

# Fire Equipment Manufacturers' Association

## Saving Lives, Protecting Property

Vol. 1, Issue 2

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### Dentist Saves Patient with Extinguisher

- Athens Review, Athens, GA, July 11, 2008

Amber Perkins had just finished an appointment with her dentist, Dr. Mark Roberts and was pulling out of the office's parking lot when her carburetor exploded. "There was a lot of flames and smoke" said Roberts. His staff called 911 while Dr. Roberts grabbed the fire extinguisher that he kept in his office and put out the fire. The outgoing Athens Rotary Club President attributed his quick thinking to his on-the-job training when he worked on an offshore oil platform nearly 30 years before.

### Good Samaritans Save Disabled from Bus Fire

- Twin City Gazette, St. Paul, MN, August 6, 2008

Heroic efforts of a bus driver and good Samaritans helped save the lives of five disabled adults aboard a bus. The driver began to experience problems while on Interstate 694. The bus' engine died and the driver guided the vehicle to a stop with heavy smoke and flames coming from the engine. A store owner, Assad Waijane, grabbed his fire extinguisher and raced to the bus while his employee called 911. He battled the fire while the bus driver and other good Samaritans rescued the disabled adults. John Ellickson, Deputy Director of Public Safety for New Brighton said with the quick response, "seconds made a difference in this situation."





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

### **» Councilman Saves the Day** - *Magna Times, Magna, UT, July 23, 2008*

Salt Lake County Councilman Michael Jensen had just finished up a community meeting in Magna when he spotted smoke rising near an abandoned building. He stopped his car, called 911, and grabbed the fire extinguisher he kept in his car. Jensen, also the deputy chief of the United Fire Authority, took a few seconds to put out the small grass fire outside the building. Two fire engines pulled up moments later to find their co-worker had already take care of business. Fire fighters sprayed the area so there was no chance for the fire to re-ignite.

### **» Alert Neighbors Save Home from Fire** - *Lancaster Intelligencer, Lancaster, PA, September 8, 2008*

Two alert neighbors saw flames coming through a wall of a home and took immediate action. Tony Burnside and Andy Irizarry grabbed a fire extinguisher from Burnside's nearby home and raced back to the flames as Burnside's mother called the fire department. They sprayed the flames on the outside of the house and then broke down the front door to get to the flames inside and to rescue anyone that might be trapped. They knocked out the fire on the inside which was started by a short-circuit in a bathroom fan. "They did a good job. Without them, there would have been more damage" said Lancaster Fire Chief Robert Pennypacker.

### **» Restaurant Fire Stopped by Extinguisher**

- *Gloucester Times, Gloucester, MA, September 8, 2008*

An electrical fire was reported to the Gloucester Fire Department from the Roger Street Restaurant on the morning of September 7th. A chef at the restaurant spilled water on a transformer and computer printer. The transformer shorted out and caught on fire and began to scorch a nearby wall. A quick thinking employee grabbed a fire extinguisher and tackled the fire while another called 911. The fire was put out shortly before the fire department arrived but fire officials did a thorough check over before allowing the restaurant to reopen.

### **» Pizza Hut Kitchen Crew Stops Blaze**

- *Palm Springs Desert Sun, Palm Springs, CA, September 1, 2008*

A fire in the kitchen of a local Pizza Hut in Palm Springs was stopped in its tracks by workers wielding a fire extinguisher. Fire officials said the fire broke out in a piece of equipment at a condiment table. Employees reacted swiftly and used a fire extinguisher to keep the fire from spreading throughout the structure. "I've got the best crew in the desert," said Kelly Morgan, Pizza Hut manager. Fire officials closed the restaurant for clean-up and re-inspection and allowed it to reopen the following day.

### **» Cars Catch Fire on I-495**

- *Attleboro Sun Chronicle, Norton, MA, August 19, 2008*

A driver escaped serious injury when his car caught fire after colliding on I-495 with a milk truck early in the morning on August 18th. The driver of the milk truck had a fire extinguisher on board and used it to put out a small fire that ignited in the car's engine compartment.

### **» 18 Wheeler Catches Fire**

- *Lake County Record Bee, Lakeport, CA, July 24, 2008*

The tires on an 18 wheeler carrying 18,000 gallons of propane caught fire on the morning of July 23. The fire began due to the truck's brakes overheating when the driver stopped quickly for a red light. The overheated brakes caused the tires to ignite.

## *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.*

The driver, Doug Brown, immediately pulled the truck over and grabbed his on-board fire extinguisher. He began to tackle the flames as bystanders at a nearby restaurant called 911. Brown was finishing off the fire as fire officials arrived. "It could have been a lot worse" said Lakeport Incident Commander Rick Bergem.



### ***Staff Saves Residents from Fire***

*- WDUN News - Gainesville, FL, August 25, 2008*

Residents of Lanier Village Estates were awakened early in the morning on August 24 with fire alarms after the complex's elevator equipment room caught fire. Fire fighters responded to the alarm as staff members went into action. A staff member grabbed a nearby fire extinguisher and put out the flames. "The staff did a very good job," said Hall County Fire Marshal Scott Cagle.



### ***Janitors Extinguish Fire in Elementary School Library***

*- Providence Journal, Providence, RI, June 27, 2008*

Custodian Luis Silveira was summoned by school staff when they saw smoke coming from an unoccupied library at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. The smoke was coming from the motor on a pedestal fan which overheated, and caught fire. While school officials called 911, Silveira put out the blaze with an extinguisher while others threw open doors and windows to alleviate the smoke. "Without their quick action, the damage would have been considerably more extensive," said safety manager Robin Guevarez of Aramark Education of Providence.



### ***Driver Heralded as Highway Angel***

*- Etrucker.com - West Monroe, LA, September 14, 2008*

Truck driver Darien Smith was saluted by the Truckload Carriers Association for his bravery in keeping fire away from a woman trapped inside her burning vehicle. Smith was driving on I-20 in Louisiana when he saw a car on fire. A good Samaritan was trying to put out the fire with an extinguisher and Smith tried to free the woman but the extinguisher

was emptied. Smith raced to his truck and got his own extinguisher and kept the flames away from the victim until help arrived. Because of Smith's action, the driver was not burned. "I just did what any driver would have done," said Smith.

### **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.

# STATES EMBRACE BALANCED FIRE PROTECTION: *Individual States Amend Fire Codes, Preserving Placement of Portable Extinguishers*

This year a number of states and major cities across the country adopted updated versions of their fire codes and took action to embrace balanced fire protection. The states of Arkansas, California and Nevada, in addition to the cities of Washington D.C. and New York City, adopted the 2006 version of the International Fire Code. During the adoption process, they took a bold step by deleting exception 906.1, line 1 in the code, thereby preserving a balanced fire protection design by maintaining the requirement for portable fire extinguishers throughout most occupancies.

The 2006 International Fire Code contained an exception in Section 906.1, line 1 that allowed occupancies equipped with quick response sprinklers to reduce the placement of portable extinguishers to hazardous areas i.e.: such as boiler rooms. State Code Committees have shown they understand the importance of balanced fire protection and support redundancies such as automatic systems and portable fire extinguishers.

Along with the above, eleven other states have removed or amended the Line 1 exception in the last three years, including: Alaska, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Virginia.

Fire extinguishers are a proven instrument of life safety and can help extinguish a fire in the early stages. The United States Fire Administration reports that 93% of all fire-related deaths and 95% of all direct property damage occurs once the fire has progressed beyond the early stages. Fire extinguishers can successfully extinguish a fire in its initial stage and can also help people escape a fire. Preserving the placement and servicing of portable fire extinguishers in all occupancies will help toward saving lives.

According to the NFPA, a balanced fire protection plan must not be based upon any single safeguard. Additional safeguards should be provided for life safety in case any single safeguard is ineffective due to inappropriate human actions or system failure.

In addition, the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) has advocated to Legislative and Regulatory bodies across the country on the importance of having fire extinguishers in buildings even if those buildings have automatic systems, citing the importance of redundancy in fire protection. NASFM stated in a letter, "We know of no scientific justification for abandoning the central principle of fire protection redundancy."

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