

March 2009

The Extinguisher

“Putting out the news”

Ashley McDonald, Editor in Chief



Birthdays

Kyle Cobb 3/02

Jimmy Barrett 3/04

Tim Swann 3/04

Greg Robinson 3/06

Larry Shelton 3/07

Steve Thompson 3/09

Britt Gammon 3/10

Doug English 3/15

Ben Thorpe 3/15

Billy Vinson 3/19

Lucas Dearden 3/20

Eugene Todd 3/21

Alan Farrar 3/22

Logan Gill 3/23

Randy Rae 3/23

David Cranford 3/25

Scott Duncan 3/25

Mike Adams 3/28

MILLER RECEIVES FIRE SAFETY COMMENDATION AWARD



MFD Training Coordinator Nicole Miller accepted the Sons of the American Revolution's Fire Safety Commendation Award February 14, 2009 at the Stones River Country Club in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Nicole received the award for outstanding dedication to the fire service and her community. In attendance were Nicole's husband Hank, Shift Commander Dale Maynard and his wife Sara, and Assistant Chief Swader and his wife Lisa.

PICTURED (LEFT TO RIGHT):
SHIFT COMMANDER DALE MAYNARD,
TRAINING COORDINATOR NICOLE MILLER,
AND ASSISTANT CHIEF ALLEN SWADER.

MURFREESBORO FIREFIGHTERS READ TO CHILDREN



PICTURED (LEFT TO RIGHT): FIREFIGHTER BILL DURKIN, DRIVER RONNIE NOBLES, CAPTAIN RICKY JONES, AND CAPTAIN/SHIFT INSPECTOR TED PERTILLER.

Murfreesboro Fire Department fire personnel from Station 3 read to the children at Mercury Court Preschool in February for "Reading in the Schools Week."

RAPID INTERVENTION TEAM (RIT) TRAINING BY: DRIVER MIKE KEITH

As of March 2, 2009, the United States has already incurred 15 LODDs (Line of Duty Deaths) for 2009. On average, there are 100 LODDs per year; 2008 had 114 LODDs. Unfortunately, these tragedies happen every year and it's up to each fire department to change it. The Murfreesboro Fire Department is doing their part to lower their risk for LODDs. In 2008, MFD received a federal grant for Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) equipment and training. Grant funds were used to purchase thermal imaging cameras (TICs) and RIT bags equipped with a spare self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and other tools. The grant requires MFD personnel to be trained at the RIT awareness level. As firefighters, we tend to focus on saving civilians first and ourselves last. Our RIT awareness training is designed to teach our personnel the basic skills needed to rescue fellow firefighters when they are down.

The RIT awareness program covers many scenarios that could happen to a firefighter in distress on a fire scene. This course is taught through classroom presentation and hands-on techniques. Coursework spans the usage of RIT bags, an SCBA changeover, and firefighter removal techniques. These techniques prepare fire personnel for rescuing a firefighter caught in an entanglement. Personnel learn to drag the downed firefighter across the floor to a point of egress. They also practice dragging a firefighter up and down stairs. Personnel practice sub level removal using ropes and fire hose. They also learn about the 2-to-1 lowering system that uses ladders, ropes, and pulley systems to remove a firefighter from a multi-division building.

The Murfreesboro Fire Department is dedicated to providing outstanding fire protection for the City of Murfreesboro. The department's ultimate goal is to deliver the highest level of emergency response with the greatest margin of safety. With the implementation of firefighter survival and safety training programs like RIT, we are not only able to provide safety for the citizens of Murfreesboro; we are also able to keep our firefighters safe.

"Duty and Responsibility-Make Every Day a Training Day...so that...EVERYONE GOES HOME!!!"

SMOKE DETECTORS

IONIZATION VS. PHOTOELECTRIC

There has recently been a great deal of discussion concerning the preference of either an ionization or photoelectric smoke detector. In an effort to clarify some of the facts about each detector, Assistant Fire Marshal Michael Bartlett researched and compiled a report entitled "Smoke Detector Type and Operation." The following information was taken from his report:

Residential fire deaths have decreased steadily as the number of homes with smoke alarms has increased. Reports from the National Fire Protection Association on residential fire deaths show that people have nearly a 50 percent better chance of surviving a fire if their house has the recommended number of smoke alarms.

The average size home or apartment needs more than one smoke alarm. National fire safety standards recommend a minimum of one alarm on each level of the home, one alarm outside the bedroom area and one alarm in each bedroom.

The question remains, what type of smoke detector is better: ionization or photoelectric?

How they work

Ionization detectors contain a tiny mass of Americium-241, which is a source of alpha radiation. The principle of using a small amount of radioactive material to ionize the air between two differently charged electrodes is to sense the presence of smoke particles. The radiation passes through an ionization chamber, which is an air-filled space between two electrodes, and permits a small constant current to flow between the electrodes. Any smoke that enters the chamber absorbs the alpha particles which reduces the ionization and interrupts this flow of current, setting off the alarm.

Photoelectric detectors use the principle of utilizing a light source and a photosensitive sensor. When smoke particles enter the light path, some of the light is scattered by reflection and refraction onto the sensor. In other words, when smoke blocks the light beam, the reduction in light reaching the photocell sets off the alarm.

Ionization vs. Photoelectric

Ionization

- Least expensive
- Can detect particles of smoke too small to be visible
- Warns when batteries are low or failing
- Better response to flaming fires

Photoelectric

- Uses a light sensor
- Quick to detect slow burning, smoky fires
- Less sensitive to false alarms from cooking and bathroom steam than ionization
- Faster response to smoldering fires

BOTH ionization and photoelectric are effective smoke sensors and must pass the same tests to be certified as a listed Underwriters Laboratory (UL). The number of alarms a home has is more important than the type.

Installing several smoke alarms of each type will provide better coverage in the extreme cases of long-term smoldering or fast flaming fires. **Most importantly enough alarms should be installed in the proper locations.**



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

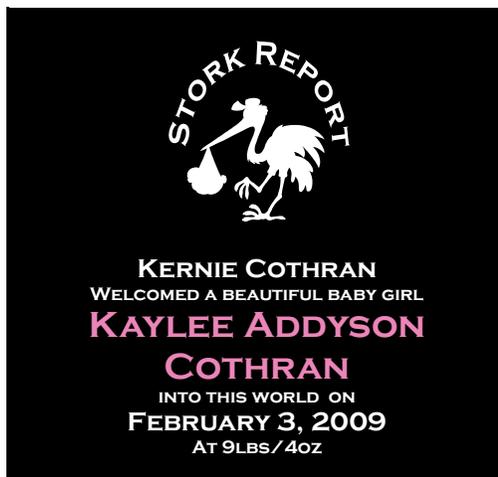


March 8th begins Daylight Savings time. Don't forget to "Spring Forward" and set your clock an hour ahead. Daylight Savings time is also a great time for changing the batteries in the smoke detectors in your home.



JONES NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE MONTH

Captain/Shift Training Officer Ronald Jones has been named Firefighter of the Month for February 2009. Jones received this honor for repairing the bay door going into the shop at Headquarters among other departmental repairs. Congratulations on this accomplishment!



March Anniversaries

25 YEARS

Jack Black

18 YEARS

Laurie Alsup

10 YEARS

Michael Bartlett
Blake Insell
Jeff Irvin
David Sloan

5 YEARS

Dale Bilbrey
Bo Jones
Joe Pennington
Shan Womack

3 YEARS

Alan Farrar

2 YEARS

Ashley McDonald