

October 2007

950 N. Spring  
Independence, MO  
64050

Phone: 325-7121  
Fax: 325-7120

# HOT SPOTS



## Dates in History to Remember.....

September 3, 1918—Firehouse No. 2 replaces horses with White Fire Engine.  
 September 5, 1898—Hedrikite church arson fire  
 September 9, 1850—Stone & Webb fire on Square  
 September 1, 1910—Anderson Hose/Chemical Wagon placed in service.  
 September 16, 1955—Leader Department Store \$10,000 fire  
 September 19 1918—Firehouses so cold that motorized engines won't start.  
 September 20, 1910—Council votes to sell new hook & ladder rather than purchase team of horses to pull it.  
 September 22, 1906—Bundschu Dry Goods \$20,000 fire  
 September 27, 1948—Crick Lumber \$110,000 fire

October 1, 1918—IFD now equipped with sirens.  
 October 2, 1903—Mays Feed Mill \$4,000 fire  
 October 4, 1908—Macedonian Baptist Church fire  
 October 11, 1957—IFD demonstrates aerial floodlights at night on Square.  
 October 14, 1958—Western BBQ \$25,000 fire  
 October 17, 1901—Knapps General Store \$1,000 fire  
 October 22, 1960—The Mighty Seagrave placed in service.

*Information supplied by the Independence 76ers Historical Society*



### GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Since this will be my last Hot Spots to put out, I thought I'd let you "get to know" me this month. Future issues will be put out by Jill Sneed who is now in Fire Prevention.



Georgie Waldrop  
Admin. Spec. II  
Training

I've been with IFD for about 2 1/2 years, all of which was part-time in Prevention until I recently moved to the Training Department. Prior to coming here, I worked for a year at the Palmer Senior Center (beginning at its conception).

In my off time, I spend as much time as possible with my husband of 23 years, two daughters Andrea and Brittany (one for which I'm planning a wedding and both going to college), and two dogs (Samson, a Yorkie and Bella, a "spastic" long haired Chihuahua). I teach twice a week at City Church in Blue Springs, sing on their worship team, and read when I have a chance.

I loved my time in Prevention with the people who are there and the interaction with the public. I've enjoyed learning important information about life safety and sharing it with others. I already enjoy working with Chief Bailey and doing what I can to assist him in making our Training Department a quality one. I hope those who used to "pass by my window" and "ring my bell" will still stop by when you're in the station and say hello.



OCTOBER 2007

INDEPENDENCE  
FIRE  
DEPARTMENT



# HOT SPOTS

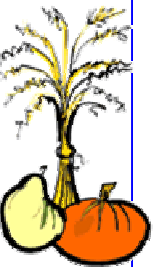
## INDEPENDENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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### CHIEF RON THOMPSON HEADED TO COLORADO

Deputy Chief Ron Thompson has accepted a position as Fire Chief with the Pagosa Colorado Fire Protection District. We will miss his leadership and hard work here at the Independence Fire Department, but know that his skills and knowledge will serve his new community well. Chief Thompson was hired in May of 1995, as an Assistant Chief in Operations, he was reassigned to training where his job duties were eventually expanded to include Emergency Preparedness for the entire City. In February of 2002, he was promoted to Deputy chief of Operations. Chief Thompson has worked tirelessly to lead, train, develop, guide and manage many programs that have expanded service provision and personnel development.



We are projecting his last day at the IFD to be sometime the second week of November. Please take a moment next time you see him to acknowledge this accomplishment and wish him and his family well.

### PROMOTIONS



Assistant Chief John Jones  
Deputy Chief - Administration



Battalion Chief Joe Lay to  
Assistant Chief  
EMS/Safety and Wellness



FEO David Shelley to  
Captain

### NEW CHIEF FIRE INSPECTOR

Gene Gould began work as Chief Fire Inspector with the Independence Fire Department on October 16. Chief Gould has 25 years of experience in firefighting, hazardous materials and emergency medical response. He promoted through the ranks of fire fighter, fire equipment operator, captain and assistant chief of operations. He has significant experience as an investigator, inspector, life safety educator and in the area of special rescue operations and emergency management.

Along with the above, Chief Gould has earned his Applied Science Degree from Penn Valley Community College and his Executive Fire Officer certification from the National Fire Academy. He is certified by the State of Missouri as a Fire Inspector, Fire Investigator, Fire Service Instructor and EMT.

Previously employed with Central Jackson County Fire Protection District, he is familiar with our community and has been involved with local professional organizations and activities. Welcome Chief Gould!



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## FIRE PREVENTION MONTH OCTOBER



Being an employee of the Fire Department, I automatically assume that all of us know the statistics involved with fire deaths and home escape plans but I'm not sure that's the case...so I have found some information that I hope is interesting as well as helpful during this time set aside specifically for Fire Prevention.

My extended family has been victim to a house fire, losing a daughter, and I wonder how close a look we take at our own lives (beyond using smoke detectors).

Again, I hope your families find this information useful.

Georgie Waldrop

the fire.

If your clothes catch on fire: **STOP, DROP, and ROLL** until the fire goes out and cover your face with your hands.

Close any doors you safely can as you are leaving the house or building.

Provide any helpful information to the Fire Department you can:

1. Where the fire is located in the house or building,
2. If anyone is still in the house or building and where they might be located,
3. Any hazards that might be in the house or building.

Have an **escape plan** that includes:

1. Two different ways out,
2. Someone assigned to help those that need help getting out,
3. Someone assigned to call 911,
4. A meeting place for everyone once they get out.

Practice fire drills regularly using your escape plan.

Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.

Have a working fire extinguisher.

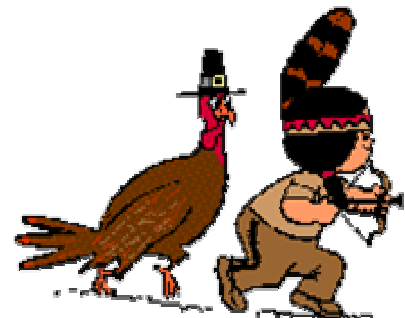
Smokers always use a proper ash tray.

Keep portable heaters and space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn.



Be careful while cooking and remember:

1. Never leave cooking unattended,
2. Wear clothes with short, roll-up, or tight-fitting sleeves,
3. For each pot or pan you use, have its lid out to cover it.
4. Keep the cooking areas clear of combustibles,
5. Turn pot and pan handles inward on the stove so they can't be bumped,
6. Keep small children away from the cooking area while in use.



**Fire Safety begins at home.** Every family should know the basics of how to prevent fires at home and what to do in case there is a fire. So, invest a few minutes and learn how to BE SAFE!

There are many things that people can do to improve their safety at home, school, or work from a **FIRE!** Below you will find a list of information that will help you to become more fire safe wherever you are as well as a list of information of things to do if you do have a fire, to get out alive.

### THINGS TO REMEMBER IF YOU HAVE A FIRE!

GET OUT of the House or building and **STAY OUT!**

Crawl low under the smoke.

Feel doors with the back of your hand for heat, before opening.

Open doors slowly and be ready to close them if heat or fire is outside them.

Once out of the house or building, **DON'T GO BACK IN FOR ANY REASON!**

Once outside go to a phone and call 911 to report

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## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH MARK WIDNER



Congratulations to our own Mark Widner, Emergency Preparedness Manager, for being honored as Employee of the Month. Mark definitely puts his heart and soul into his job. He spends countless hours at work and has been told by several that he should just "bring in a cot." He's taken the initiative to begin and work on many different programs to help our city and surrounding areas for just about any type of disaster. He believes and practices the "things he preaches" concerning preparation for emergencies. One of the things Mark is the most known for around Station 1 is that when everyone else is dreading foul weather, Mark starts getting excited. It's an adrenaline rush for him. Maybe that is one of the things that makes him so good at what he does!

## LETTER RECEIVED FROM CITIZEN

I am taking the CERTS class at the Blue River Community College and have had three sessions taught by Mike Ditamore. I have found him professional, sensitive, and thoroughly evaluates our practice sessions. He starts the class by reviewing the previous lessons and rarely uses the book, as he proceeds to the new lesson. His mind is always working as he critiques how the authors wrote the CERTS book and how he would improve it, such as the flowcharts. These are characteristics of an excellent teacher. He shares many personal experiences and extra information from the Internet which leaves us wanting even more. He is knowledgeable of the law as it applies to his position.

He has quite a variety of experiences from being a paramedic, firefighter, EMT to having taken teaching courses, starting a camp for Downs and disabled children in Excelsior Springs to having been in the hospital himself from a rare allergic reaction which allows him to be an extra understanding paramedic when treating patients. He is also a father of a baby girl which makes him aware of the needs of the young patients he encounters as a paramedic. He will be mentoring his nephew as he also wants to be a firefighter.

I understand he teaches courses other nights, in addition to the CERTS class, besides being a firefighter. He is a great representative for the Fire Department of the City of Independence. I'm sure you are proud of him, just as much as we are proud to be his students. The residents of our city will be even safer as he is teaching us how to take care of ourselves and each other during a disaster. Thank you for sharing him with us. Mike is going somewhere.

Sincerely,

Cynthia L. Horn



## IN MEMORY Submitted by Georgie Waldrop

During Fire Prevention Month, it seems fitting to acknowledge and honor the firefighters who were so tragically lost on June 18, in the Charleston Sofa Store fire, as well as those who serve us here in our city.

In the past few months, we've all learned that these men died fighting a fire in a sofa warehouse that didn't have a sprinkler system.

One thing I have learned since being with IFD is that I am grateful that our city has life safety ordinances in place to keep this kind of thing from happening to our firefighters. In our 2006 Annual Report, our statistics show that we lost only one citizen to fire last year and no firefighters. This is one too many but pretty good stats for a City the size of Independence.

I'm thankful that I can go shopping, etc., and feel safe should an accidental fire occur. Thanks again to you who protect us.

