

Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association

Saving Lives, Protecting Property

Vol. 1, Issue 1

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Fire Extinguisher Saves Two from Fiery Crash

– Bristol Courier Journal, Bristol, TN April 9, 2008

On, Tuesday, April 9th, on Interstate 81 near Oakville, TN, truck driver Tim Scott of Bristol, Virginia saved two lives with his on-board fire extinguisher.

Scott stopped to help after seeing a tractor trailer dragging a 1987 Oldsmobile down the interstate and had a fire extinguisher in his vehicle.

Jeff Kegley, who had also stopped to help, said the fire extinguisher was the key piece of equipment that helped save the two women, Alice Collins of Bristol, Tennessee and her 86 year old mother, Mayme Blevins, from being burned to death.

“You could tell he knew what he was doing,” said Kegley, “he saved those women’s lives.”

Dorm Saved with Fire Extinguisher

– The Burlington Free Press, February 16, 2008

On February 15, 2008, a female UVM student noticed smoke coming out of the trash room in her residential dorm. The student used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire. School officials immediately evacuated students from “E” building for approximately 90 minutes. The fire department inspected the building and after almost two hours signaled the okay for UVM students to re-enter. UVM police are investigating the incident as it looks like the fire was intentionally set.





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

» **Transportation Workers save Life with On-Board Fire Extinguisher**

- New York Newsday, Nov. 29th, 2007 Edition

Quick thinking by two New York City Department of Transportation workers on November 29, 2007, kept a stove fire in the Marine Park section of Brooklyn from growing into something worse, city fire officials said. The two men saw several people run out of the smoking home, screaming about a fire. They quickly grabbed a fire extinguisher they keep in the truck and ran into a basement apartment. One put out the blaze while the other grabbed a 9-year-old boy who was in the apartment.

» **Historic Fort Saved by Fire Extinguishers**

- Syracuse Post/Standard, February 15, 2008

An alert employee helped keep an electrical fire from blazing out of control in the memorabilia shop of Fort Ontario, Oswego city firefighters said. Three employees were inside the building. It caught fire about 4:30 p.m., said Deputy Fire Chief Mark McManus. One used a fire extinguisher to contain the blaze until fire crews arrived. To protect the historic building, firefighters used two extinguishers to douse the blaze and fans to clear out the smoke, McManus said. The fire, smoke and water damage was contained to the shop and a storeroom. The fort is closed for the season. No injuries were reported, he said.

» **Courageous Rescue in Utah**

- The New American, Jan. 21, 2008.

Bob and Ann Turner left their home in Ogden, Utah, with their four-year-old granddaughter, Meleah, on a trip to purchase coal near the town of Huntington.

After topping off their truck's gas tank and loading their large trailer with coal, the Turners headed home. The shortest route back took them on a steep road, with an eight percent grade.

Suddenly, Bob geared down, but the transmission would not hold the vehicle back. Bob drove off the road and up the side of the mountain. They came to a stop and glass and coal were strewn throughout the cab.

David Larsen of Ephraim saw the truck and trailer on the side of the mountain. He noticed gas leaking on the ground under the truck, so he unhooked the battery in an attempt to prevent a fire and then called authorities.

Two hunters, who had a fire extinguisher with them, happened along just as the car exploded with fire. Together they succeeded in temporarily extinguishing the fire and got Bob, Ann, and Meleah out of the wreckage. When the group was only part way down the mountain, the entire truck burst into flames.

» **Elementary School Fire Extinguished with Portable**

- US Fed News, January 24, 2008

Around 2:30 p.m., on Jan. 23, 2008, Derby Ridge Elementary School, in Columbia, MO, was evacuated because of a fire in the boys' restroom. Units of the Columbia Fire Dept. were notified and they responded in four minutes to find the school evacuated and the fire put out by a school staff member using a fire extinguisher. A student and teacher first noticed the smoke coming from the restroom. The teacher quickly notified the office and assisted in extinguishing the small fire while a pull alarm was set off. The fire remains under investigation.

» **Omaha School Fire Stopped with Extinguisher**

- Omaha World-Herald, February 8, 2008

A small fire at Millard North High School interrupted classes for about 15 minutes on Thursday morning.

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.

About 8:45 a.m., a fire started in a industrial clothes dryer off the girls locker room, setting off fire alarms and prompting school officials to call authorities.

Students were evacuated while school administrators used fire extinguishers to put out the fire as firefighters arrived.

New Employee Thinks Quick, Helps Make Sure Fire is Contained

– Roanoke Times, March 24, 2008

The gas pumps at Kroger at Westlake were shut down briefly on Monday after an electrical fire. But because of the quick thinking of an employee, the fire didn't spread, and no one was hurt.

It was Steven Waller's first week working at the pumps. When an electrical box overheated and caught fire, he immediately cut off the breakers and then put the flames out with a fire extinguisher.

"The employee did a good job," said Dempsey Moore, assistant chief of Scruggs Volunteer Fire Department, whose team arrived on the scene and roped off the area.

An electrician replaced a couple breakers and the pumps were open for business again by 6 p.m.

Good Samaritan Pulls Man from Burning Vehicle

*– Copyright KUSA*TV, All Right Reserved, March 31, 2008*

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY – A man was airlifted on Saturday after a Good Samaritan pulled him from a burning vehicle.

The incident happened on westbound Interstate 70, coming down Floyd Hill near mile marker 245 at about 5:25 p.m. Evergreen Fire Rescue says the vehicle pulled off the highway, then tumbled several hundred feet to the frontage road, Highway 40, where it kept burning and ignited the hillside leading back to I-70. Fire officials believe the vehicle was on fire prior to pulling over because of small grass fires that were caused as the vehicle left I-70. A Good Samaritan, who was not identified, was driving on the frontage road at the time

and sprang into action after witnessing the crash. He pulled the man, who was on fire, from the burning vehicle and used his own fire extinguisher to put out the fire which was burning the driver and his clothes. Evergreen Fire Rescue, Clear Creek Fire Authority, Clear Creek EMS and the Clear Creek Sheriff's Office all arrived on scene and began treating the patient and extinguishing the vehicle fire and grass fires that were started. A Flight for Life crew took the victim to St. Anthony Central Hospital, and an hour later the patient was airlifted to University Hospital, because of its extraordinary burn care abilities. The victim's identity and condition were not immediately known.

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.

BALANCED FIRE PROTECTION PLAN: Overview

The Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association believes in the development of a comprehensive and balanced fire safety plan for all commercial and industrial use occupancies.

Statistics show that most fatalities and property damage caused by structure fires occur after the first crucial minutes. These incidents can be avoided if defensive action is taken. How is this possible? Only through a complete and balanced approach to fire protection that targets the fire from the inside out during the first few minutes. These initial minutes determine the path a fire will take—from a single flame to a fatal tragedy. To avoid the worst, industry and building professionals need to focus on designing a balanced fire protection plan against fire before the fire department arrives.

THE PLAN: Step-by-Step

Step 1: Training and Education: Key personnel need to be trained. Some ways to educate are: in-house safety seminars by manufacturers and local fire departments for hands-on fire extinguisher training and evacuation plan safety tips. We also invite people to go to www.fireextinguisher.com to learn about how to use a fire extinguisher.

STEP 2: Assess your Building: When designing an effective Life Safety Plan for your building or facility, you need to consider what the building is used for, how it is built, the type of people in the building, and what are the combustibles in the building.

Step 3: Fire Extinguishers: NFPA 10 mandates the type, size, placement and number of extinguishers required for a building. Use this standard in any building assessment.

Step 4: Standpipe Fire Hoses: a life Safety Plan should include on-site, defend-in-place fire protection equipment. These are key components for any building. Visit www.rackhosetraining.com for more information.

Step 5: Fire Suppression Systems: a pre-engineered fire suppression system is mandated by NFPA for hazardous areas including restaurants and industrial areas. These systems provide fast, on-site protection at the earliest stage of a fire. Designed to NFPA and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standards, these systems provide effective extinguishing for specific types of fire in hazardous situations. Visit www.firesystemstraining.org for more information.

Step 6: Evacuation Plan: Exit signage and emergency communications are important components of escape planning. Every building should have well-lit and visibly placed exit signs and building occupants should practice escape plans.

STEP 7: Know the Codes: Good life safety planning relies upon creating a program where building owners are doing more than what is asked of them, especially where people's lives are at stake.



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