

# THE FRONT LINE

A Publication of Lincoln County Fire Protection District #1

July 2010



## PERFORMANCE SURVEY

District residents may now rate the performance of the Fire District by completing an online survey.

## ARSON SUSPECT CAPTURED BY TASK FORCE

## FIRE DISTRICT RECEIVES \$324,000 FIREFIGHTER'S ASSISTANCE GRANT

OUR PERFORMANCE SURVEY IS NOW ONLINE. TAKE A MOMENT TO RATE US!

[www.LINCOLNCOUNTYFIRE.org](http://www.LINCOLNCOUNTYFIRE.org)

# FIRE DISTRICT RECEIVES \$324,000 GRANT

In 2009, the Fire District was awarded a \$324,000 grant from the Assistance to Firefighter's program sponsored by the federal government. The grant was awarded to fund the purchase of a live fire training simulator, which helps provide realistic firefighter training while maintaining a controlled and safe environment. The simulator was delivered to the Fire District in May 2010 after being custom fabricated to provide firefighters with frequent and ongoing training which will benefit citizens and businesses by increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency operations.

The live fire training simulator is a 50 foot long, two-story trailer that weighs approximately 50,000 pounds. The unit is self contained and includes an electric generator, smoke machine, exhaust fans, several live fire props, movable walls, simulated pitched roof, onboard propane tanks and much more.

Although the overall unit is a simulator, the fire is certainly not simulated. During a live fire training exercise, an operator remotely ignites and controls each of the realistic fires, fueled by propane. During operation, the temperature inside the simulator can exceed 1200 degrees Fahrenheit.

Use of the simulator is open to other area Fire Districts and Departments for use in training as well.



## Performance Survey Now Online

On June 4, 2010, Lincoln County Fire Protection District #1 launched an online performance survey for use by residents and business owners in the fire district. The purpose of the survey is to gather information about citizen needs, wants and opinions about how the fire district has been performing.

Fire Chief Mike Cherry said, "We value the opinions of our residents and business owners, and will ensure their input is taken to heart." The Fire District will utilize the survey to focus efforts on areas which the citizens feel are important. Over the next two months, citizens will be randomly selected to receive a postcard asking them to participate in the survey. Although, all residents and business owners in the fire district are encouraged to complete the online survey.

The performance survey can be found at [www.lincolncountyfire.org](http://www.lincolncountyfire.org) by clicking on the "Survey" tab in the main menu at the top of the page.

## Arson Suspect Captured By Task Force

On May 19, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. the Lincoln County Arson Task Force was mobilized and deployed to Moscow Meadows mobile home park on Elm Tree Road in Moscow Mills. The purpose of the deployment was to investigate five intentionally set fires which occurred in the past year, with two of those in the past 30 days. Most of the fires had been relatively minor in nature such as a portable toilet and playground equipment. Most recently, a vacant mobile home and a storage building were set on fire.



Task Force members interviewed each of the approximate 200 residents in the mobile home park. During these interviews, consistent and credible information was obtained from witnesses about a potential suspect who is identified as Karlos E. Bryant, an 18 year old male who resides in the park.

Bryant was arrested while leaving the mobile home park and later interviewed regarding the fires. Bryant was subsequently charged with Arson 2nd Degree, a felony.

The Lincoln County Arson Task Force thanks the concerned citizens of Moscow Meadows who are undoubtedly dedicated to protecting their community. This case may very well not have been solved without you!

**MISSOURI ARSON HOTLINE: 1-800-39-ARSON**  
**\$5,000 REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO AN ARREST INVOLVING ARSON**

# New Home Inspection Program Suspended

Effective May 18, 2010 Lincoln County Fire Protection District #1 will no longer issue permits or perform inspections for single-family dwellings. This includes new construction, remodels, basement finishes, additions, etc. All existing permits issued prior to this date will continue to be inspected through the usual process up to and including a Final Occupancy Inspection. Any builders or homeowners still wishing a residential inspection conducted, may request a voluntary inspection by submitting an Application for Permit and following the established process.

It is important to note that ONLY single-family dwellings are exempted. All other required permits and inspections such as duplexes, townhomes and commercial occupancies remain in effect and the 2009 codes will apply. In addition, a permit and plan review remains required for new residential developments including street widths, fire hydrants, etc.

Although we do believe fire and life safety is important in a residential setting, this change resolves many controversial issues and more importantly will allow us to re-focus our existing resources on other critical items such as district accreditation, public fire education and other areas which will greatly benefit the residents and businesses in our community.

## May 2010 Call Volume & Responses

Type of Incident	May 2010	2010 YTD	2009 YTD
Fire	8	71	121
Rescue/Medical	42	205	260
Hazardous Condition	11	51	55
Good Intent	16	85	133
Service Call	6	38	33
False Alarm/False Call	7	45	28
Weather Related	2	2	0
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>630</b>

## The Chief's Corner

Some citizens have expressed concern that the premise of the recent Fire District survey was to prepare for a tax increase. Let me assure you, this is **not** the case. Given the current economic conditions and the personal financial hardship of many citizens, I feel the Fire District must make due with current funding and without reducing services.



**Fire Chief Mike Cherry**

In 2004, voters graciously approved a tax increase which has allowed the Fire District to keep pace with community growth and to prepare for further expansion. We have since been able to begin replacement of an aging fleet of fire trucks and equipment, build a new fire station that allows for future growth, maintain staffing levels and in-fact hire critical administrative and support personnel.

I intend to keep the Fire District on track to meet financial obligations while providing the community with an even greater level of service.

### Just Wondering

**I see the fire truck on the road alot, but they don't seem to be going to an emergency. Why are fire-fighters driving around?**

There are many reasons fire trucks are on the road without the lights and sirens turned on.

Many calls for assistance that we receive, such as power lines down, smoke detector assistance, and animal rescues do not necessarily require an emergency response.

Just a few other reasons you may see fire trucks on the road are:

- Firefighter training
- Fueling/service of trucks
- Public events
- Assisting other Fire Districts
- Fire safety education
- Fire hydrant testing
- Business walk-throughs
- Requests for assistance
- Driver/operator training
- Station maintenance
- Acquiring District supplies

## Home Fire Safety Tip

Burning of yard waste, debris and trash contributes to many home fires. Outside fires left unattended may burn out of control and spread to the home or other nearby buildings. Ensure fires are never left unattended and always have a garden hose or fire extinguisher handy, just in case. Practice responsible burning and consider wind and weather conditions before lighting the fire.

# Firefighter Training Report

by Assistant Chief Randy Ragan

The second quarter (April, May and June) of training for the Fire District provided the Firefighters with some great opportunities to practice some of the lifesaving skills they use while doing their jobs. In April, those Firefighters who are not certified as Emergency Medical Technicians attended a Fire Department Medical First Responder class. This 40 hour class taught the Firefighters the basics of emergency medical care and is certified through the University of Missouri Fire Rescue Training Institute. Also attending the classes were some members of the Hawk Point Fire Department.

During this time period, the Firefighters that are certified to perform dive rescues and recoveries met on three separate times and trained on underwater search patterns. This is a very dangerous, due to the lack of visibility in most the ponds and rivers that are in our District. This training proved vital, as the team was called out in the early morning hours to assist Winfield Foley Fire Protection District on May 30th to help locate a drowning victim. Four divers entered the 2 ½ acre lake and started performing “grid searches” along the bottom. Within 20 minutes, rescue diver James Johnson located the victim in about 12 feet of water.

During May, Captain Mike Noonan taught a “Pump Operations” class. This class is certified through the University of Missouri Fire Rescue Training Institute and is one of the requirements before a Firefighter can drive a fire apparatus. Also in attendance were members of the Winfield Foley Fire Protection District and Hawk Point Fire Protection District. Also in May, FF Ron Walters instructed an Emergency Vehicle Drivers Training class, which is also required to become a driver. This class is certified through VFIS, Volunteer Firemen Insurance Services. The class consists of lecture in the classroom, and also a driving proficiency test where the Firefighters have to show their skills while driving through a course of cones. I would like to send special thanks to Captain Noonan and FF Walters for teaching these classes, and also Witte Brothers for allowing us to use their parking lot for the driving skills portion of the class.



**Firefighters Train for Structural Firefighting**

In the month of May, our mobile fire training unit was delivered from Fireblast Inc. This training unit was purchased through the AFG grant process, which means the Fire District only paid 10 percent of the cost of the unit. This state of the art unit provides Firefighters with “Live Fire” training along with training in ventilation, victim rescue, self rescue and many other training scenarios. The cost of the unit was 360,000 dollars, with the District paying only 36,000. The manufacturer delivered the unit and did a “train the trainer” class for several District employees that will be operating the trailer. The first training in June went very well, with 16 members participating. Everyone commented at the end of the training class about how realistic the training appeared. A nitrogen smoke system keeps the trailer full of smoke while two separate propane driven fires occur in the trailer. Firefighters had to find their way through the smoke and heat to locate the gas fed fires and extinguish them. The following week, members of the Hawk Point Fire Protection District went through the training unit and commented the same. The training unit can be used by any Fire District in the area.

Also in June, A training class was provided to advise responders of a new suicide method that is sweeping the country that can be fatal to first responders if they are not prepared. The suicide method is called “detergent suicide,” where the victim mixes two easily purchased chemicals, mixes them in a closed environment, usually an enclosed vehicle, and together they make a chemical called hydrogen sulfide. This chemical is extremely hazardous and exposure to it causes immediate death. Responders were taught some of the warning signs and how to handle these calls safely.

## Toy Drive for Kids at Children’s Hospital

The tough little guys and girls at Children’s Hospital of St. Louis have made a wish list of a few items that will make their hospital stay just a little bit better. Tough Guys, Inc., Lincoln County Fire Protection District #1 many other Lincoln County agencies are proud to support this drive and help bring a smile to the faces of many kids who call

# Toy Drive continued...

the hospital home. Any toy donation is welcome, but some of the most common items requested by the kids are:

**Action Figures** – Power Rangers, GI Joe, Iron Man, Spiderman, Transformers, etc.

**DVD's for Teens** – Twilight, Twilight New Moon, 500 Days of Summer, Julie and Julia, Amelia, Sherlock Holmes, Michael Jackson – This Is It.

**Wonder Wagons** – These wagons are custom made in the shape of animals such as elephants, giraffes, etc. and are used to transport sick children around the hospital. Unfortunately, the hospital doesn't have enough for all of the children. Each Wonder Wagon costs \$400. If you would like to donate a wagon for the children, please make a check payable to St. Louis Children's Hospital and send to P.O. Box 152 Troy, MO 63379 or you may bring it to any of the drop off locations listed below.

The donations will be picked-up from the drop-off locations on July 30, 2010 and delivered to the hospital for distribution. In order to protect the children from further illness, generous donations must be new-in-the-box.

There are several drop off locations throughout Lincoln County. They are Troy Police Department, Lincoln County Fire Protection District #1 – Station 1, Lincoln County Medical Center, Lincoln County Ambulance District and Westplex 100.7 FM in Moscow Mills.

## Fireworks Tent Fire Intentionally Set

On June 29, 2010 at 3:56 A.M., Lincoln County Fire Protection District #1 was dispatched to Hwy 61 and Old Hwy 61 for a fireworks tent on fire. Arriving fire units encountered heavy fire and a barrage of explosions inside and outside the 1,800 square foot tent. Firefighters fought through the fireworks explosions and quickly extinguished the fire within ten minutes of arrival.

Shortly after the initial call, Lincoln County Central Dispatch received a report of two male subjects running through private property nearby. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, Troy Police and Moscow Mills Police responded and located one of the men in the woods. Officers also located the second subject after an extensive search however, the man evaded capture as a Sheriff's Deputy was attempting to arrest him. Deputies later captured the second man.

Lincoln County Fire Marshal Barry Nuss and an assisting investigator from the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office determined the fire was intentionally set. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Department is actively investigating the case and expects to have charges filed as early as today.