



# The Prevention Division Healthcare Highlights

A semi-annual publication of the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office

## CHATTER FROM THE CHIEF: BRENDA McNORTON



Families and businesses have been tightening their belts in the aftermath of the economic crisis on Wall Street. The same goes for our Agency, which recently took budget cuts as well as not filling a Fire Inspector Position. Our Agency has had to tighten our belts as much as possible, by changing several aspects of the way we do things.

It's difficult to predict the future from the past because these are unique economic times. Please be understanding with our inspectors as we implement some changes to help stay within the budget.

### Facility Tips and Reminders

By Barbara Sumpter

A facility may need more than 30 days from the date of a KSFM survey to install new equipment or to hire an outside contractor to correct a deficiency. Therefore, our office requires that a waiver request be submitted along with their plan of correction when additional time is needed to correct a deficiency.

Reminder: It is the facility's responsibility to notify our office once the waived deficiency has been corrected. Notification can be submitted to KSFM either by email or a short memo written on the facilities letterhead indicating the K-tag deficiency number and the date the work was completed to correct the deficiency.

### Fire Marshal Improvements

By Amanda Yorkey

- We are all very excited to send out the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Healthcare Highlights. We not only hope you find this information useful, but we hope it helps to open up communication across the board to get issues clarified. Please provide feedback as well as topics that you'd like to see presented. We'd also be interested in hearing your stories regarding fire safety. If you've had something happen, learned a helpful tip, or had a good/bad experience with something relating to fire safety, please let us know. In our experience, the best way to express the importance of fire safety is by real situations.

- As part of the budget crisis, we are currently working with the field inspectors on ways to help streamline the inspection process. We hope that with these changes, the inspection will be less time consuming. Please be sure to read any information that is given to you at the time of survey as it will contain important information that may not be verbally stated.

- Take advantage of Kenya Patzer, our Education Consultant. It's an excellent way to ask questions and get solutions without fear of it being written as a citation! 785-296-3802 (You can remain anonymous if you'd like)

### Construction Zone

By Stephen Fenske

Facilities that are new, adding on, renovating, remodeling, or changing the buildings use are required to submit an 11x17 code footprint and shop drawing for the sprinkler system and fire alarm system. These must be signed, sealed and dated by a Kansas Licensed Architect or Engineer. The facility is also required to submit a 30 day written notice as to the date that construction will be 100% completed.

Remember: 1-hour fire separation is required between the occupied spaces and the construction areas and adequate exiting must be maintained.

## And the Kudo's go to....

We would like to dedicate this section of the Healthcare Highlights to those facilities who have strived to make fire safety a priority....Congratulations... and many thanks from all of our staff!!!!

### Upcoming Events:

- The CMS Midwest Consortium Meeting will be held in Kansas City, MO - March 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- KHCA/KCAL Feb 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> in Topeka. Topics covered: IDR process and Top 10 Violations
- KS Hospital Engineers Ass. April 8<sup>th</sup> in Wichita

#### **No Deficiencies!**

- 1.) Midwest Surgery Center - Wichita
- 2.) St. Catherine's Wound Care Center – Garden City
- 3.) Surgery Center of SW Kansas – Garden City
- 4.) Somerset-Claridge Court – Prairie Village
- 5.) Lawrence Presbyterian Manor - Lawrence

#### **Excellent Plan of Correction Submission!**

- 1.) Neosho Memorial Regional Med Center - Chanute
- 2.) Golden Plains HC Center - Hutchinson
- 3.) Rolling Hills HC Facility - Topeka

The Healthcare Highlights are designed, written, and edited by the employees and staff of the Fire Prevention Division of the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office. Comments and topic suggestions are encouraged and may be submitted to: Brenda McNorton, Chief

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