



The Fire Inspectors Dispatch

SCFIA

VOL. I, NO. 3

SOUTH CAROLINA FIRE INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1994

FIRE DAMAGES

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME

A fire I by a child playing with matches severely damaged a recently constructed Habitat for Humanity home

Columbia This unfortunate situation presented a unique opportunity for the Columbia Fire Prevention Bureau to publicize the need for residential sprinkler protection. Beginning this January the Columbia Fire Prevention Bureau and Crawford Sprinkler Company will combine their resources and retrofit this home with an approved residential sprinkler system This project will provide the City of Columbia Fire Marshal's with first hand experience regarding the design, installation and expense involved in installing a type 13D system The news media will be instrumental in the success of this project and has made a commitment to follow this project through its completion

The comparison of before and after the fire will be graphically illustrated to encourage future installations of residential sprinklers in our community. This coalition consisting of the City of Columbia, Crawford Sprinkler Company and Habitat for humanity exemplifies that fire prevention is a team effort. For further information on this project, contact Fire Marshal C Reich at (803) 733-8350.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

JOHN G. REICH

As the holiday season approaches, the sights and sounds of Christmas joy are in the air. The hustle and bustle of hectic shoppers colorful seasonal decorations and cheerful holiday music are all evidence of the coming celebration. The other night, around 10:00 pm. I stopped at the traffic light at Taylor and Assembly Streets. I observed a line of homeless persons seeking shelter for the night outside the Oliver Gospel Mission. A few seconds later the director placed a sign on the door which read, "Closed." A chorus of discontent rang out from the remaining homeless who were unable to enter for the night. This scene caused me to focus on the real meaning of Christmas and how Mary and Joseph found no room in the inn. As I continued my journey home, I considered the plight of the homeless and suddenly my problems became trivial. I could not resist giving thanks for the many blessings I have and often take for granted -family, friends, shelter and employment. Take the time this season and count your blessings. Reflect upon those who are not as fortunate as yourself and readjust your priorities.

On behalf of the officers and elected officials of the South Carolina Fire Inspector's Association, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

FALL SEMINAR REPORT

The 1994 South Carolina Fire Inspector's Association Fall Conference was held at the Ramada Inn, Columbia, on September 29 and 30. Nearly 100 members and guests attended this educational opportunity. The first day's educational agenda included emphasis on ethical and political considerations of fire inspections and an in-depth perspective on legal considerations. Completing the afternoon session was a presentation on how to utilize the media for best results regarding fire inspections and fire investigations.

The second days program involved a technical review of testing and acceptance of sprinkler and standpipe systems. The afternoon session involved a unique presentation on public fire educational techniques.

Participants enjoyed a catered luncheon, included in the registration fee, on both days. This luncheon gave participants an excellent opportunity to interact with each other and develop ideas for each respective department.

If you not attend this conference, you were missed Please plan ahead to attend the summer conference in June.

STATEWIDE FIRE PREVENTION PARADE

The first annual statewide fire prevention parade was held in Columbia on October 10 1994. The parade, sponsored by the Columbia Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau, was comprised of fifty six fire units and two hundred fire service Representatives from around the state. At the conclusion of the parade participants were treated to a delicious chicken bog luncheon at scenic Riverfront Park The Fire Prevention Week theme. "Test Your Detector For Life," received extensive coverage by the attending news media. Next year's Fire Prevention Week Parade will be held on Monday, October 9, 1995. Please plan to attend this unique event as the parade coordinator has already begun planning the day's activities. For suggestions and comments call Deputy Fire Marshal David Bagwell at 733-8350.



NEWS BRIEFS

The office of the State Engineer requires all new and renovated constructions for state buildings of Group I (Institutional) and Group R (Residential) occupancies, as defined by the Standard Building Code, to be fully sprinklered in accordance with N.F.P.A. 13.

The 1994 Standard Fire Prevention Code requires all new and existing dwellings, including one and two family dwellings to have approved, listed smoke detectors.

The editor of the Fire Inspector's Association Dispatch needs articles and information from its membership to continue publication. If you have recommendations or newsworthy information for publication, contact John Reich at 733-3350.

The South Carolina State Public Fire Education Association has been recently established. The purpose of this association is to unify public fire educators and to enhance public fire education in South Carolina. For information concerning this association, contact Aaron Small, Myrtle Beach Fire Department, (803) 448-3656.

The 1995 Fire Prevention Week will be October 8-14, 1995.

S.C.F.I.A. SUMMER CONFERENCE

Due to a vote of the S.C.F.I.A. membership at the Spring Conference this past May, the 1995 conference will be held June 25 through June 30, 1995. This educational conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The officers of the S.C.F.I.A. are currently developing an excellent program which will include a two-day segment from the Standard Building Code Congress and a one-day program from the National Fire Protection Association. Plan to attend this event to increase your level of expertise.

ARSON ALERT

Despite the comprehensive efforts of local and state agencies, firefighter arson continues to increase. As of December 14, 1994, forty volunteer firefighters have been arrested for arson-related incidents in South Carolina. Last year thirty-six volunteers were arrested for similar offenses. To protect the professionalism and credibility of all firefighters, your assistance is essential. If you have any information concerning these or other arson-related fires, contact 1-800-92-ARSON.

**HELP BURN AN ARSONIST
REWARD OFFERED FOR ARREST AND
CONVICTION
call
ARSON HOT LINE**



SPRINKLER RESOLUTION

A newly formed committee established for the purpose of

coordinating a national campaign for the installation of sprinkler systems in newly constructed manufactured housing has begun. The South Carolina State Firemen's Association, South Carolina Fire Chief's Association, and the Joint Council of South Carolina Fire Service Associations have begun the grass-roots movement by each approving resolution below. They are requesting that every state fire service association, regional association, county association, and individual fire department adopt the resolution; complete and return to the Association Office. Every organization adopting this resolution will receive an "Ad Pack" and video for local use.

The state campaign will be repeated across the nation by coordinating with each State Firemen's and Fire Chief's Association, as well as every national fire service association. All resolutions will be compiled and a delegation will present them to the National Fire Caucus at the Congressional Fire Service Institute Dinner in April, 1995.

The following mission statement identifies the committee's purpose and the accompanying resolution will be used to document fire service support.

MISSION STATEMENT

To develop and implement a strategy that will reduce deaths, injuries and property loss due to fire in manufactured housing by effecting a change in the federal standards enforced by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to require the installation of residential sprinkler systems in all new manufactured homes.

MANUFACTURED HOUSING SPRINKLER RESOLUTION

"Whereas, South Carolina is a national leader in fire deaths and injuries per capita; and

"Whereas, the number of fire deaths and injuries in this country is disproportionately higher in mobile home dwellings than in regular housing structures; and

"Whereas, large numbers of mobile homes serve as primary single-family dwellings in South Carolina; and

"Whereas, the South Carolina State Fireman's Association is dedicated to the continuous prevention of fire and fire deaths in all buildings and structures; and

"Whereas, fire protection and fire sprinkler systems for mobile homes have been proven reliable, affordable, cost effective and able to prevent loss of life.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved by the General Assembly of the delegates of the South Carolina State Firemen's

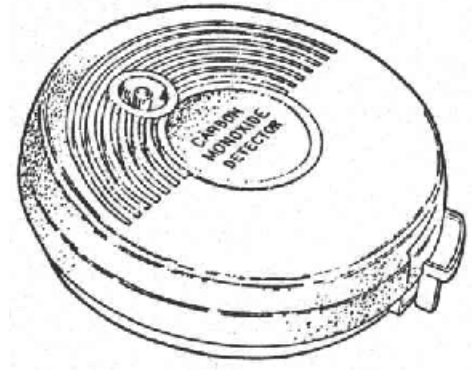
Association, duly assembled at its annual conference on August 4th through 6th, 1994, at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, that the Association wholly supports such

activities that will continue to educate leaders in manufactured housing and their regulating agencies as to the advantages of fire protection systems in mobile homes

"Be it further resolved that the Association supports action~ leading to the development of legislation to require t~ installation of fire sprinkler systems in mobile homes an~ supports any and all manufacturers who voluntarily

commit to the development and installation of fire protection equipment in mobile homes."

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS



Technical Update

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, poisonous gas that kills thousands of Americans each year. Sometimes called the silent killer, carbon monoxide cannot be detected by the human senses. Installation of a carbon monoxide detector is the only way to alert you to increasingly dangerous levels of CO before tragedy strikes.

WHERE DOES CO ORIGINATE

CO is produced as a result of incomplete combustion when fuel burning sources malfunction, or are not properly ventilated. Appliances that may be a source of CO include furnace, kitchen stove, water heater, fireplace, kerosene heater, grill, and car. CO is even a greater issue now due to energy efficient homes implementing added insulation, weather-proofing, caulking and thermopane windows. These energy savers create a tight seal and increase the existing CO problem in your home.

IN EVENT OF ALARM

Only in rare cases will CO detectors activate a false alarm. If the alarm should activate, turn off sources of CO such as kerosene heater or stoves and open windows and doors to ventilate structure. Leave premises and account for all occupants. Notify local utility company or service company to clear home of CO levels. If any symptoms of CO poisoning are encountered, consult a physician.

SYMPTOMS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Carbon monoxide enters the body during the normal breathing process. CO, like oxygen collects in the lungs and combines with red blood cells. As CO is denser than oxygen, it prevents the flow of oxygen to the heart, brain and other vital organs. In short, carbon monoxide suffocates your body. In high concentrations CO may be fatal in just minutes. Symptoms of CO include headache, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, drowsiness, confusion and fast heart rate. Extreme exposure may cause unconsciousness, convulsions, heart and lung failure, brain damage or death. It has been reported that pets, pregnant women and young children show the earliest signs of CO exposure.

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS - NEW TECHNOLOGY

After years of research, CO detectors are now available in local hardware and department stores for approximately \$40.00. These detectors monitor the air constantly and are designed to alarm only when CO is present. A CO detector measures CO levels with exposure time. It will sound its alarm if CO levels are extremely high for a short period of time and sound the alarm if CO is present in minimum amounts for a long period of time. Similar to smoke detectors, the more the better. If only one detector is installed, it should be located in the hall leading to the bedrooms. Additional units are recommended in each bedroom, areas where the family spends most of its time, and the areas where CO sources are located. Install detectors at least five feet above the floor, preferably on the ceiling toward the center of the room.

CO units should be tested weekly by holding the test button for twenty seconds. An alarm will sound for ten seconds afterwards. Dust and vacuum detector annually. The sensor pack (battery and sensor) should be replaced every two years. Do not install CO detectors in or near cooking appliances and bathrooms.

CONCLUSION

Twenty-five years ago less than one percent of Americans were protected by residential smoke detectors. As smoke detectors have proven themselves to be reliable life protectors, most people would not even consider sleeping in a structure not protected by smoke alarms. Carbon Monoxide detectors will undoubtedly follow a similar path. Millions of Carbon Monoxide detectors will be sold when consumers realize that carbon monoxide is the leading cause of death by poisoning in the United States. For less than forty dollars it appears to be a 'Sound Investment.'

SOUTH CAROLINA FIRE INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

(Federal ID No. 57-0956234)

I hereby enclose herewith my dues for membership in the South Carolina Fire Inspectors Association.

Active Membership.....\$25.00

Associate Membership.....\$50.00

Name _____

Position _____

Organization _____

Telephone (W) _____ (H) _____

Address _____

City/State Zip _____

DOB / / SS No. _____

Email. _____

Please make check payable to the Sc Fire Inspectors Association and return to Assistant Chief Joe L. Medlock, SCFIA. 4212 Ladson Road. Ladson. South Carolina 29456.

OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES

The objectives and purposes of this Association shall be: (A) To unite for mutual benefit those public officials and private persons engaged in fire ins-on and prevention of fires; (B) To provide for exchange of technical information and developments; (C) To cooperate with other inspection agencies and associations to further fire prevention, fire inspections and life safety protection; and (D) To encourage a high professional standard of conduct among fire inspectors and to continually strive to eliminate all factors which interfere with administration of fire prevention, inspections, and life safety protection.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are in order to Deputy Fire Marshal Carlous Wilder of the Columbia Fire Department. Carlous has recently passed the S.C. State Inspector's Asbestos exam and is the first licensed asbestos inspector for the Columbia Fire Department. This certification was necessary to expedite the demolition of condemned structures by the Fire Prevention Bureau and assist this department in training evolutions involving the burning of structures. Anyone having any questions regarding asbestos or who is interested in attaining this education is encouraged to call Carlous at 733-8350.

SOUTH CAROLINA FIRE INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

In order to maintain strength and stability in any organization growth must occur. If you know anyone who is engaged in tire inspection and or fire prevention endeavors, forward a copy of the above membership application to this individual.

Remember this organization's purpose is to unite persons with mutual interest in fire prevention and fire inspections. This may include building inspectors, architects, engineers, insurance representatives, government officials, educators, etc.

Remember the old adage, "*There is Strength in Numbers.*"



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