FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

OCTOBER 4-10 JOIN US AS WE SALUTE OUR LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS!

Without hesitation, the brave men of our fire departments often risk their own lives and safety to save the lives of others. For their selflessness and bravery, we salute them. During Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, stop for a moment and thank our firefighters for their courage and dedication to protecting our community.

Jeff Unger

29 years of service

Ross Carney 28 years of service

Robert McLemore 25 years of service

Tim Hansen 24 years of service

Don Phillips 24 years of service

JL Ellis 23 years of service

Todd Unruh 23 years of service

Dwayne Plumisto 21 years of service

Brian Quagliano 17 years of service

Tom Benson

15 years of service

Lynn Marker 14 years of service

Doug Lewis

13 years of service

James Carney 12 years of service

Chuck Plumisto 12 years of service

Sean Hankin 10 years of service

Bruce Plumisto 8 years of service

Brandon Sabatka 8 years of service

Brian Honeyman 8 years of service

Dustin Vrbas 5 years of service

Lance Bolyard 4 years of service **Chad Applebury** 3 year of service

Rick Barton-Rhan 3 year of service

Scott Hilbrink 2 year of service

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Josh Clark

1 year of service Thank You from

all these sponsors.

Thank a firefighter for Prevention Week says commissioner

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger is urging Kansans to thank a firefighter for their efforts in keeping citizens and their property safe.

"During National Fire Prevention Week, we want to recognize the efforts of our local firefighters," Commissioner Praeger said. "These Kansas men and women put their lives on the line for us in emergencies, and they spend time this week and throughout the year educating us about fire safety. For that, we offer our deep gratitude."

This is National Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Stay Fire Smart. Don't Get Burned."

The Commissioner said that fire is still the number one peril for property in Kansas, followed by wind and hail.

"This week firefighters are focusing on promoting fire safety and prevention, especially among young people," Commissioner Praeger said. "A little common sense about matches, candles and electrical devices each day of the year goes a long way toward fire prevention.'

In 2008, a total of 264 Kansas firefighters were injured as a result of a fire.

essential to keeping the number of fires low and the number of firefighters injured in the line of duty even lower," Commissioner Praeger said.

\$9.2 million among 582 local associations throughout the state.

and their families when an accident or death occurs in the line of duty. It also funds educational purposes and research.

"Prevention and promotion are

The Kansas Insurance Department distributes money to local Firefighters Relief Associations throughout the state on behalf of the Kansas Firefighter Relief Act. The money is collected from a 2 percent tax paid by insurance companies on fire and lightning insurance premiums written yearly in Kansas. During 2009, the department distributed more than

This fund assists firefighters



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Group offers tips for fire safety this winter As the weather starts to turn colder, the risk while children ages 5 to 15 are hospitalized home, outside every sleeping area, and in each

of fires increases significantly. Nationwide, 412 children ages 14 and under died in 2006 due to unintentional fire- and burn-related injuries and approximately 98,700 were injured.

"Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned" is the theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week. Safe Kids is joining the National Fire Protection Association to urge families to focus on burn prevention and awareness, as well as take active measures to help prevent fires in their homes. Approximately 80 percent of all firerelated deaths and injuries occur in the home, and young children are at a particularly high risk because they don't perceive danger as readily and can lack the ability to escape a lifethreatening burn situation.

"A burn can be incredibly painful and it's especially important for parents to realize what types of injuries are common for their child's age," said Cherie Sage, State Director, Safe Kids Kansas. "Thermal burns from contact with a hot surface or a flame cause the greatest number of burns in children. However, children ages 4 and under are hospitalized in burn centers more for scald burns from hot liquids,

more for fire/flame burns.'

Important fire and burn safety tips for parents: • Set your water heater thermostat to 120

degrees Fahrenheit. Consider installing water faucets and shower heads containing antiscald technology. Keep matches, gasoline, lighters and all

other flammable materials locked away and out of children's reach and teach them never to touch these items. • Never leave a burning candle unattended.

Place candles in a safe location away from combustible materials and where children or pets cannot tip them over. Keep children away from cooking and

en while you are cooking. Use back burners and turn pot handles to the back of the stove when cooking. • Place space heaters at least three feet from curtains, papers, furniture and other flammable

materials. Always turn space heaters off when

heating appliances, and never leave the kitch-

leaving the room or going to bed. • Install smoke alarms on every level of the

bedroom. Test them every month and change the batteries once a year, even if they are hardwired. Smoke alarms are also available with 10-year lithium batteries.

 Consider a home sprinkler system. The combination of smoke alarms and sprinklers can reduce your chances of dying in a fire by 82 percent.

"In an average lifetime, one in ten households will have a person injured in a fire," said Sage. "To prepare for an emergency, parents should plan several escape routes out of their home and then designate a safe place to meet. Then practice with your kids so they know exactly what to do. Also, teach children never to go back into a burning building, and to call the fire department from a neighbor's home or a cell phone outside.'

The National Fire Prevention Association has organized National Fire Prevention Week annually since 1922. For more details visit www. firepreventionweek.org. For more information about fire safety for children and families, as well as helpful tips and videos, call (785) 296-1223 or visit www.usa.safekids.org.

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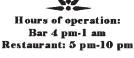
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