

# HOT SPOTS

## DOCUDRAM AT WILLIAM CHRISMAN Inspector Tom Wade

A docudrama was held on April 20th at William Chrisman High School.



The purpose of this docudrama is to impress on the high school students the dangers of drinking and driving.

A mock crash is set up with



students acting as the drivers and victims, and emergency crews acting as if this were a real scene and in real time.

After "rescues" are completed "living" victims are removed to ambulances and helicopters while "dead" victims are removed by the County Morgue staff.



Following the outside activities, the students attend the "funeral" for one of the victims who "died in the scenario."

Having witnessed several of these, I find student actions pretty similar. They start out laughing and joking and become quiet when they realize this could be real.

## MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING TO OPEN SOON

Inspector George Turvill

The Medical Office Building is planning an open house for the Outpatient Services and Medical Office Building on May 31. Outpatient Services is scheduled to have a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 2.

The Ambulatory section is scheduled to have their final the 2nd or 3rd week of August, with the keys being turned over to them during the last week of August. They are actually scheduling surgeries to begin the first week in September.



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## LIFTING SAFELY

Chief Joe Lay

Each of us performs lifting at home or at work. How we perform these lifts is crucial if we are to remain healthy. Safe lifting is a function of being properly trained and using common sense.

Each year, thousands of workers injure their backs at home and on the job. It's a sad fact that most of these injuries could be prevented if just a few simple rules were followed.

### How to lift and carry safely:

- Stand close to the load.
- Grip firmly with your hands...not just your fingers.
- Perform a "test lift." If the load is too heavy, get additional help.
- Bring the load close to your body for extra power and less strain.
- Let your legs do the work. Lift your head and shoulders first; then let your legs

push your body up slowly and smoothly in a deliberate manner.

- Refrain from carrying heavy loads while walking.

### Unloading safely:

- Face the spot you have chosen and lower the load slowly.
- Bend your knees. Let your legs, not your back, do the work.



- Keep your fingers away from the bottom surface of the load.

### Special situations and special solutions:

- Stand on a platform, not a ladder, if additional elevation is required.
- Lift the load in sections or pieces if possible.
- Get help for awkward objects or in the event the load is too heavy.
- Grip the top outside and bottom inside corners.
- Never twist your torso while lifting.

Back injuries can be prevented with a little planning and thought. However, if you are injured at work, inform your supervisor immediately to obtain the proper medical attention. Perform warm-up and stretching exercises daily before lifting.

The health of your back is too important to be left to chance.

## CERT DOES TRIAGE

by Bruce Luedeman

On May 6, 2006, a half day CERT Medical Triage Exercise was held at Blue River Community College.

The program, coordinated by Mark Widner, had about twenty participants attend from Jackson and Platte Counties in Missouri and Wyandotte County in Kansas. Volunteers acting as victims

included 7 people from Citizen Corps plus thirteen Police Academy cadets.

Two pre-exercise briefings were done covering the intent of triage and how to handle blood borne pathogens. Exercises were then completed to include a terrorist explosion at a shopping mall

(which also included a hidden secondary device) as well as a narrow space medical triage utilizing an Independence school bus. Post program participant evaluations proved to be very encouraging.

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### THE "THANKS" KEEP ON COMING!!

A voice mail was left recently by a woman expressing her thanks and appreciation for Fire Captain Ed Beaty, Fire Fighter Craig Johnson and Fire Fighter Scott Harris for the manner in which they assisted her on a medical call recently stating, "their response was awesome" and "super job."

Also was a letter received concerning Captain David Hacker, FEO L. Horne and FF J. Heater. It reads:

*"Dear Firemen, I am so slow in sending this thank you—possibly the incident has escaped your minds, but I will always remember your kindness when you answered the call due to my fall in the AMC*

*Theatre in Independence Center. The three of you were so patient for I was in so much pain and it came through as if you had all the rest of the day for me to tell you it was alright to carry me out. You all were so gentle and kind. You certainly are the unsung heroes—not only that time but when my house on 26th Terrace caught fire during the ice storm in 2002. You were among those that answered the call. Your quick response kept my home, although sustaining a lot of smoke damage and some structural. But it was repaired, sold in 2 day's time and I have been in my comfortable condo for almost 2 years! Thank you. I truly*

*appreciate your services. You do wonderful work. When I hear a fire truck, I pray God will keep all of you safe. God bless,  
Eileen Stevens"*

Fire Prevention continues to get kudos from customer surveys taken: "patient, professional, helpful...thank you."

Speaking of Inspector Minnetta Isaacks, "very nice...tell her thank you!"

Of Inspector Tom Wade, "Inspector Wade did a great job with our students. We look forward to him coming back and giving presentations next year."

Way to go!

### DATES IN I.F.D. HISTORY *Thanks to the Independence 76ers*

- June 1, 1901—Hose Wagon collides with buggy on Square
- June 14, 1955—Fog nozzles placed in service
- June 18, 1883—J. Larkin & Son paid \$5.00 for hauling engine to fire
- June 19, 1899—Swope Mansion fire
- June 21, 1963—McIntosh VW \$200,000 fire
- June 23, 1949—Two \$14,000 Seagrave Engines purchased
- July 1, 1918—Horse drawn apparatus of Firehouse No. 1 replaced by White motorized combination chemical/hose wagon costing \$4,200
- July 4, 1898—I.F.D. hitches, runs, and throws hose stream in 30 seconds
- July 5, 1928—New firehouse HQ placed in service on N. Main
- July 12, 1957—I.F.D. fights fire in Courthouse attic
- July 15, 1952—Firehouses Nos. 3 & 4 placed in service
- July 16, 1952—New Seagrave aerial performs first rooftop rescue
- July 17, 1951—Citizens approve \$160,000 F.D. bond issue
- July 18, 1964—Firehouse No. 8 placed in service
- July 25, 1952—I.F.D. declared model department by visiting Mayors and Fire Chiefs
- July 26, 1961—Independence Drug Co. \$20,000 fire



# HOT SPOTS

INDEPENDENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

JUNE 2006

### Fire Fighter of the Year....Again!

For the 2nd time in his almost 19 years in the Department, Captain John Greene, was awarded the "Fire Fighter of the Year" award which was presented to him at the Lakewood Country Club. He stated that he didn't really feel he deserved it since he hasn't done something he considers to be "heroic" but that he appreciates the honor of being selected. We, the support staff at the department, feel that he, as well as all of you who put your lives at risk for us every day, deserve to be honored. Congratulations John!



### NATIONAL EMS WEEK—May 14-20

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The 33rd annual Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, sponsored by the American College of Emergency Physicians, was celebrated May 14-20, 2006.

The theme for this year is "EMS: Serving on Health Care's Front Line." The theme emphasizes the fact that many of these men and women who serve as EMS providers are often the first on the scene of disasters, motor vehicle collisions or other events that could place them in a hazardous environment, says president of ACEP, Dr. Frederick Blum. He also stated, "It's important that we take the time to honor these front line medical responders for often going above and beyond the call of duty to save lives, while risking their own."

The City of Independence recognized their EMS workers which includes fire fighters, ambulance personnel and police officers, at the City Council meeting held on May 15, 2006.

AMR recognized the following Fire Dept. personnel for their assistance at 7 different medical alarms involving cardiac arrest victims. All 7 of them resulted in "Code Saves". The

standard for "Code Save" is that a pulse-less, non-breathing patient is admitted to the ER and is admitted past the ER to ICU with a pulse.

Here are the Fire personnel that were recognized:

Capt. John VanSittert, FEO Brian Barker, FF John Ochoa, FF Josh Carrick, Capt. Robert Kurtz, FEO Curtis Norman, Capt. Richard Webb, FEO Bart Jones, FEO Don Moritz, FF Mikael Sullivan, FF Don Delano, Capt. Kevin Newman, FEO Russell Love, FF Robert Hawes, Capt. Tim Walker, FF William Rexford, FF Tim Fiala, FEO Richelle Basgall, FF Chet Carman, FF Devin Jones, FF Mykael Ann McGinley, Capt. Aaron McNabb, FEO Jeff Keogh, FF Michael Stitt, Capt. Ricky Couch, FEO David Nichol, FEO Paul Fisher, FF Jason Bartek, FF Mark Biggs, FEO Michael Cangelosi, FF Derek Morris, FF Shawn Hill, FEO Donnie Rickman, FF Ryan Laux, and FF Lee Kelly.

National EMS Week has been established to recognize the hard work and life saving efforts provided by EMS personnel across the nation.