

October 2005  
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Congratulations to Terry Conner in the Fire Prevention Bureau who is now a Certified Missouri State Fire Inspector!



**Three Practical Tips In Case of Fire**

Leaving a fire scene quickly is key to a safe escape and smoke alarms are the first line of defense. Be sure to have smoke alarms with working batteries on every level of your home. Also, have an escape plan for your family and practice it so that it is your family's second nature in case of a fire.



2005 City Expo—11:00—1:30 p.m., Saturday, October 29, at the City Hall. Trick or treating at designated locations on the Square from noon 'til 2:00 p.m. followed by the 57th Annual Halloween Parade at 2:00.

**CERT**

**WHAT IS CITIZEN CORPS?**

If you're like me, you have not been familiar with what the Citizen Corps is all about. Most are familiar with the Neighborhood Watch program, some with Volunteers in Police Training (VIPS) and all should now know what Citizen's Emergency Response Training (CERT) is. What is "Citizen Corps" and where did it come from?



Mark Widner (right)

After the 2001 terrorist attacks on America, national security was strengthened on many levels, including calling on all citizens to prepare for emergencies and to be attentive in their own neighborhoods about what is going on there.

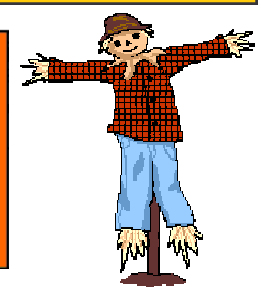
Those volunteer programs already in existence (Neighborhood Watch, VIPS, and CERT) would be united together under a new plan called "Citizen Corps."

The existing programs didn't change but a couple of new programs have been added to the Citizen Corps: 1) Medical Reserve Corps and 2) Fire Corps.

Mid-America Regional Council operates the Medical Reserve Corps and recruits retired and active medical professionals such as doctors, nurses, and technologists, to volunteer should it become necessary because of an extensive health care emergency.

Submitted by Georgie Waldrop

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**  
 Did you know that 1/3 of American households who estimated the time they thought they would have for escape from a home fire was at least six minutes? That time is often much less. Only 8% said that their first thought upon hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!



**HOT SPOTS**

OCTOBER 2005

**INDEPENDENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Fire Prevention Week October 9-15** Chief Inspector Musquiz

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It all started in October of 1871 when a fire devastated the city of Chicago, Illinois, causing 250 deaths, leveling 18,000 buildings,



candle without human supervision is a disaster waiting to happen. In Independence the last few months, we have had several homes damaged and three left uninhabitable as a result of misuse by either children or adults. If you use candles in your home, follow this safety advice:

- Never leave a candle unattended.
- Place candles on stable furniture, in sturdy holders that will catch dripping wax.
- Keep candles away from all things that can catch fire.
- Place candles on high furniture where they won't be knocked over by children or pets.
- Never place lit candles in windows.
- Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.

Remember, to "Use Candles with Care" and when you go out, blow out!



**SAFETY FIRST!**



Test your Smoke Detectors Every Week!

**OCTOBER Safety Reminders**

With October come Halloween and costumes. Take care to look for "flame resistant" labels on any costumes, masks, beards, or wigs. Also, try to avoid outfits made of flimsy material with billowing skirts or big, baggy sleeves. These are more likely than tighter fitting costumes to come into contact with an exposed flame, such as a candle. Finally, when decorating and getting into the "spirit" of the holiday, keep candles, pumpkins with candles, matches and lighters out of children's reach. Let's make this season a safe one!

**CONGRATULATIONS**

to Chet Carman and his wife on the arrival of their baby son, Owen David, who weighed in at 7 lbs. 4 oz. and was 19.3" long. He made his entrance in August!



The problems begin when a candle is left unattended or burning while someone sleeps. Like a cigarette or a pan on a stove, a burning

# RETURNING FROM THE GULF COAST

by Georgie Waldrop

Our teams from IFD returned from the gulf coast on Tuesday, October 4, 2005, and I was able to sit down with Asst. Chief Krickle and FEO Beissenherz to talk with them about their experiences.

Their original destination was to Dallas to meet with a representative from FEMA. AC Krickle and FEO Beissenherz contacted Dallas to get details of their meeting place and learned that FEMA had not yet notified their reps of the large number of fire fighters that were headed that way. Upon their arrival, FEO Beissenherz suggested Chief Krickle step up to the plate to help with organizing the volunteers into 10 teams of 10 men each with team leaders assigned. Their contact with FEMA was more than willing to receive this help. Chief Krickle said that the most rewarding part of this deployment was to see how well these fire fighters and team leaders worked together with no arguing.

They were sent to Orlando to attend some classes before returning to Dallas. After the first week or so, communications as to what was happening and what was needed was much improved as AC Krickle was invited to the "after day reviews."

There were 50 different organizations set up there including Social Security, Post Office, and Driver's License Bureau. Every day, they helped with trying to get people moved to the correct places for the

services they needed.

FEO Brian Beissenherz shared that he had met a young man who had recently received a speeding ticket that he had planned to fight, from Tennessee. Obviously, he couldn't locate the ticket and had no idea what county that ticket was received from and his fear was that he would get "settled" only to have a bench warrant out for his arrest and be taken to jail.

Beissenherz also said that he felt as if he was an "extra" in the movie "Groundhog Day." Each day was the same and one day ran into the next. Every day he heard stories from people who had tragedies to share and needed an ear to listen and hope that there was a future out there for them. One man told him that the crowded shelter he was staying in was "heaven...he'd already been to hell."

We see our fire fighters regularly showing their heroics on their jobs here at home but for this mission, it took much more than heroics, it took compassion. After seeing the "shelters" that thousands of people were living in with their "taped off areas," all nearly on top of each other, the fire fighters there wanted to do whatever they could to make things better for these people.

FEO Beissenherz said that one of his most rewarding experiences was hearing the cheers of those fire fighters who were worn out and hadn't been home in days as the buses he had helped to load with people from

nursing homes being taken to other places to be cared for were pulling away. This made such a difference to his state of mind.

AC Krickle mentioned that "This was the biggest displacement of people in the United States since the Civil War." Each day they had to mentally prepare themselves for what they were going to face.

Beissenherz stated that he had to "put up an emotional wall" to handle all of it. He said that AC Krickle, on the other hand, was the guy who was able to sit down with people, listen to them, and let them cry.

I know that all of us are proud of our fire fighters (FEO Beissenherz, Captain Gilfoy, AC Krickle, Captain Kurtz, FEO Baker, and FF Willet) who put their lives and families on hold to serve in a part of the country that was completely destroyed to do all they could for a people who felt they were without hope.



More to come on this in the next edition.



# NEW SUTPHEN LADDER TRUCKS

On August 30-September 1st, Independence Fire picked up and had a final inspection of the city's second new Sutphen ladder truck. According to Captain John Greene, we plan to have a whole fleet of Sutphens. These trucks are used by most of the

metropolitan Kansas City area and suburb's Fire Departments. They also met with engineers to do pre-construction for 3 new pumpers that are on order and expected to be ready for delivery in March 2006.



Pictured left to right: Jim Bartholomew (sales rep), Craig Sorgen, John Greene, Drew Stuphen (President and CEO), and Jim Buckingham

## NEWS FROM A FELLOW STATION IN NEW JERSEY

### SKINNY FIREFIGHTER SAVES TODDLER FROM HOLE - Westfield, N.J

A New Jersey fire fighter, teased for being skinny, has rescued a toddler stuck in a 10 inch wide hole.

The Newark Star-Ledger reports Jim Pfeiffer was called on to save John Michael Butterfield, 16 months old, Monday, from the 9-foot-deep hole after other fire fighters tried but were too big.

Butterfield fell into a gap surrounding half finished floodlights for tennis courts in Tamaques Park in Westfield, N.J.

Pfeiffer stripped down to pants and a t-shirt and was lowered down the hole with ropes tied to his waist and ankles.

Butterfield was taken to Overlook Hospital in Summit, N.J. and was released with minor cuts and bruises.

Pfeiffer said he used to get teased by fellow fire fighters for his 6 ft. 1 in., 160 pound frame, but not any more.



### YOU KNOW YOU'RE A FIRE FIGHTER IF....

...you have ever taken 10 or more showers in 1 day.

...you have ever been airborne without an aircraft and water was your thrust.



rvtech.com

..you have ever slept in a hose bed.

### 2004 National Fire Fighter Fatality Report

103 on-duty deaths  
47% - heart attack by nature  
50% - overexertion and stress

Good physical fitness and healthy lifestyle can reduce these numbers.



### Where Are They Now?

Captain Rick Winship is on pumper 2B.

Captain Paul Yotz will be reassigned as relief Captain on A Shift.