

October 2005

950 N. Spring
Independence, MO 64050

Phone: 325-7121
Fax: 325-7120

HOT SPOTS

Dates in History to Remember...

- April 1, 1962—IFD begins three platoon work schedule.
- April 4, 1950—A friend of the fire service, R.P. Weatherford, Jr., is elected Mayor.
- April 6, 1910—Site for Firehouse No.2 purchased for \$525.
- April 14, 1949—Save More Drug Store \$200,000 fire
- April 17, 1951—Chief's Buggy gets first mobile radio.
- April 18, 1956—Firemen rescue puppy from cistern.
- April 21, 1909—Chief Nesbitt replaced by Chief Gabathuler.
- April 27, 1903—Extinguisher explodes on roof injuring fireman.
- May 1, 1950—Thomas J. Pollard replaces D.A. Kincade as Fire Chief.
- May 9, 1957—Firemen rescue cats and the cats' would-be rescuers from tree.
- May 12, 1920—IFD begins two platoon work schedule.
- May 13, 1910—Anderson Hose/Chemical Wagon purchased for \$3,100.
- May 16, 1951—Mayor and Fire Chief tour Seagrave factory.
- May 18, 1910—Team of fire horses purchased for \$450.
- May 25, 1954—Firemen honored for dramatic Nursing Home rescue.
- May 29, 1967—Waggoner Gates Mill \$1,000,000 fire
- May 30, 1928—Buick Chief's buggy placed in service.

Thanks again to the Independence 76ers Historical Society

YEAR END SAFETY WEEK... EDUCATING CHILDREN



The crew of Pumper 1A met with the students of Solid Rock Academy for a chance for these students to learn about firefighters and their equipment. A highlight of the activity was when one of the students put on fire-fighter's protective equipment.

THANKS!

Letters of thanks and commendation were received by Acting Chief Fire Inspector Cindy Culp-Nance, Inspector George Turvill and Inspector Terry Conner from JE Dunn Construction for their dedication and willingness to spend long hours on short notice to help get the Centerpoint Medical Center of Independence up and running.

Did You Know...

Why do fire fighters have big, bushy moustaches?

Before the use of synthetics and the need for SCBA arose, fire fighters still had to enter smoky environments. The smoke was less toxic; however, the products of combustion did irritate the airway. Firefighters often grew moustaches or long chin goatees so that they could tuck their facial hair in their mouths as a filter for particulate matter. Today, they may grow these moustaches to compensate for the lack of hair on the head due to the years of wearing the fire helmet.



Heroes On and Off Duty

It seems that Independence Firefighters are heroes by nature no matter whether they are on duty or not. On May 6, 2007, FEO Bryan Bogue and FF Scott Randall were together in a car observing vehicles swerving in front of them. They found that a family had pulled over and was trying to get someone to assist them with their baby who was not breathing. Bogue and Randall jumped into action and began CPR, getting a pulse and staying on the scene until emergency personnel from Lee's Summit arrived. Way to go....we are proud you are a part of our department.

INDEPENDENCE
FIRE
DEPARTMENT



Inside this issue:

- New Acting Deputy Chief 2
- New Acting Chief over Fire Services 3
- Advanced Emergency Community Response Training 3
- End of the Year Visits to Local Schools 4

Memorial Day

Pictured right: Chief Fred Mills and Mayor Don Reimal



On April 14, members of the Fire Department along with representatives of Independence, Raytown, Kansas City, Grain Valley, and Blue Springs Police Departments as well as members of the Jackson & Clay County Sheriff's Departments joined with "MOMs" (Mothers Outraged at Molesters") in a program to spotlight April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Mayor Reimal and Police Chief Mills spoke about the need for awareness about this problem.

MAY 2007

HOT SPOTS

INDEPENDENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Kansas City Arson Task Force Seminar

Members of the Fire Department attended the Kansas City Arson Task Force Seminar.

Presentations by the New Scotland Yard Bomb Investigation Unit from England were informative, showing how they can, via video, track and establish viable time lines of where people and vehicles are at any given time. Using this tool they can establish opportunity in a criminal case, specifically bombings.

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agency presented information on bomb scene investigations do's and don'ts that were very helpful.

The two days spent were informative and educational for our investigators.

Stepping Out to Protect Citizens

On May 5th, professionals and volunteers from the American Red Cross conducted a smoke alarm canvas in the area along Blue Ridge Boulevard from 24 Highway to Independence Avenue. This neighborhood was selected because it has been the sight of three structure fires this year. Red Cross went door to door delivering safety information and free smoke alarms to residents who needed them. The Fire Prevention Bureau is coordinating with Red Cross to schedule more canvassing in other areas of Independence.

MEETING WITH AREA "MOMs"

Submitted by Inspector Tom Wade

HOT SPOTS



FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Captain Mark Carrick was “surprised” when told he was chosen as Firefighter of the Year.

Mark began in dispatch in April of 1987. A year later he went to Station 2 then became FEO in 1999. He was promoted to Captain on Pumper 1 in 2004.

When asked how being selected Firefighter of the Year affects his attitude towards his job, he said it motivates him to want to improve and do a better job.

He told me that the changes that have occurred over the years, as he sees them, have been positive. He said that the personnel hired were always good but it seems that the department is more career oriented than before and that the level of professional credentials and certifications are more important now. He’s encouraged with the level of training now offered to the fire personnel.



Pictured: Chief Sandra Schiess and Captain Mark Carrick

In his early years, he didn’t feel that he had the mentoring and encouragement for acquiring training. However, when he moved to Station 1, he became more aware of the different opportunities for training and tried to take advantage of everything that he could. These opportunities are important to him for his own personal development but even more than that, he wants to leave the department a better place and hopes to promote these things, along with a positive attitude, to any new recruits coming in the future.



Left to right: sons, Jacob, Justin, & Joshua; Mark; wife, Beth; son, Galen; and daughters Mykael Ann and Jessica. (Not pictured is son, Griffin.)

Acting Deputy Chief of Administration

Assistant Chief John Jones has been appointed as Acting Deputy Chief of Administration. He has been with the Department since 1994. He has served as Assistant Fire Chief over the Services Division since December of 2002, and feels that this will help him in fulfilling his new role. He says the job will be a challenge and much more administrative as opposed to hands-on and will include reviewing the budget and monitoring each division’s available finances and spending. He feels determined to conquer the challenges of learning and achieving the expectations of his role, plans to ask questions of people already knowledgeable in the field and has decided to make the personal commitment to take the time needed to excel and then move on to the next challenge.



John Jones, Acting Deputy Chief of Administration

HOT SPOTS

New Acting Assistant Chief of Fire Services








Acting Asst. Chief over Fire Services, Tim Krickle

Assistant Chief Tim Krickle has been assigned to Acting Chief over the Fire Services Division. He began with the Department July 1, 1985, and became Shift Commander in August of 2004. His new responsibilities will include managing the budget of the stations, apparatus, personal equipment and other needed items. He is glad to have the opportunity to further his knowledge and place new goals for himself. Chief Krickle looks forward to learning a different aspect of the Department as well as interfacing with the different departments of the city. He recognizes that the Services Department is vital in that without it, our firefighters on the front lines can’t properly do their jobs. He will begin serving in this capacity June 18, 2007.

Advanced Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)

The Metropolitan Community Colleges-Blue River, along with the Independence Citizen Corps will be hosting training on Saturday, July 21, 2007, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Blue River.

Classes offered will consist of:

1. Immediate Flood Response – This class focuses on how to assist others in the event of a flooding situation. Things such as sandbagging and using flood clean up kits will be looked at. 
2. Sheltering Systems (*people and pets*) – This class will teach you how to set-up and manage an evacuation shelter for people and their pets. You will deal with practical situations and real-world management for co-locating shelters in close proximity. 
3. Chainsaw Safety – Stihl Corp. will be instructing this class and will focus on instructional lessons on safety, chainsaw maintenance and types of chainsaws. The emphasis will be on practical use and safety as well as information on utilizing these for debris clean-up. (There will be hands-on training using chainsaws.) 
4. Concentrated First Aid - This will be a concentrated review of the basic first aid that you learned in your CERT class. Advanced first aid techniques, triage and being familiarized with the automatic defibrillator will be presented as well. 
5. Light Search and Rescue – This class will focus on the components of an effective search and rescue operation: being able to size up and identify hazards, looking at building safety, 

search and rescue, and the methods and techniques that rescuers can use to locate and safely remove victims.



Neighborhood Fire Safety

Throughout the summer, fire suppression crews with the Independence Fire Department attend neighborhood block parties in their district whenever possible. By doing this, firefighters get to meet their neighbors and, in turn, the citizens of Independence get to meet our firefighters. This allows us an opportunity to deliver fire safety information to them in a comfortable neighborhood setting. If you are coordinating a block party, please contact Jodi Wynn at the Independence Parks & Recreation at (816)325-7377 and she will, in turn, contact Inspector Tom Wade of Fire Prevention who will make every effort to have a fire crew attend.

Kansas City Ararat Shrine’s Hambash 2007

The Independence Fire Department Storm Spotter vehicle made an appearance at the Kansas City Ararat Shrine’s Hambash 2007, Saturday, April 21st, to display its emergency communications potential. Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) volunteer Scott Portz, an amateur radio emergency communicator associated with the Independence Office of Emergency Management, was on hand to demonstrate the capabilities and answer questions. Affectionately dubbed the “Porcupine” because of the many protruding antennae, the vehicle has the resources to communicate back to the City’s Emergency Operations Center and other agencies using various means, including amateur radio frequencies, fire department radio frequencies, digital, GPS, and near real-time television. 