

IFA Voice ***Summer 2018***



Julianne and Jamie

*Just two of the great people that help out during
the 2018 Burn Camp Visitors Day*

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 7-13

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Burn Camp Visitors day was held on the 30th of May this year.

The majority of the Board Members were able to attend and help the kids to celebrate another wonderful week of swimming, canoeing, hiking and riding the Fire Trucks.

After the Fire Truck ride there was a cook-out for all of the kids and for the guest.

There are some pictures on the Indiana Firefighters web page at Indfa.com under Burn Camp 2018 if you would like to see what was going on.

I do believe that we got pictures of everyone of the Fire Trucks and the kids were having a great time. The variest Police Departments Motorcycle Divisions had their guys come up and lead the parade.



About Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week is on record as the longest running public health observance, according to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center.

President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week on October 4-10, 1925, beginning a tradition of the President of the United States signing a proclamation recognizing the occasion. It is observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls, in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began October 8, 1871, and did most of its damage October 9.

The horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres.



Blaming it on the cow

According to popular legend, the fire broke out after a cow - belonging to Mrs. Catherine O'Leary - kicked over a lamp, setting first the barn, located on the property of Patrick and Catherine O'Leary at 137 Dekoven Street on the city's southwest side, then the whole city on fire. Chances are you've heard some version of this story yourself; people have been blaming the Great Chicago Fire on the cow and Mrs. O'Leary, for more than 130 years. Mrs. O'Leary denied this charge. Recent research by Chicago historian Robert Cromie has helped to debunk this version of events.

The making of a pop culture phenomenon

Like any good story, the 'case of the cow' has some truth to it. The great fire almost certainly started near the barn where Mrs. O'Leary kept her five milking cows. But there is no proof that O'Leary was in the barn when the fire broke out - or that a jumpy cow sparked the blaze. Mrs. O'Leary herself swore that she'd been in bed early that night, and that the cows were also tucked in for the evening.

After the Great Fire, Chicago Tribune reporter Michael Ahern published a report that the fire had started when a cow kicked over a lantern while it was being milked. The woman was not named, but Catherine O'Leary was identified. Illustrations and caricatures soon appeared depicting Mrs. O'Leary with the cow.

In 1893, however, Ahern admitted he had made the story up.

"Mrs. O'Leary's cow" has attracted the attention and imagination of generations as the cause of the fire. Numerous references, in a variety of media, have been made in American popular culture, including films, television, and popular music.

But if a cow wasn't to blame for the huge fire, what was? Over the years, journalists and historians have offered plenty of theories. Some blamed the blaze on a couple of neighborhood boys who were near the barn sneaking cigarettes. Others believed that a neighbor of the O'Leary's may have started the fire. Some people have speculated that a fiery meteorite may have fallen to earth on October 8, starting several fires that day - in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as in Chicago.

The biggest blaze that week

The Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history, was the biggest blaze that week, but drew little note outside of the region—in and around Peshtigo, Wisconsin—because of the attention drawn by the Great Chicago Fire.

The Peshtigo Fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Historical accounts of the fire say that the blaze began when several railroad workers clearing land for tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Before long, the fast-moving flames were whipping through the area 'like a tornado,' some survivors said. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin, that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

Nine decades of fire prevention

Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they'd been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. But the fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally official over the years.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

Fast facts about fire

Home Fires

U.S. fire departments respond to an average of one home fire every 86 seconds.

U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 358,500 home structure fires per year during 2011 to 2015. These fires caused 12,300 civilian injuries, 2,510 civilian deaths, and \$6.7 billion in direct damage.

On average, seven people died in U.S. home fires per day.

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.

Smoking has been the leading cause of home fire deaths for decades.

Heating Equipment was involved in one of every five home fire deaths.

Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms provide an early warning of a fire, giving people additional time to escape.

Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a reported home fire in half.

Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms (38%) or no working smoke alarms (21%).

When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is usually because batteries are missing, disconnected, or dead. Dead batteries caused one-quarter (24%).

Interconnected smoke alarms throughout the home increase safety. When one sounds, they all sound. It is especially important to have interconnected alarms if you sleep with the door closed.

Cooking

In 2011-2015, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 170,200 home structure fires that involved cooking equipment per year. These fires caused an average of 510 civilian deaths, 5470 civilian injuries, and \$1.2 billion in direct property damage.

U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 466 home cooking fires per day in 2011-2015.

Cooking is tied for the second leading cause of home fire deaths.

Unattended cooking is the leading factor contributing to these fires. Frying poses the greatest risk of fire.

Ranges, or cooktops accounted for the majority (62%) of home cooking fire incidents. Ovens accounted for 13 percent.

More than half of all cooking fire injuries occurred when people tried to fight the fire themselves.

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by the day before Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, Easter, and Christmas.

Heating

In 2009-2013 U.S. fire departments responded to 56,000 home structure fires that involved heating equipment. These fires caused 470 civilian fire deaths, 1,490 civilian injuries, and \$1 billion in direct property damage.

The leading factor contributing to home heating fires (30%) was a failure to clean. This usually involved creosote buildup in chimneys.

Most home heating fire deaths (84%) involved stationary or portable space heaters.

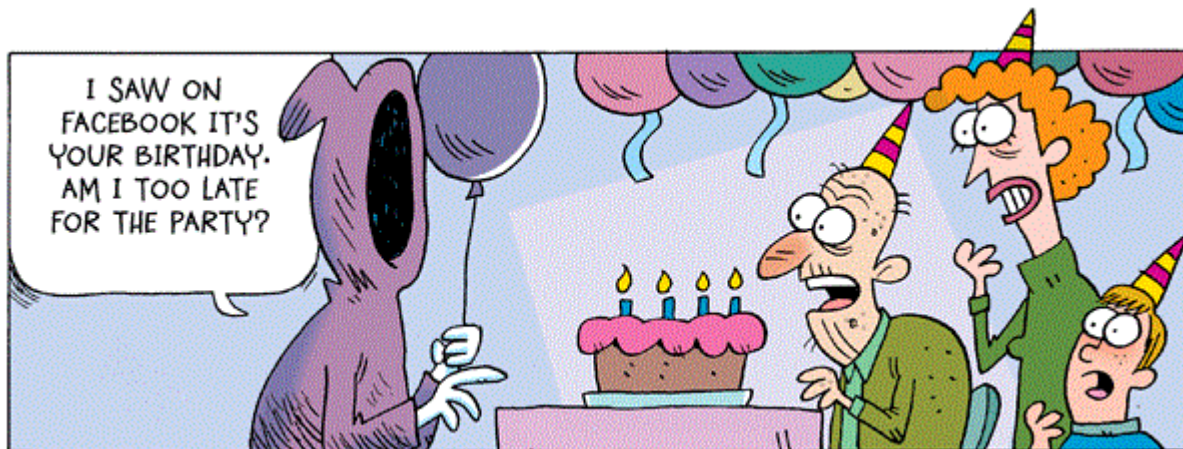
Nearly half (49%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January, and February.

Escape Planning

According to an NFPA survey, only one of every three American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.

While 71 percent of American have an escape plan in case of a fire, only 47 percent of them have practiced it.

One-third of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least six minutes before a fire in their home became threatening. The time available is often less. And only eight percent said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out.



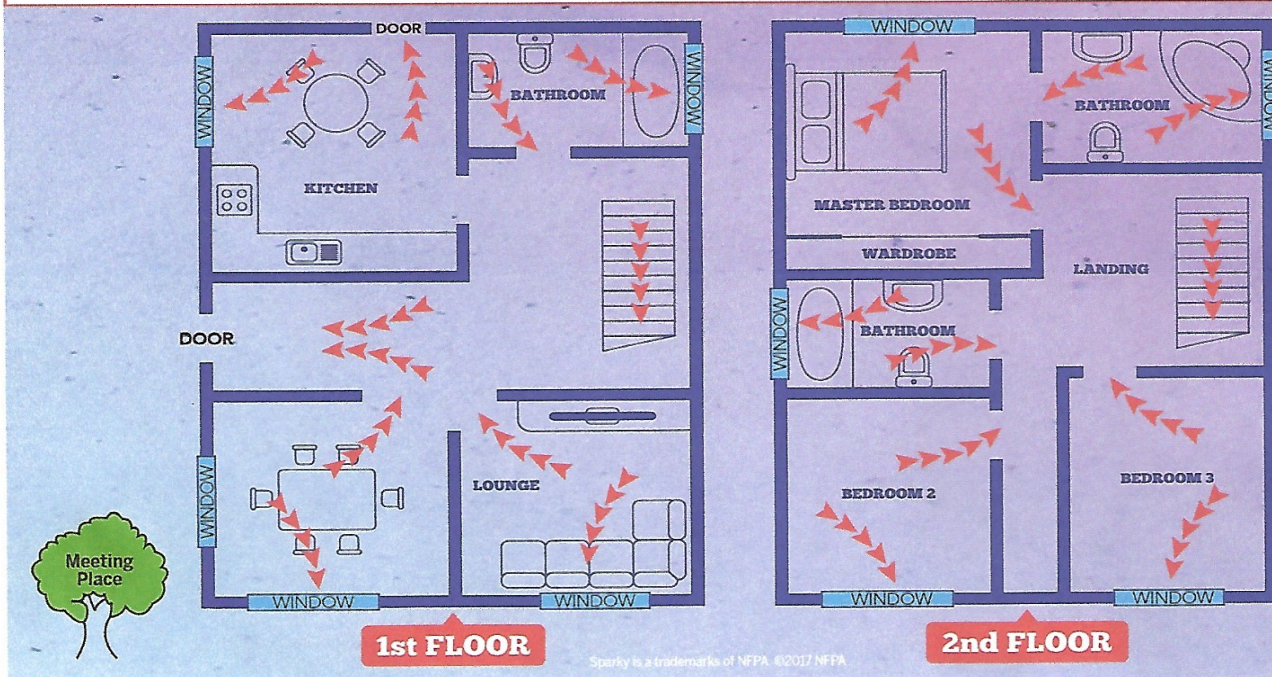
How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan



The Official Sponsor of Fire
Prevention Week Since 1922



- ☐ Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- ☐ Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- ☐ All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- ☐ Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- ☐ Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- ☐ Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- ☐ Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- ☐ Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- ☐ Practice your home fire drill!
- ☐ Make your own home fire escape plan using the grid provided on page 2.



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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCT 7-13

IDENTIFYING HIGH-RISK AREAS FOR HOME VISITS

Where should a fire department begin its home safety program? The most logical answer is where the need is greatest — in homes where the risk of dying in a fire is greatest. These might be identified by fire incidence of particular homes, geography, characteristics of residents (older adults, people with disabilities, low income levels, etc.), or by types of homes (e.g. manufactured homes).

Possible Sources:

Emergency response data: Use your department's database to review home fire incidents, injuries and deaths over the past five years so you can determine areas with higher fire call incidence. This data will help justify where your program begins and where to focus efforts so it will be most effective in the shortest time – with a goal of reaching out to every home over time.

If available, consider utilizing a geographical information system (GIS) or other mapping software, such as Google Maps, to plot three to five years of incident data on a map. This information will give you a visual perspective of where to initially concentrate your efforts.

Neighborhoods with recent house fires: You may not need to look back as far as five years to choose where to begin. Many departments initiate home visits in areas that have experienced recent fires. This not only addresses higher fire risk; it also capitalizes on interest and attention to the problem of fire by the people who live in that neighborhood.

Demographics:

Higher fire death rates are seen in states with larger percentages of people who are black, poor, smokers, have less formal education, and who live in rural areas. Many factors associated with higher fire death rates are correlated with each other. They are not mutually exclusive.⁴

You might use census data to target areas with households that have certain demographic characteristics that are associated with high fire risk, such as age, ethnicity, income level, employment status, home ownership, and type of home. You can use the [U.S. Census Bureau's American Fact Finder](#) use the [U.S. Census Bureau's American Fact Finder](#) site to find population and other facts about your community. The site will provide you with a simple view of the demographics of any given community – by census tract. You can use the tool to help you understand “who” you need to reach if you intend to do anything proactive within your community about preventing safety incidents or mitigating their impacts. There is also commercial software available that identifies specific households that reflect the key areas of focus. [Vision 20/20 has created model forms for data collection.](#)

About these factors:

1. **Income level:** Factors may include living in homes with older electrical systems and appliances, single-parent households, the lack of working smoke alarms, poorly maintained buildings, overcrowding, lack of egress, alternative heating and less exposure to fire safety information.
2. **Adults who do not have a high school education:** The U.S. Census Bureau collects this data and its definition refers to people 25 or older who lack 12 years of education.
3. **People who smoke:** Smoking and smoking materials are among the leading cause of home fire deaths. People who smoke and their families are at a higher risk for home fire deaths.
4. **Older adults aged 65 years and older are the fastest growing segment of America.** Risk increases with age. Older adults aged 75 or over are nearly three times as likely to die in a fire as the general public. That risk is further increased for adults 85 and over.⁵
 - Living alone, which can make escaping from a fire difficult with no one to offer assistance.
 - Hearing, mobility, or vision impairments that can contribute to the inability to react quickly to prevent a fire, be alerted to a fire, or to escape a fire.
 - Medications and alcohol, which may cause drowsiness, difficulty waking, and the inability to react quickly.
 - A decreased ability to smell that gas is leaking or that something is burning.
 - Memory lapses and problems focusing, and the ease of being distracted can contribute to accidental fire (i.e. leaving cooking unattended).
 - Living in substandard housing that may lack central heating (making the use of space heaters or alternative heating necessary), and that may have old gas stoves or old electrical wiring that are more likely to malfunction.A lack of secondary exits or an inability to use them (such as escape through a window).
5. **Children five or younger are also at higher risk of dying in a fire.** There are several reasons:
 - Children left alone or unattended
 - Experimenting with matches or lighters and starting a fire
 - Not understanding fire danger and what to do if fire occursDependence on others to detect a fire and help them escape from it
6. **Ethnicity and Culture:** Research on fire deaths by ethnic group shows that some groups have higher risk than others. Multiple studies have found that people who are African American and who are Native American have a higher home fire death rate than all races and ethnicities combined.⁷

Ethnic groups or communities with higher risk are those in which:

- there are certain cultural practices, such as frequent lit-candle use, which increase risk.
 - residents are likely to be unfamiliar with the proper use of modern appliances, such as heating and cooking equipment.
 - residents are likely to have had less exposure to fire safety education.
- residents are unfamiliar with English and cannot understand the fire safety education that has been provided.

7. Type of Dwellings:

- **One- and Two-Family Dwellings:** Although all homes are important, you may want to focus your efforts on one- and two-family homes (including manufactured homes and duplexes) as the first stage of your home safety program. A 2013 NFPA study reported that 71 percent of residential fires occurred in one- or two-family homes, including manufactured homes.



- **Manufactured Homes:** Manufactured homes built prior to 1976 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) construction standards have a much higher risk of fire deaths than those built post-1976, according to the NFPA. The latest NFPA data (2007-2011) show that the overall fire death rate per 100,000 units is roughly the same for manufactured homes as it is for single- or dual-family homes. With this in mind, concentrate your home safety program first on those manufactured homes built prior to 1976.

- **Older homes and buildings:** Age does not necessarily

equal a fire hazard. However, a home's age can correlate to an increase of fire risk from system malfunctions, or deferred maintenance and upkeep. Electrical distribution or lighting equipment is a leading cause of home fires. In older homes and buildings, electrical fires are often due to outdated or faulty wiring, and wiring that was not designed to handle the electrical loads commonly used by households today.⁸ Old houses have fewer receptacles, which increases the risk of overloading a circuit from the misuse of extension cords. A study conducted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) in the 1980s indicated that the frequency of fires in residential electrical systems was disproportionately high in homes more than 40 years old. Although several factors could be attributed to this high incidence of fire in the electrical systems of older homes, the aging of older electrical systems and the fact that older homes were not built to the more rigid building codes of recent times were deemed the most likely contributing factors.

- **Rental Properties:** In most jurisdictions, the landlord is required by law to provide smoke alarm protection for residents. For this reason, some fire departments choose to exclude rental properties from their home safety visit programs. Others, such as in Gwinnett County, Georgia, are concerned that excluding rental properties will leave many of the homes at highest risk in their community unprotected. Gwinnett County Fire & Emergency Services will install alarms in one- and two-family homes where needed, even if they're rental properties. In apartment complexes, the fire department conducts annual inspections to educate the building management and encourage code compliance with all elements of the fire and life safety codes. Bottom line: This is a local decision that should take into account local code requirements, legal considerations, and risk assessment data indicating where the need is greatest. According to the Fair Housing Act, people with disabilities have the right to modify their homes to include installing smoke alarms and alert equipment. Landlords cannot prevent the installation.⁹



LAKE STATION — A century of fire service in the city has prompted a larger than normal celebration. Fire Chief Chuck Fazekas said the Lake Station Fire Department has typically recognized its contributions in the community with a fireman's ball each spring, but the department wanted to pursue a bigger event for its 100th anniversary.

The resulting two-day celebration at Riverview Park attracted many for the festivities that included live entertainment, raffles, giveaways and several activities for children.

Fazekas said he was pleased with the turnout, and it's possible the Fire Department could expand on the event next year. He said all the proceeds generated through the fest will go back to the community. Fazekas said the department regularly sponsors youth sports teams and contributes to high school scholarships and other programs.

"We try to give as much as we can," Fazekas said.

The event also offered an opportunity to reflect on the service provided by the Fire Department.

Lake Station Fire Capt. Ron Hans said the department has always been operated by volunteers.

Hans was asked to join about 24 years ago, and he has enjoyed the experience since then, he said.

His favorite part of volunteering is "just helping people," he said.

Fazekas, who has served on the department for about 26 years, said being a volunteer firefighter is a large commitment. Firefighters often miss out on time with their families to protect the city.

"Their families understand what it takes to do this job," Fazekas said.

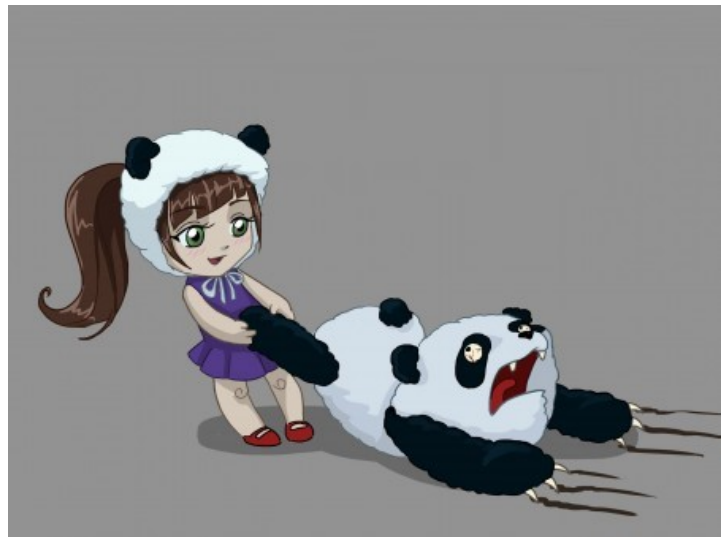
He said much has changed with the Fire Department over the years, including its membership.

Lake Station, like many communities across the country with volunteer departments, has encountered struggles attracting new volunteers.

Fazekas said Lake Station almost reached its capacity of about 90 volunteer firefighters in the early 1990s. The force has gradually fallen since then. It now has about 45 volunteers, Fazekas said.

The department is always trying to recruit new firefighters, and the 100th anniversary celebration offered the opportunity to inspire youth in the community to volunteer when they get older.

The event included a kids firefighter challenge that attracted many participants. The obstacle course had children complete a variety of activities, including carrying a fire hose and pulling a large stuffed bear to safety.



JULY 21, 2018

HELLO TO ALL IFA MEMBERS AND OFFICERS,

TERRE HAUTE LOCAL 758 CELEBRATED 150 YEARS OF SERVICE THIS PAST APRIL. NUMEROUS FIRE TRUCKS OF ALL AGES WERE ON DISPLAY. FOOD AND DRINKS WERE ALSO AVAILABLE.

THE ANNUAL FIRE DEPT. CHILI COOK-OFF WAS HELD ON APRIL 21ST 2018. ALL THE MONEY THAT IS MADE IS DONATED TO THE CHRISTMAS FUND FOR KIDS TOYS. AS USUAL, THE TURN-OUT WAS WELL ATTENDED.

MAY 30TH BOTH JUDY AND I ATTENDED THE HOOSIER BURN CAMP WITH MANY OTHER IFA BOARD MEMBERS. THE IFA ALWAYS DONATES YEARLY TO THE HOOSIER BURN CAMP. WE ALL HAD A GREAT TIME.

THE TERRE HAUTE FIRE DEPT. WILL HOLD A PICNIC AT THE VFW LAKE ON AUGUST 4TH WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO ATTENDING.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO ATTENDING THE IERC IN INDIANAPOLIS AT THE SHERATON AT KEYSTONE ON SEPTEMBER 12TH THRU THE 15TH. HOPE TO SEE MANY OF YOU THERE.

TERRE HAUTE FIRE FIGHTERS BILL BERRY(L) AND JAMES HARRAH (R) HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO MEET WITH GOV. ERIC HOLCOMB. WORKING TOGETHER WILL HELP MAKE INDIANA A SAFER PLACE TO WORK AND LIVE. THANK YOU BOTH FOR ALL YOU DO.



RESPECTFULLY, WARREN BUTCH KRACY

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

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Breaking News: House Unanimously Approves Firefighter Cancer Registry Act

Earlier today, the House unanimously approved [H.R. 931, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act](#). The bipartisan legislation creates a specialized national registry to provide researchers and epidemiologists with the tools and resources needed to improve research collection activities related to the monitoring of cancer incidence among firefighters.

The House had previously passed the bill by voice vote on September 12, 2017. However, on May 10th, the Senate amended the bill before approving it by unanimous consent.

H.R. 931 was introduced by Congressman Chris Collins (NY-27) and Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-9). Similar legislation, [S. 382](#), was introduced in the Senate by Senator Robert Menendez (NJ) and Senator Lisa Murkowski (AK).

The bill will now be sent to the White House for President Trump's signature.



To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters.

President [Donald Trump](#) signed legislation to set up a national registry for firefighters to help track links between exposure to fumes and cancer.

The Firefighter Cancer Registry Act requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to set up a database in order to study possible links between cancer and the fumes and toxins firefighters are exposed to.

Student raising money

To install baby box at fire department

A Columbus North High School senior is working on a senior project to purchase and install Columbus' first Safe Haven baby box at a local fire station.

Hunter Wart has set a goal of raising \$10,000 for a baby box to be installed at Fire Station No. 3, 80 S. Gladstone Ave.

To raise funds for the project, Wart began collecting aluminum cans, car batteries and scrap metal that can be recycled.

Safe Haven baby boxes installed at fire stations allow an individual to surrender a newborn baby in a box that opens from the station's exterior wall, which automatically locks and alerts firefighters that the newborn is there. Since fire stations are manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the boxes provide a safe way for adults to surrender infants.

Wart, 17, said he came up with the idea after hearing about a newborn baby being placed in a baby box at a Michigan City fire station. After discussing the idea with his mother, Julie Kwasniewski, he decided to do his senior project on having one installed in Columbus. Wart plans to meet with Columbus Mayor Jim Lienhoop Aug. 2 at Columbus City Hall to talk about his proposal. He is also planning to discuss the proposal with Fire Chief Mike Compton.

Compton said he supports Wart's idea of a baby box in Columbus, adding that a fire station wall will have to be modified in order to have it installed. "That's all we're looking for is giving folks out on the street a receptacle to do that," Compton said. "I think this is a positive thing for our community to have a safe place to drop off a baby."

Wart, who lives in Hope, has already secured more than half of the \$10,000 needed and hopes to have the baby box installed by the end of his senior year in 2019.

In addition to collecting aluminum cans and scrap metal to raise money, a bank account will be established for people to make monetary donations once the city approves the project, Kwasniewski said.

There are currently three safe haven baby boxes in Indiana — one at the Coolspring Township Volunteer Fire Department in Michigan City, one at the Woodburn Fire Department in Woodburn and another that was recently installed at the Decatur Township Fire Department in Marion County.

All of the fire stations in Columbus are already designated as being Safe Place locations, which means a child in crisis may go there to get help whenever needed and newborns may be surrendered there without any prosecution.

Indiana's Safe Haven law allows an individual to anonymously surrender an infant without risk of arrest or prosecution as long as the infant is surrendered to a hospital or an establishment with emergency services, such as a fire or police station. The Indiana Department of Child Services then would take the abandoned infants into custody.

Wart's project is one that will help educate others and bring awareness about why the boxes are important, said Monica Kelsey, founder of Safe Haven Baby Boxes Inc., a nonprofit organization that was created in 2014. Kelsey, who was abandoned as an infant, came up with the nonprofit after discovering a baby box at a church during a pro-life speaking tour in South Africa.

She also said she hopes the high school senior uses the project to help educate his fellow classmates about the baby boxes. A classmate might remember Wart's project in the future if they ever face a crisis situation, she said.

Kelsey, who lives in Woodburn, said Indiana is on track to have 10 safe haven baby boxes by the end of the year. Women who decide to surrender an infant at one of the boxes know that their child will be kept safe. "The baby boxes are a no-judgment zone," she said. She commended Wart for taking this on as his senior project. "He's setting the bar very high and we need more (students) taking on such a big issue," Kelsey said



The ugly truth about firefighting the public doesn't understand

They will never feel the profound sadness that we do as a result of seeing too much

We know what we see is real. We know how it feels. We live with the memories, and know that more will come.

We are tuned in to every aspect of the firefighting life. We know when a brother or sister is lost, and we mourn in our own way, no matter how far away the incident was that took them from us. We don't have to know the name of the deceased, or their story, because we are the people who make the ultimate sacrifice. Inside every one of us lives a small part of the rest, and we feel the loss more profoundly than people could imagine.

The truth is, this is not the easy life that the general public wants to think it is. This is far more than shopping for lunch, parades, Dalmatians, and Fire Prevention Week. This is life, and loss, and tragedy. This is insomnia, and injury, and depression. None of us gets through it unscathed. None of us expect to. Some of us will not get out alive, and we know all too well that the *someone* could be us.

So we protect the public from whatever misfortune comes their way, and put out their fires, and tend their wounded, and keep them as safe as we can. We pull the dead from the car wrecks, and cover the bodies at fire scenes so the news cameras won't bring the horror into the nation's living rooms. We protect our people from more than just the physical; we keep them from knowing the truth.

The truth is ugly, and devastating. People will tell us that they can imagine how horrific it was for us, but they will never, in a million years, really imagine the depth of that horror.

They will never have to deal with the guilt — the constant mental playback, wondering if only I were a little bit faster, a little bit better, a little more poised, a little more heroic. They will never feel the profound sadness that we do as a result of seeing too much. They will never breathe in the smell of death as it lingers on the recently deceased, before the undertaker does his work. They will never wonder how they will even make it home, and get on with things after what they've witnessed.

They don't have to know about any of it. We let them imagine how bad it can be, and allow them the luxury of thinking that they have imagined it right. They don't have to bear the burden of life at its most raw and powerful. They have the luxury of watching the world go by through their screens — screens that don't scream, screens that don't burn, or bleed.

We let them think that life is fair, with an occasional aberration. We allow them the luxury of the illusion of safety and fairness as life barrels along. They do not need to know how often things veer out of control. They don't have to know what we know. We remember how it felt to be innocent. We know exactly how good it feels to not see the brutal realities that linger just out of sight. We don't want them to know about any of it.

All we want is to keep the people who depend on us far away from the things we dread ... and we want to survive this career with our hope, health and sanity intact.

Terre Haute Gets Money

A local fire department is getting some money, and it'll help keep firefighters safe.

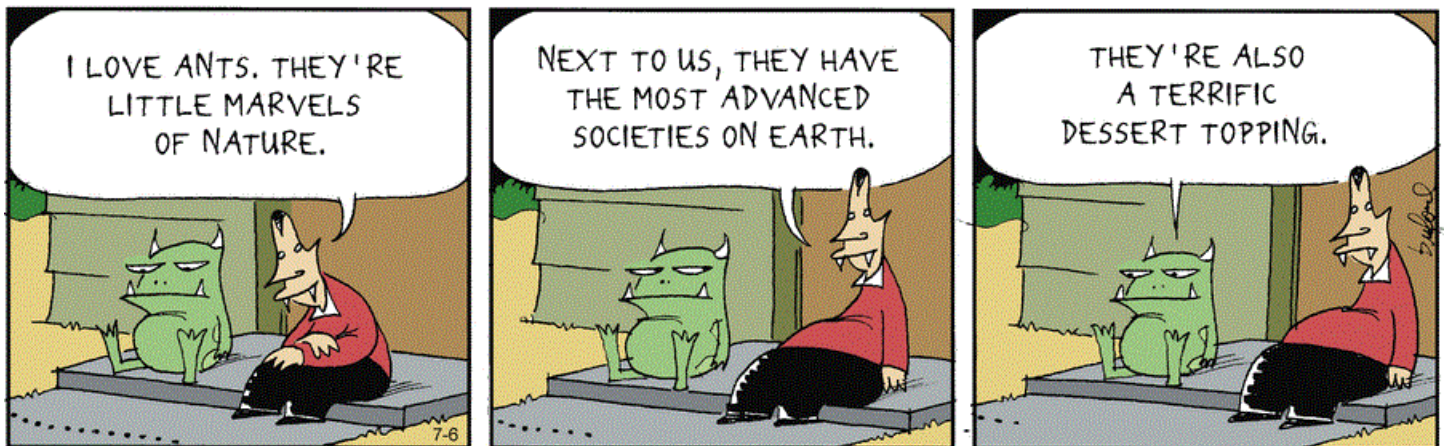
The Terre Haute Fire Department will receive just under \$284,000.

Chief Jeff Fisher told us each station building will receive a new kind of exhaust ventilation system.

Basically, a hose will connect to the tail-pipe of the truck, pushing the fumes outside instead of being filtered back into the building.

The grant money comes from divisions of the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA.

Four other Indiana fire departments also received money.



Smartphone Smoke Detectors

A team of coding students from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, have developed an app that can turn your smartphone into a smoke detector.

'Smoke Detective' is programmed to allow a smartphone camera to detect smoke from a fire, then sound an audible and visible alarm upon detection. Local husband and father, Steve Davis, came up with the idea after his family went through the trauma of a house fire.

A chance meeting with a college professor gave Davis the resources he needed to take his innovative idea from paper to product. The team hopes to release Smoke Detective for iPhone and Android by the end of 2018.

The Other Victims

First Responders Often Suffer Alone

The night a gunman fired into a crowd of 22,000 people at the country music festival in Las Vegas in 2017, nursing supervisor Antoinette Mullan at University Medical Center was focused on one thing: saving lives.

She recalls dead bodies on gurneys across the triage floor, a trauma bay full of victims. But "in that moment, we're not aware of anything else but taking care of what's in front of us," Mullan says. She calls that event, "the most horrific evening of my life." But in a career spanning 30 years, Mullan has experienced plenty of other tragic incidents in which she witnessed suffering and death. She says she has tried to work through these painful memories, mostly on her own. "I can tell you that after 30 years, I still have emotional breakdowns and I never know when it's going to hit me," she says.

In 2017, there were [346 mass shootings](#) nationwide, including the Las Vegas massacre — one of the deadliest in U.S. history — according to [Gun Violence Archive](#), a nonprofit organization that tracks the country's gun-related deaths.

The group, which defines mass shootings as ones in which four or more people are killed or injured, has identified 159 so far this year, through July 3.

Just last week, a gunman burst into the newsroom of the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Md., [killing five journalists](#) and injuring two others.

Many of the men and women who respond to these tragedies have become heroes and victims at once. Some firefighters, EMTs, police and others say the scale, sadness and sometimes sheer gruesomeness of their experiences haunt them. Many, like Mullan, are stoic, forgoing counseling even when it is offered.

"I don't have this sense that I need to go and speak to someone," says Mullan. "Maybe I do, and I just don't know it."

Research shows that emergency first responders suffer from the accumulation of stress and trauma. First responders report feeling depression, job burnout, substance abuse, troubled relationships — even suicide. Many studies have found [elevated rates of post-traumatic stress disorder](#) among nurses, firefighters and paramedics. A 2016 [report](#) by the International Association of Fire Fighters found that firefighters and paramedics are exhibiting levels of PTSD similar to that of combat veterans.

Yet there's a dearth of research on treatment, insufficient preparation by employers for traumatic events and significant [stigma associated with seeking care](#) for the emotional fallout of those events, says Jeff Dill, a counselor and founder of the [Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance](#) in Anthem, Ariz.

"When we have these national disasters or have a guy take a truck and run people over ... those are added stressors we aren't prepared for," says Dill, who is a former firefighter.

Dill says the emotional toll of these large-scale horrific events is magnified because everyone is talking about them. They are inescapable and become emotional "trigger points."

But a slow change in culture is also catching on, Dill says.

Dill travels the country teaching mental health awareness workshops for firefighters and other emergency personnel. Some employers are working on developing greater peer support, he says, but it often comes after the fact rather than proactively.

"We met a lot of resistance early on because of the [stoic] culture," says Dill.

Now, he says, emergency workers are starting to talk more openly about their PTSD and depression from the trauma they see at work. More first responders are reaching out to him and attending his workshops, he says.

"When I started in the fire service way back when, we didn't have to worry about those things," Dill says. But now, "out of those horrific incidents comes the conversation. They're talking about it instead of keeping it buried deep inside."



Death Blow For Unions ?

The Supreme Court has ruled in favor of public employees' First Amendment rights to decline to pay union dues, marking a potential blow to the funding for influential unions of public employees. The decision marks a big moment for Justice Neil Gorsuch, who voted with the majority and broke the tie from 2016 when the court was split 4-4 in the same case after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

In the case, *Janus v. AFSCME*, a public employee in Illinois, Mark Janus, argued that it violated his First Amendment right when he was required to pay union fees because he did not agree with all of the union's political positions. The case challenges a previous Supreme Court ruling from 1977 that found unions can require all employees to pay fees because they could all benefit from negotiations even if they aren't members. Unions for public employees can charge nonmembers an "agency fee" intended to pay for activities that supposedly benefit all employees, like collective bargaining. But Alito said the unions were using nonmembers fees to pay for lobbying, recreational activities, and litigation. In this specific case, the plaintiff Janus was required to pay \$44.58 a month to the union for Illinois state employees even though he didn't agree with the union's position on collective bargaining and other issues. The Court found that union fees violate the free speech rights of nonmembers by compelling them to subsidize private speech on public matters, even if they disagree with the message.

"Under Illinois law, public employees are forced to subsidize a union, even if they choose not to join and strongly object to the positions the union takes in collective bargaining and related activities. We conclude that this arrangement violates the free speech rights of nonmembers by compelling them to subsidize private speech on matters of substantial public concern," Justice Samuel Alito said in the Court's decision.

The Court also said state and public unions can no longer take fees from employees' paychecks without consent, meaning every employee must opt-in to support the union instead of opt-out.

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner, who was a party to the case because of the union's negotiations with the state, said the Court's decision was "pro-worker" and "pro-taxpayer."

But the union, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees said the case was ultimately a political attack by Rauner against unions.

"We are extremely disappointed the Supreme Court has taken the side of the powerful few, but we're more determined than ever to keep our union strong, standing up for public services and the working people who provide them," AFSCME Council 31 Executive Director Roberta Lynch [said in a statement](#). One expert on labor and education said the decision could diminish collective bargaining, which has attracted more attention because of the [teachers' strikes in multiple states](#) over the last year.

"We can now expect to see more chaotic labor relations in the public sector as formal collective bargaining may diminish. The teacher strikes and walkouts in West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Arizona demonstrate that these workers will continue to act collectively, with or without formal rights granted by the government or the Constitution," said Rebecca Kolins Givan, an associate professor at Rutgers School of Management of Labor Relations.

The AFL-CIO, a group of 55 national unions, said the Court's decision "joined the corporate attack on working people" and the group's secretary tweeted that it proves the decision was politically motivated.

Justice Elena Kagan said in her dissent that the majority took sides in ongoing disputes over the role of unions that should have been decided through the democratic process because Illinois and other states have their own laws about union fees.

"Speech is everywhere – a part of every human activity (employment, health care, securities trading, you name it). For that reason, almost all economic and regulatory policy affects or touches speech. So the majority's road runs long. And at every stop are black-robed rulers overriding citizens' choices. The First Amendment was meant for better things," Kagan said.

Kagan said a previous Court ruling related to this case barred unions from using fees from nonmembers to support political candidates or ideological causes because those expenses are not related to collective bargaining.

But President Donald Trump tweeted that the ruling hurts Democrats because non-union employees would not be required to support candidates supported by their union.

ENDING WELL

I've had something brewing in my mind for a number of years. It's time I try to verbalize it and deal with it. It is all about ending a career well. Let's get to it: I was watching the movie Engine 49 again. I've watched it several times, always noticing something new. This time was no different. The main character had begun his career as a firefighter. He was eager, and quick to share how much he loved his job. Later, toward the end, he is not the same. Experiences, loss and many other things had soured him to the job. His battalion chief asks him the question, "Do you still love your job as you did in the beginning."

The statement allowed me to think of the many outstanding firefighters I've been privileged to meet and reflect upon those who did not end well. Somewhere along the line they had lost their love for the job. For whatever reason, the thrill was no longer there and they were left to retire in bitterness against the fire department or personnel there of. I was saddened to see such a great career end in such disappointment.

I was talking about such matters to my chief and announced my disappointment and sorrow about it all. He understood as he has seen it as well. I asked, "Why do you think it happens?" His answer was that some firefighters love their jobs so much that they don't know how to leave it, then quoted a New York City firefighter who said, "You have to hate your job in order to leave it." I'm not sure I agree with that, but it might give a partial understanding of the problem.

So, how do we end well? How do we end our career with the same appreciation of the fire service that we began with? How do we insure that we end with the same love of service that we had in the beginning? I don't have a final answer, but here is what I'm thinking at the moment:

Maintain DILIGENCE throughout our career: Be careful not to fall into the trap of laziness but give constant effort to protect and accomplish the career you have undertaken.

Be FAITHFUL to your calling as a firefighter: be careful to observe your duty and performance of your obligations; be loyal.

Live a life of HONESTY: Be fair in your dealings with your fire department, chiefs, officers and other firefighters; treat them fairly; treat them like you want to be treated.

Continue to be INDUSTRIOUS your entire career: Make a constant effort to be the best firefighter you can be; give steady attention to your duties and be productive in your labor.

Be a person of INTEGRITY: Behave in accordance with the strict code of values held by other firefighters.

Maybe if we apply these five traits, we will end well. That is my prayer for you.

Blessings!

John A. Lefler,
Chaplain

LAST ALARM

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<i>Donald L Deckard</i>	<i>Bloomington FD</i>
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