

STATES UPDATE FIRE CODES TO IMPROVE LIFE SAFETY

As states address the issue of fire safety, an increasing number are updating their fire codes by adopting standards that emphasize comprehensive and balanced fire safety through redundancy and proper planning. The Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association supports statewide adoption of the 2007 edition of the NFPA 10 Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers, due to the numerous changes made from the previous edition that improve fire safety.

Two of the major changes contained in the 2007 edition of NFPA 10 include a requirement for the certification of technicians servicing portable fire extinguishers, and requirements for removal and replacement of outdated and obsolete portable fire extinguishers. The certification requirement provides an added layer of public safety for those states that do not currently have a formal licensing or certification program in place. Likewise, by mandating the removal and replacement of outdated and obsolete fire extinguishers, fire safety will be improved in all occupancies.

In the last two years, numerous states have updated their fire safety regulations to adopt the 2007 edition of NFPA 10, either in conjunction with a major fire code adoption or mid-cycle. The list includes South Carolina, Oregon, Oklahoma, Illinois, and Virginia.

Another regulation that is gaining support among states attempting to increase fire safety is the requirement for existing commercial cooking fire suppression systems to be upgraded to meet UL 300 test standards. Regulations mandating that existing commercial cooking equipment meet UL 300 testing standards have been adopted in Arkansas, California, Maine, Montana, Texas, Utah and were most recently adopted in Illinois.



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Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association

Saving Lives, Protecting Property

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C H A I N O F S U R V I V A L



Call fire department; Announce fire/alert others; Make sure everyone is safe.



Defend in place



Fire/smoke alarm sounds



Suppression system activates



Sprinkler system activates



Fire department responds



Youngsters are recognized for bravery, heroic actions

– The Arizona Daily Star, March 13, 2009

On Sunday March 13th Dannik Batiste, age 8, smelled smoke in his kitchen. He remembered the fire safety lessons from school and grabbed his two younger brothers, ages 1 and 3, before retreating outside to the family's designated meeting point.

He then told his neighbor about the fire, who called 911. The neighbor found Dannik's father, Anthony Batiste, who was taking a shower in the apartment.

Anthony Batiste and the neighbor were then able to put out the fire with an extinguisher. The fire had started after a pizza box was left on the stove.

The fire caused minor smoke damage in the kitchen, but according to the Tucson Fire Department, it could've been much worse if not for Dannik's quick action.

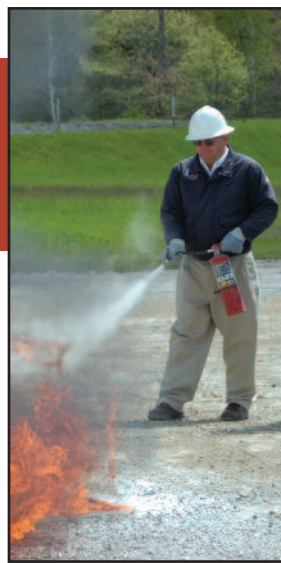


Working smoke detector, alert dogs, and portable fire extinguisher save woman from serious injury

– The News-Gazette, Thomasboro, IL February 19, 2009

Esther Katavich, 73, was at home when the smoke detectors in the second floor went off, startling her two miniature schnauzers who began barking. Katavich's daughter, Streff, who was napping on the couch, heard the detectors and the barking. Smelling smoke, she called the fire department before grabbing a fire extinguisher. She discharged the extinguisher on the fire, which had spread from a fire in the fireplace to the wall and surrounding chimney. The fire spread upward, burning the ceiling of the first floor and the floor of the second-floor bedroom.

Firefighters from Thomasboro were helped by Rantoul firefighters and had the fire knocked down in minutes. Assistant chief for the Thomasboro Fire Protection District Arnold praised the working smoke detectors and Streff's quick action for keeping the fire from being worse.



It can take only 15 seconds to discharge a 5lb extinguisher, giving the user time to evacuate if needed.

The Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association urges anyone who is going to use an extinguisher to always call in an alarm to authorities BEFORE using an extinguisher.

» **Sheriff uses extinguisher to rescue crash victims**

– Press & Sun-Bulletin, Binghamton, Kirkwood, NY, April 15, 2009

On Tuesday April 14th Broome County Sheriff David Harder watched the car in front of him drive off Interstate 81 north and roll down a steep embankment.

The vehicle rolled over onto its roof and caught fire, trapping four people inside.

Harder called 911 to report the crash then grabbed a fire extinguisher from his vehicle. He sprayed the fire about a dozen times before getting a passing motorist, Terrance Blacknell, to take over the fire extinguisher. This allowed him to climb through a back window and pull out a dog and two children trapped in the back seat.

A short time later, emergency crews from the state police, sheriff's department, Kirkwood Fire Department and Broome and Superior Emergency Medical Services arrived. The driver, Robin Swartwood, 43, of Dryden, was extricated after a door was cut off the car.

"The whole thing could have gone up in flames," said Harder.

» **Truck driver puts out two vehicle fires with extinguisher**

– Chillicothe Gazette, Circleville, OH March 27, 2009

In August 2008, Mike Hatfield, a tractor-trailer driver, was stopped at a red light when his truck was struck by another tractor-trailer. Hatfield reached for his portable fire extinguisher to put out the flames on his truck. He was then able to help put out a fire that had started in a mini-van that had smashed under his tractor trailer. He removed the air bag from the driver's face and helped the injured passengers from his vehicle.

"I feel like a normal man just doing a normal thing," Hatfield said. "It just seemed like the right thing to do."

» **Bystander uses extinguisher to put out car fire and help school bus of children**

– The Cincinnati Enquirer, Evanston, OH March 10, 2009

Nate Smith was outside his home when he saw a 1991 Chrysler run through a stop sign and smash headfirst into a school bus full of children.

The bus was propelled forward, crashing into a U.S. postal van before rolling up the curb and hitting a tree. The Chrysler caught on fire, prompting the 65-year-old to run inside and grab his fire extinguisher. He was able to put out the car fire and afterward helped escort the children off the bus.

» **2 NY police officers saved by civilian with extinguisher**

– Associated Press Newswires, Shirley, NY March 8, 2009

On Saturday March 6th two police officers were responding to an emergency call when they collided with a truck at the intersection of William Floyd Parkway and Flintlock Drive.

The officers were trapped in the cruiser when it caught fire. A Good Samaritan put out the fire with a fire extinguisher. Both officers were treated for non-life threatening injuries.

» **Extinguisher used in two-vehicle crash**

– The Cincinnati Enquirer, Colerain Township, OH March 4, 2009

On Tuesday March 2nd Dominic Cavallaro, 17, was driving southbound on Colerain avenue when an oncoming 2004 Ford F-350, driven by Michael Adler, crashed into the passenger side of his vehicle. After the crash, Cavallaro's SUV caught fire. Adler got a fire extinguisher from his truck and put out the fire, allowing the police to safely escort Cavallaro and his 6 passengers out of the SUV.

» **Librarian extinguishes car fire**

– New Haven Register, Derby CT, March 4, 2009

Oxford resident Marilyn Speer left the Derby library on February 24th and found her Volvo sedan filling with smoke. She went back in the building and told librarian Bob Carmona, who found a fire extinguisher to bring back to the car. Carmona said he had never had to use a fire extinguisher before.

"We walked outside, we didn't run," he said. "I had to snap off the plastic wrap and pull a pin."

No one was injured from the car fire, which resulted from a heated blanket left plugged in on Speer's car seat.

» **Two people injured in parkway accident**

– Asbury Park Press, February 7, 2009

At about 9 p.m. on Friday February 6th Dennis Kaminski, 41, driving a 2008 Mercedes Benz hit the rear of the vehicle in front of him. The Mercedes then rolled and hit the trees on the side of the parkway.

Kaminski's passenger, Elaine Johnson, 51, was trapped inside the vehicle as it caught fire. Trooper Christopher Griffin arrived at the scene and put out the flames with a fire extinguisher. Both passengers escaped the crash without burns from the fire.

» **Off-duty park ranger saves two lives and prevents large brush fire**

– Providence Journal, Providence, RI, June 27, 2008

On Monday April 21st a minivan taxi collided with a cargo truck on Live Oak Canyon Road in Orange County, CA. The minivan smashed into the left side of the truck a second time, pushing the truck into a ditch. The taxi's engine caught fire with the passengers trapped inside.

Off duty Park Ranger Michael Lorenzi was driving home when traffic came to a stop. After talking to another park ranger, who headed back to O'Neill Park to get help, Lorenzi grabbed a small fire extinguisher he had in his vehicle and ran to the burning minivan.

Using the extinguisher, Lorenzi was able to put out the fire and help the taxi's passengers, 40-year-old Bunny Deuk and 18-year-old Dureti Bishop, out of the vehicle.

Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association 101

The Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association is the premier trade association representing leading brands, and spanning dozens of product categories related to fire protection. The Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association is comprised of four divisions represented by product categories: portable fire extinguishers, interior equipment, fire hose and pre-engineered suppression systems. These divisions work together in an effort to promote Balanced Fire Protection. Life Safety and initial response when disaster strikes are our main concern. Members of the Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association have formed a subgroup, the Government Relations Committee (GRC), to address legislative and regulatory issues relating to portable fire extinguishers and pre-engineered systems. The GRC's main goals focus on helping to educate officials by advancing a balanced fire safety philosophy that reflects the need for both sprinklers and portable extinguishers.

This newsletter is published periodically to communicate to key members of the fire services and code officials on the importance of balanced fire safety and the role that special application fire extinguisher systems and portable extinguishers play.