 Day Classes)

1. Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Course
2. Intermediate Firefighting – Bread & Butter Boot Camp
3. EMT Refresher
4. Confined Space Rescue
5. NFA Arson Detection for the First Responder
6. Fire Scene Investigations
7. Legal Issues for Fire Investigations
8. Fire Prevention Officer

#### Saturday & Sunday (2 Day Classes)

1. Propane Truck / Bob Tail Truck Fires / Emergencies
2. Pump Maintenance & Testing

3. Big Rig Rescues
4. NFA – Incident Safety Officer
5. NFA – Managing Co. Tactical Operations – Decision Making

Thursday through Sunday (4 Day Classes)

1. Rapid Intervention (RIT) & Mayday Operations
2. Basic Firefighting

**Registration form available on-line at [kyfa.org](http://kyfa.org) on main page.**

**Wednesday, June 9, 2010**

3:00 - 7:00 p.m. *Registration (Entrance at Heritage Hall)*

**Thursday, June 10, 2010**

7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Registration (Entrance at Heritage Hall)*

9:00 - 11:00 a.m. **Opening Ceremony** (*Heritage Hall*) *Dr. Carl Hurley is the key note speaker*

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. *Lunch*

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. *Class*

**Friday, June 11, 2010**

7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Registration (Entrance at Heritage Hall)*

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon *Class*

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. *Lunch*

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. *Class*

4:00 - 8:00 p.m. *Exhibits Open*

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. *Cookout*

7:30 - 8:00 *Door Prizes*

**Saturday, June 12, 2010**

7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. *Registration (Entrance at Heritage Hall)*

8:00 - 11:30 a.m. *Class*

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Exhibits Open / Family Day**

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. *Cookout*

1:30 - 5:00 p.m. *Class*

**Sunday, June 13, 2010**

7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Registration (Entrance at Heritage Hall)*

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon *Class*

12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. *Lunch*

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. *Class*

**Classes are filling up register today so you will get the class you want instead of what's left!**

**Coming Events!****July**

31 – August 3 KFA Conference Louisville

**August**

14 – 15 Firefighter Combat Challenge Lexington Green

28 – 29 Hazard Fire School

**September**

8 – 10 Kentucky Emergency Management Conference Louisville

10 – 13 Pike County Fire School Pikeville

17 – 19 Jefferson County Fire School

13 – 19 State EMS Conference Lexington

29 State Fallen Firefighters Memorial Frankfort

**October**

2 – 3 Meade County Fire School Brandenburg

1 – 3 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Emmetsburg MD

22 – 24 Buffalo Trace Fire School Maysville

23 – 24 Marion County Fire School Lebanon

23 – 24 Green River Fall Fire School Owensboro

28 Dixie FF Assn Memorial Elizabethtown

**November**

6 – 7 Fire & EMS Instructors Conference London

**'Fireworks 2010' continued from page 5**

Fire departments can contact the Kentucky State Fire Marshal's office at 502-573-0382, and can go to the website: <http://dhbc.ky.gov/fp/fw/default.htm> for additional information. Many communities have local fire inspectors that can be a great source of information for their neighbors as well. Likewise, check with your fire inspector prior to taking any action at a fireworks vendor in your area. This can be a complicated issue so we urge fire chiefs or firefighters to call if they have any questions. You can also call me at 270-268-0475 if you need any additional information on the law in Kentucky regarding fireworks. Hoping you have a safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July season!

***Rusty Todd***

KFA Fireworks Committee chair

**Words of Wisdom**

It is difficult to make our material condition better by the best law, but it is easy enough to ruin it by bad laws.

[Theodore Roosevelt](#)



### Notes From Fireman Joe

Spring finally made it and as I look outside my office window I see a beautiful day with lots of good Kentucky Sunshine. I hope everyone is enjoying a beautiful spring day and all in their world is good. I was up in Indianapolis, Indiana last week for the FDIC and as always enjoyed myself seeing all the new tools, trucks and emergency services equipment. As I usually do, got a chance to see some old familiar faces and visit a few friends. I treasure the wonderful friends and contacts I have made over the years and when I get to a school or conference get to see and spend some time with some good comrades.

I expect when the next issue of Smoke Signals comes out it will be time for the Homeland Security Conference and Kentucky State Fire School in Lexington. Looks like an agenda of some excellent programs, activities and some old fashion educational opportunities. I congratulate those who had the insight to move this fabulous school downtown. It has really taken off and another great chance for our emergency service people to get some great training. The KFA Public Education Committee will once again have the Basics of Public Education Class on Friday June 11th. I hope you all will consider sending a member of your department to attend this course. Lots to choose from with many offerings to your interest, likings and needs, check it out.

My friend, Russell Sanders from NFPA always forwards me the latest reports from the Fire Analysis and Research Division and it helps keep me apprised of current statistics and data. I was reading over the Characteristics of Home Fire Victims Report and noticed an interesting statistic. From 1980 to 2007, the share of home fire deaths accounted for by children under age 5 declined from 18% to 9%. I was very glad to read that especially when we have worked so hard over that time period to educate our Kentucky Communities and their children. However, older adults age 65 and over increased from 19% to 29%, a significant increase which I did not want to read about. As age of victim increases, physical disabilities are cited much more frequently than other factors that contribute to injury. In fact, more than one of every three (36%) fatal fire victims never wakes up before being injured. The solution is simple, Smoke Alarms, working smoke alarms, home escape planning, practiced often but more importantly taking special precautions. Escape routes clear of clutter or blocked exits, automatic call alarms, or simply just having the bedroom near an exit. When we

get older, we slow down or have disabilities that limit our egress, be aware and prepare. A big one is don't leave food cooking in the kitchen unattended, it has been proven adults 85 and older are at highest risk of death in fires from cooking equipment. If you smoke, do so in a designated area, preferably outdoors and be cautious of smoking after you have taken your medicine or sit down in that soft easy chair. I guess I never get tired of talking fire safety so I hope I get to see you all in Lexington or around the state, enjoy your summer. Don't forget to sign up for the KFA Conference in Louisville. My good friend President Bobby Cowherd has promised an exceptional conference this year. I'll be there and hope you will too.

GOD BLESS!

*Fireman Joe*

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## The Policy Playbook

By Dave Denniston

Client Training and Education Manager  
Emergency Services Insurance Program

Did you ever wonder why some teams make it to the championship games and others just hang around? We often look to the teams with the most talented players and best equipment to come out on top. Does that always happen? The answer of course is - no it doesn't. If that were the case we could decide the whole season before the first game was played. So what is the difference between the champions and the rest of the league?

I recently asked a training officer if their organization had a policy about seat belt use. "We don't really have policies here, we have understandings" was his reply. "Understandings", that sure is an interesting concept. Think of all the paper, binders or computer storage space we could save if we all just had "understandings" and didn't bother to bog our organizations down with those policies that just seem to get us in trouble or turmoil anyways. My next question was "what is your organization's understanding on seat belts"? There was a long pause before the answer came. It appeared the training officer was trying to figure out what the correct answer was or perhaps even trying to figure out what answer he thought I wanted to hear. "That we should wear them when possible" was the final reply. That seemed like a good answer until I started to wonder what "should" and "possible" meant. The organization had some great people and the best equipment available so maybe a good "understanding" was all they needed to prevent an injury or death. Or was it?



I started asking the employees about their “understanding” of what the organization’s seatbelt stance was. I received several different answers. The answers ranged from “everyone will be seated and belted while the vehicle is in motion” to “the rigs all have them”. It became clear that not everyone here was using seat belts the same way. Your policy manual should be your organization’s playbook on how to do the job.

The sports team goal is to score the most points by the end of the game. The problem is not every player has the same idea on how to accomplish that. When players start to play their own game the team as a whole will suffer. The same is true in emergency services, when your members are left to develop their own “understandings”, chaos will prevail.

Like the sports team your organization needs great people and good equipment. The leadership must become the coach and keep everyone on track. The policy manual must become the playbook to keep us on the same page. Policies, like good plays, can have a limited amount of flexibility that allows the people to adjust as necessary. The final step is training. Good teams don’t go to practice and just throw the ball around. They pull out the playbook, make sure everyone understands their assignment and adjust the plays as necessary. Policies like plays can be adjusted. This should never be done without careful consideration and will need to be justified afterwards, but don’t allow a unique situation or bad policies cause you to fail your mission.

It can be extremely entertaining to watch a group of children play a game where not all the players have the same “understanding” of how to win the game. Unfortunately when all the players in emergency services don’t have the same understanding on how we do the job the result is often catastrophic including injury and death. In sports the difference between winning and losing can mean a championship ring on your finger. In this business the difference can be having the finger left to put it on. Hopefully we all have a better “understanding” of the need for solid policies.

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## THE COURAGE TO BE SAFE

[www.everyonegoeshome.com](http://www.everyonegoeshome.com)

Chief Marc A. Muench, EGH State Advocate

[marc.muench@florence-ky.gov](mailto:marc.muench@florence-ky.gov)

Cell 859 991-0721

In this issue of “Smoke Signals” we will address Life Safety Initiative #8 as it relates utilizing new technologies in the fire service.

## **Initiative #8 "Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety"**

If you’ve opened a fire related magazine lately, you know that there are an incredible number of products being advertised. Each month brings another batch of “New and Improved” fire service equipment. If you happen to go to an exhibit such as the FDIC in Indianapolis, you may walk away with your head spinning from all of the different types of equipment being offered. Most of these new tools have their merit but unfortunately, it seems that any equipment that is associated with the fire service is expensive...very expensive. It would be nice to be able to afford each and every new gizmo that comes down the line but the truth is, all of us have a budget and most departments must pick and chose what they can and cannot afford. When these decisions need to be made, much consideration needs to be given to equipment that will provide firefighters with a higher level of health and safety. Two such pieces of equipment are Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC) and Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS).

TIC’s were developed for military use in the late 1980’s and have been very successfully adapted to the fire service. They use infrared radiation to literally “see through” smoke, making it much easier to identify victims, to locate the seat of a fire, to look for potential collapse situations and to seek emergency means of egress for firefighters. TIC’s are without a doubt the greatest tool to be made available to firefighters since SCBA. They allow us to operate more safely in a very dangerous environment. Original costs of TIC’s were prohibitive but have come down to the point that if a department cannot afford one outright, community and business fundraising should make it possible for a department to own at least one. Having TIC capabilities should be a priority for every department.

Manpower issues? What if you could increase the firefighting effectiveness of a crew advancing one 1 ¾” line to that of three 1 ¾” lines. That is effectively what Compressed Air Foam Systems can do. CAFS has been used by fire departments in Europe for many years and it’s effectiveness in knocking down fire, “cleaning” smoke and preventing rekindle is gaining a lot of fans. In addition, when properly used CAFS can significantly reduce water damage as it has the potential to use much less water. CAFS can be very expensive...nearly \$40,000 for a full blown system on a piece of apparatus however there are smaller

***“The Courage To Be Safe” continued on next page***

systems available that give crews the capability of a good initial “knock-down” at a fraction of the cost. Bottom line is that CAFS allows you to fight more fire with fewer resources thus allowing for safer operations.

Next on the horizon? How about an SCBA that is only 4" high off your back and weighs half as much as the one you are wearing today. Stay tuned.

Much of the technological effort being put toward the fire service today is in keeping firefighters safe on the fire ground. We owe it to our firefighters to purchase equipment that is up to date with current NFPA standards and when possible to incorporate new technologies. Start with your PPE and then purchase other equipment as you can afford it. Adopting modern technology will help assure that each of us “Keeps Going Home, After Each Run and After Each Shift.”



## National Volunteer Fire Council

Ken Knipper, Director    Bryant Stiles, Alternate

Bryant and I just returned from the NVFC Spring Board Meeting that was held in Washington. Both of us were very busy trying to keep up with the twenty three (23) different committee meetings. The NVFC is strongly representing your best interests.

To give you an idea of the respect federal agencies and others have for the NVFC we had the following speak to us during this meeting. Glenn Gaines, Deputy US Fire Administrator; Tim O'Dowd, Fire Program Specialist, USFA; Tim Manning, Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness, DHS; Elizabeth Harman, Assistant Administrator for Grant Programs, DHS; Drew Dawson, Director NHTSA Office of EMS; and Victor Esch, Fire Program Specialist, DHS/FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. We also heard from Sara Yerkes, Senior VP of Government Relations, International Code Council, about the new collaboration between the ICC and the NVFC. Duane Putman, Director Employers – Coalitions Organizations and Associations, Pfizer, Inc. also spoke about the new smoking cessation program Pfizer and the NVFC are producing.

The NVFC continues to be in good financial condition and able to meet its commitments. A budget of over 2.5 Million was passed for the following year. One of the reasons is that the NVFC is producing great programs and federal agencies and commercial organizations are taking note. Take a look at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org) to see what is available to you.

A major step was taken by the NVFC at this meeting when the Board voted to establish an EMS Section within the NVFC. This change will open up the NVFC for greater participation by both fire based and non-fire based departments that provide EMS services to their community. Since 1992 the NVFC has steadily increased its participation in the development of EMS programs. This past year I attended meetings with sixteen different EMS organizations or associations. In addition I have spent hundreds of hours on conference calls dealing with a wide range of issues. Of particular note is that I am a member of a USFA steering committee at the National Fire Academy looking at every fire leadership course to see if EMS leadership and management material can be added to those courses or whether new courses will need to be developed. If you have any questions or comments on any EMS issue, do not hesitate to contact me at (859) 462-9056.

While in Washington there were a couple of other events Bryant and I were able to take part in. We attended the Congressional Fire Services Institute event, and, along with other Kentucky fire organizations and leadership, met with Kentucky's Congressmen and staffers to discuss issues relevant to Kentucky fire service issues. Along with representatives from the IAFF and IAFC I represented the NVFC on a panel that presented information on the work of the Fire Based Advocates for EMS Coalition.

As I mentioned the International Code Council (ICC) and the NVFC are working on a new program. The ICC received a \$133,000 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant from the Department of Homeland Security to implement a program to reduce **ru-ral** community fire hazards and other potential dangers in residential homes. Due to his involvement Bryant would be the person to contact regarding this program. Kentucky departments should be interested in finding out what the program can offer.

One other function I was able to attend was the 1st Annual “EMS on the Hill Day” held the Tuesday after the NVFC meeting. I was the only Kentucky representative and I was able to meet all but one of our congressmen or staffers. The main issues I presented were support for a separate stream of funding for EMS apart Medicare and from fire and agriculture grants and increasing the Medicare transportation payments by 6% to equal what the actual transportation cost has been proven to be.

*‘The NVFC report’ continued on page 13*

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## FOR SALE



For sale a 1985 Chevy 1800 gal. tanker. It has a 3208 Cat. Engine and an automatic Transmission. The tank is metal. Call me at the firehouse @ 859-356-3434 8am to 3pm Mon -Fri or you can e-mail me at [chiefjshoemaker@rocketmail.com](mailto:chiefjshoemaker@rocketmail.com). This is an excellent truck and we are pricing it to sell. Jim Shoemaker, Fire Chief, Kenton Fire District

## NEW ARRIVALS

The following 2 trucks were delivered by **Wynn Fire Equipment, LLC**



Payneville Fire Department: Has taken delivery of a 2009 Wynn 300 Series Chevrolet Rescue with a 12' Aluminum Rescue Body, 4 x 4, 9500# Winch, LED Emergency Lighting, and other equipment.



South Shore Volunteer Fire Department: Has taken delivery of a 2009 Wynn 300 Series Chevrolet Rescue with a 12' Aluminum Rescue Body, 4 x 4, LED Emergency Lighting, Roll-up Doors, and other miscellaneous equipment.



Eastwood Fire Protection District in Jefferson County has taken delivery of a 2010 Toyne *Quad* on a Spartan Metro Star Chassis. The unit features a truck company complement of ground ladders, a 2000 GPM Waterous Pump, 600 gallon tank, Class A & B FoamPro single point injection system, a 15 KW Harrison hydraulic generator set and 9000 watt light tower. Congratulations to Chief Brent Davenport and the Eastwood Fire Protection District as they continue to improve the safety of their community. The unit was sold by High Tech Rescue, Shelbyville Ky.



In December the City of Wilder placed a Sutphen Rescue/Pumper into service. It has 8person seating capacity, a 1750 GPM pump with a 750 gallon water and 30 gallon class A foam tanks. It also came with a 10kw hydraulic generator which powers our Holmatro Core Rescue System as well as a 9000 KW Command Light Tower. Picture of apparatus was used with permission from Tim Davis c/o [cincyfireapparatus.com](http://cincyfireapparatus.com)

## Words of Wisdom

In a moment of decision the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing. [Theodore Roosevelt](#)



**Smoke Signals Input**

Greg Lowe

Vice Chairman Kentucky State Fire Commission and Chairman, Loan Committee

Most of you know that the Fire Commission has a low interest rate loan program to assist fire departments in purchasing equipment, vehicles, etc. As chairman of the Loan Committee, I can tell you that the number of loan requests that we receive has decreased significantly in the last several years. This is due in part to the availability of grant funds from the Federal Government which obviously requires no payback. It appears that those funds are being decreased in these tough economic times and grants may not be as plentiful as they have been in the past. As an alternative to the grants I urge you to investigate a loan with the commission. We have money to lend and are in the process of increasing the maximum amount that can be loaned to \$100,000. My hard working committee will do everything possible to have your loan approved. Call Casey Drury at 1-800-782-6823 at the commission office if you need help with the application process.

The new system for entering training hours is in place and now a fact of life for all of us in the fire service in Kentucky. Admittedly there have been some bugs in the initial start up of the system but they have been worked or are in the process of being resolved. It is a good sound system and the output from it will be as good as what we input in to it. Like many of you, I wasn't sure about it at first because I had become very familiar with the old system. The more I use it, the better I like it. It has many more features than the old system. Paul Adams and Mary Adams have worked hard to make the system user friendly and work out any bugs. Initially they were inundated with calls and messages but that high of calls has tapered off somewhat. They do return calls and messages but you MUST be patient. They are dealing with over 800 departments and must deal with calls and messages as they receive them plus conduct their mobile training classes in the field. One or two departments have actually been abusive to Mary when calling to resolve an issue. That, in my opinion, is inexcusable. Mary is one of the most helpful, kind, unassuming people on the commission staff. Treat her with the kindness and dignity that she deserves and you will see amazing results. If you are not getting the assistance you need, please call me at 270-765-7656 or at 270-268-0226 and I will work the issue for you with our commission chairman, James Riddle or with Ronnie Day, the Executive Director.

**'NVFC Report' continued from page 11**

Lastly, I want to call your attention to a White Paper produced by the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association in cooperation with the USFA. This Paper is titled "Fire Service Reputation Management" and deals professionally with a growing fire service problem that is eroding public trust in the fire service. It was edited by Mike Wieder, IFSTA, and is well worth reviewing.

Thanks to Bryant, we presented Heather Schafer, NVFC Executive Director, a Kentucky Colonel certificate. She wanted to know if that elevated her above the NVFC Chairman.

Bryant and I received 15 year service pins from the NVFC and continue to do our best to serve the best interests of the KFA and Kentucky's firefighters and EMS personnel at the national level. It is an honor and an obligation we both take seriously.

**"Conference Info" continued from front page**

**Conference Location:** Holiday Inn Hurstbourne, Louisville, Kentucky.

**Dates:** July 31st through August 3rd, 2010. You can make reservations by calling 502-426-2600. When calling to make reservations, be sure to mention that you are with KFA 2010. The Golf Scramble will be held **Monday August 2, 2010 Lunch at 12:00pm - Shotgun start at 1:00pm Charlie Vettiner Golf Course Jeffersontown, KY.** For more information on registration, events visit the 2010 KFA Conference Web Site at [www.kfa2010.com](http://www.kfa2010.com).

**Answers to last issues Word Search Puzzle**

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<p>Dove Designs Chris 94 Horizon Loop Monticello KY 42633 <b>888-377-4459</b> www.dovedesigns.com contact@dovedesign.com</p>	<p><b>///EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT</b> MIKE BRADY Res. Equip./Vehicles <b>(859) 359-4502</b> (859) 359-4503 FAX http://www.EEResQ.com E-Mail: EEResQ@cs.com</p>	<p>Emergency Reimbursement Services Inc. Debra Murphy 215 McArthur Dr. Louisville KY 40291 <b>502-896-8080</b> dmurphy@ersbilling.com</p>
<p><b>ESIP</b> Emergency Services Insurance Program 20 Church St Cortland, NY 13045 <b>800-822-3747</b> Fax 607-756-6225 wdixon@mcneilandcompany.com</p>	<p>Excellance, Inc. Thomas Pugh 453 Lanier Road Madison, AL 35758 <b>256-772-9321</b></p>	<p>FAAC Inc. Bill Martin 1229 Oak Valley Dr. Ann Arbor MI 48108 <b>734-761-5836</b> Fax <b>734-761-5368</b> wbmartin@faac.com</p>
<p>Fire Apparatus Division S.D.C. Bob Stark 8009 Beulah Church Rd. Louisville KY 40291 <b>502-239-3120</b> sdcfire@iglou.com</p>	<p>Fire Department Service &amp; Supply Jay Trautwein 3920 Bardstown Rd Louisville, KY 40218 <b>800-321-6965</b> Fax 502-491-1487</p>	<p>Gall's 2680 Palumbo Dr. Lexington KY 40509 <b>859-266-7227</b> wells-david@galls.com www.galls.com</p>
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<p>Kentucky Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators Rusty Todd, 630 College Street Elizabethtown KY 42701</p>	<p>Kentucky Office of Homeland Security 300 North Main Street Versailles, KY 40383</p>	<p>MPH Industries John Noblitt 1140 Moselay Street Owensboro, KY 42303 <b>270-685-6302</b> red@shopmph.com</p>

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<p>Plymovent Inc. David Berry 5736 E Day Circle Milford, OH 45150 dave.berry@plymovent.com</p>	<p>Provident Insurance C.J. Bens 272 Alpha Drive Pittsburgh PA 15238 <b>800-447-0360</b> Fax 412-963-0415 Email: cbens@providentbenefits.com</p>	<p>RGC/Public Enity Insurance Michele Finke Barrett 1056 Wellington Way Suite 130 Lexington, KY 40513 <b>888-696-9620</b> mbarrett@roeding.com</p>
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**The Deadline for August issue submission of articles is July 10, 2010**

H F N W J D L T Y T G F N M M D V W Y K N  
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A M E Y Y O N M R R E L T E M K M T T V K  
R N I M L L I K E B K I I I C Y C K L K E  
S R F L E I A J D L C H N S P A H I G N N  
H U Y N K V J E N W B G K P L L L J H W F  
A B A K R E L T O V T E M R T E D E M T N  
L L M D A M K L I O T G R P M Z C L V K Z  
L I T G B Y R O N R C T L J G T M O L O Z  
H M X Q J A L D L K V R W T D O G N I W L  
V K M H B A W R W N Z N W R X V M F C W L

The column to the left is an Area 1 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.

- BARKELYAIRPORTFD
- BARLOWCITY
- CALLOWAYCO
- CARLISLECO
- FAIRDEALINGOLIVE
- FARMINGTON
- HARDINSOUTHMARSHALL
- HENDRON
- HICKMANCO
- LACENTER
- LEDBETTER
- LOVELACEVILLE
- MAYFIELDGRAVESCO
- MCCRACKEN
- MELBER
- MILBURN
- SYMSONIA
- VIOLA
- WESTMCCRACKEN