It is with a grateful heart and mixed emotions that I write this final submission for our newsletter. If you would have ever told me, or anyone that knew me 37 years ago, that I would have been asked to serve as the State Fire Marshal, the consensus opinion would have been to get your head examined. Every step of the way between then and now there have been people that have altered the course of my life which guided me to where I am today. My father was a policeman in Aurora and was well respected in our community for his work with juveniles helping to turn hundreds of wayward teens into productive members of society. I wanted to be like him, so I joined the Kane County Sheriff Department. I was sent to the Illinois State Police Academy where the mantra of Integrity, Service and Pride was forever etched into my brain. After a few short years I realized that law enforcement was not the path for me and recognizing this, my wife Traci showed me a newspaper advertisement for the Aurora Fire Department. A short time later I was hired by AFD and transitioned from the required independent, take control mindset of law enforcement to the team mentality of the fire service.

Having grown up the youngest of 5 overly aggressive, risk loving brothers (as well as 1 well protected sister) the concept of “team over self” and running towards danger came naturally. To this day, although there are many fine fire departments in Illinois, I would not have changed my time in Aurora with anywhere else. We had all the manpower, vehicles, tools, equipment and training we could have asked for and we were well compensated for our work.

After moving through the ranks to Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal, I was contacted by the Lt Governor to apply for the State Fire Marshal position. To say this was an unexpected phone call is an understatement and I assumed the call was a prank orchestrated by one of my coworkers. I soon found out it was not a prank, retired from Aurora and ironically started my new job on April Fool’s Day 2015.

Taking a leap of this magnitude and was like jumping out of a plane and hoping the parachute worked. I soon found out that my fellow workers at the OSFM were my parachute. The folks at OSFM are honestly some of the most kind, caring and conscientious people I have ever had the pleasure of working with. As I kept my eyes and ears open (and my mouth shut) they showed me what I needed to know and made me feel at home from the very first day.
Marshal’s Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez

Probably my most surprising discovery was that not all fire departments had it as good as we did in Aurora. I wanted that to change and worked with our people, as well as all of our Illinois fire service organizations, to develop programs and budgets that provided the best possible funding to benefit the firefighters who jumped off the trucks across the State.

Luckily, my pre-existing relationship with IFSI Director Royal Mortenson allowed us to forge a strong bond between our agencies and his leadership brought new initiatives to benefit firefighters across the State. Thanks to Governor Pritzker, in the last few years we were allowed to fund grants and loans for education, training, equipment and vehicles at an unprecedented level for fire departments across the State and raise OSFM headcount to complete our mission and our statutorily mandated operations. It is very comforting to know that the OSFM is being left in the very capable hands. The leadership in place with Acting State Fire Marshal Dale Simpson and his exec team will no doubt continue and improve the direction we have established.

Most importantly, I would like to thank my wife Traci, none of this would have been possible without her career guidance, standing by me through some very tough times and still loving me when I was probably at times unlovable. She took on the lion’s share of raising our children and establishing a safe and loving home which allowed me to focus on my responsibilities. Lastly, a tip of the cap to Norman who has been my road dog for all 7 years. It has been a great ride and I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to serve in this capacity. God Bless the OSFM and the Illinois Fire Service!
Employee Spotlight

Norman D Perez
State Fire Dog

Where are you originally from? Springfield APL

Tell us about your family? Kids, Significant other..... No kids, I was fixed at an early age, but I have two special lady friends, Nickie in the north and Jules in the south

Favorite food(s)? Marshmallows, peanut butter or any treats I can get

Hobbies? Sniffing, napping and begging

What’s your favorite movie or book? Old Yeller (I still cry every time) and the coloring book with my image on it

When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers? Whatever heavy metal music my buffoon chauffeur turns on

What did you want to be when you were a kid? Junk Yard Dog (my favorite wrestler)

What’s your favorite part of the job? The thrill of running into the office in the morning to see who is there and what treats they have!

What’s something unique about you? I have unaddressed anger issues with the delivery workers

Where is your favorite place to vacation? Nickie’s house

Where is your bucket list destination? Sequoia National Park, I hear the trees are UUUGE!
Thank you, Fire Marshal Perez, for your leadership over the past 7 years! The OSFM is a better agency today and will continue to achieve goals and help train and promote the greatest fire service in the nation, thanks to your leadership going forward. We hope you; Traci and Norman have a happy and healthy retirement!
Fire Marshal Perez- Kenny Long Award Recipient

Established in 1996 and named after a leader, strong visionary and someone truly devoted to the mission of the IAFPD with a passion for helping small districts. Recipients are selected by the IAFPD Board of Directors and often follow the same philosophy and possess the same leadership vision as did Kenny Long. The award is given to a person who has made a significant difference to the fire service as a whole and their work will be seen for years to come.

While a 27-year veteran to a city department, he has demonstrated compassion towards every type of firefighter and department.

Coping with COVID - His ongoing efforts to lead a staff, collect data, report cases, get PPE funding, work towards solutions that support the overwhelmed departments, supported the allocation of $1 Million to help small departments who were not able to hold their fund-raising breakfasts, cookouts and raffle drawings.

Addressing the need for record keeping and providing free software to record and track training records to improve OSHA inspection process. Recognized the need and found ways to support the Community Risk Reduction concept beginning in Fall 2017 and continuing to what has a strong movement throughout the state including the small and rural areas that do not have fire prevention bureaus. Sought funding and allocated them to cover lodging for firefighters willing to go to the firefighter’s conference.

He has gained an excellent reputation during his 7-year commitment to address the needs of the state including smaller departments in his short career as Fire Marshal.
The OSFM held an open house to honor retiring State Fire Marshal Matt Perez on Wednesday, June 29th. Members from the fire service community and state agencies came together to honor SFM Perez. Norman enjoyed his cupcakes and everyone was able to enjoy the many treats provided from the OSFM staff.
Dale Simpson will assume the role of Acting State Fire Marshal as of Tuesday, July 5th.

Acting Illinois State Fire Marshal Dale Simpson has served in public safety for over 35 years, the last 9 years with the OSFM. Before assuming the role of Acting SFM, Simpson began his career with the OSFM as a Fire Prevention Field Inspector, then moved into the position of OSFM Fire Prevention Division Manager, before accepted the role of Bureau Chief of Operations. Prior to OSFM, Simpson served with the Springfield Fire Department beginning in 1983, and upon his retirement in 2009 had worked his way up through the ranks, retiring as Division Chief Fire Safety, along with serving as the City of Springfield Fire Marshal. Prior to the fire service, Simpson was involved with both paid and volunteer ambulance services.

During his time in the Springfield Fire Department, Simpson served as a sworn Fire/Arson Investigator, Explorer Post Coordinator, C.E.R.T. Coordinator, Juvenile Fire Setter Program Coordinator, and instructor for both the Springfield Fire Department and Lincoln Land Community College.

Simpson is honored and proud to serve the OSFM and looks to continue the Agency’s mission of providing fire safety and other essential services to the citizens of Illinois.
Keith Oncken was honored at the Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts for his...get this....72 years of service!!!!!! Keith spent 54 of those years as a firefighter at the Milledgeville Fire Protection District and is a trustee for the district. Thanks for your service, sir!
Fireworks Safety

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM) encourages everyone to leave fireworks to the professionals. Every year across the state, accidental fires, burn injuries, loss of limbs, and deaths occur due to the use of fireworks.

Home fireworks use around the 4th of July holiday are a dangerous tradition that leads to injuries that are preventable by simply leaving fireworks to the professionals. It's important to check with your local community to see what is and isn't allowed when it comes to novelty items such as sparklers, snappers, and poppers.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, an estimated 19,500 fires started by fireworks were reported to local fire departments in the US during 2018. These fires caused five civilian deaths, 46 civilian injuries, and $105 million indirect property damage in the United States. These fires are not only caused by commercial/consumer fireworks, but also by unregulated novelty fireworks that are sometimes purchased at local supermarkets.

In addition to fireworks, novelties such as sparklers, snappers, and poppers are very dangerous. Sparklers account for the greatest number of fireworks injuries, and often to the youngest victims. Sparklers burn in excess of 1,200 degrees - hot enough to melt many metals and turn steel glowing red. An instantaneous touch will cause a burn and may result in permanent damage or scarring.

During the July seasonal reporting period, 60 hospitals and facilities reported a total of 202 fireworks related injuries and one fatality during the 2021 reporting period. Comparatively, 89 hospitals reported 163 injuries during the same period in 2020. There is no requirement for healthcare providers to report fireworks injuries and we appreciate their efforts.

Over half of all injuries (57%) occurred to persons over 22 years of age. Children's injuries in the 11-16 age group increased (29) from the previous year of 23. More than 50% of all injuries affected hands, followed by injuries to the head/face and eyes. Second degree burns were the leading type of injury followed by first degree burns.
Fireworks
Injuries & Deaths
2021 REPORT

#CelebrateSafely

Fireworks Safety Tips

★ Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers.
★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
★ Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
★ Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
★ Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
★ Never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs.
★ More Fireworks Safety Tips: cpsc.gov/fireworks

How & When Injuries Occurred

2021 Injuries by Firework Type

- 1500 Firecrackers
- 1100 Sparklers

74% of injuries occurred in the week leading up to, or the week after the July 4th holiday.

Most Injured Body Parts

- 32% burns
- 14% eyes
- 21% head, face, & ears
- 31% hands & fingers
- 34% other

Spike in Fireworks Injuries over the Last 15 Years

- 25% increase in fireworks injuries between 2006 & 2021

11,500 injuries treated in ERs between 2006 & 2021

Deaths from Fireworks

2018: 6
2019: 20
2020: 26
2021: 9

Grilling Safety

The Office of the State Fire Marshal advises everyone to practice these steps to help ensure a safe summer filled with everyone’s favorite grilled foods:

- Propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors
- The grill should be placed away from the home or deck railings, and out from under eaves of your home and overhanging tree branches
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grilling area
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill
- Never leave your grill unattended
- Always make sure gas grill lid is open before lighting it
- Check the gas tank on your propane grills and hoses for leaks each time before using
- If you smell gas while grilling, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department
- Make sure charcoal grill coals are cool before disposing of them in a metal container
- Always have a fire extinguisher, bucket of water or garden hose nearby or know where you can access one quickly
The OSFM participated in the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Camp I AM Me Fire Apparatus Parade in Ingleside on Wednesday, June 22\textsuperscript{nd}. Numerous fire departments from across the state brought fire apparatus and campers along with camp volunteers who joined them in the parade. This is one of the campers favorite days of the weeklong camp.

Camp I AM Me is Illinois’ camp for burn survivors. To learn more about the camp visit:
https://www.ifsa.org/programs/camp
State Fire Marshal Matt Perez sits down with Westchester Fire Chief Mike Mavrogeorge in this episode of Coffee with the Chief. This episode was shot on the final day of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May).

Chief Mavrogeorge talks about how he came to the fire service and his life growing up in a military family. Chief Mavrogeorge has big plans for the department in the future, with one of those plans being a new fire station.

View the episode here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQmY1J6mygc
The OSFM continues our commitment to DEI by enabling staff to thrive in a culture which fully embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion. OSFM acknowledges that in order to best empower, value and safeguard our employees, our workforce must reflect Illinois' diversity. We pledge to enhance agency diversity by employing strategic initiatives for recruitment, support, and retention as we work closely with our industry partners and regulatory stakeholders throughout the State. During the month of June, we celebrated Pride Month and Juneteenth, along with other celebrations.
June is recognized as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month. PTSD is defined by the American Psychological Association as an anxiety problem that develops in some people after extremely traumatic events, such as combat, crime, an accident or natural disaster. Although trauma is the root cause, it’s the overwhelming symptoms – including night sweats, panic attacks, flashbacks and more – that make the condition diagnosable. It’s okay to ask for help!

Statistics show 1 in 4 people suffer from some form of mental illness in any given year. Firefighters are three times more likely to die from suicide than in the line of duty. According to the Firefighter Behavioral Health Alliance, 105 firefighters took their own lives in the United States in 2014. The US Firefighters Association (USFA reports that about 10 percent of firefighters may be abusing illicit substances and that alcohol abuse among this population is more than twice the rates seen in the general public. Post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors among first responders are also common and believed to be triggered or worsened by repeat exposure to trauma, including physical abuse and death among the people they serve, loss of people close to them, and life-threatening situations.

The OSFM has set up a First Responder Resiliency and Mental Health Resource page:

https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Resources/Pages/First-Responder-Resiliency-Mental-Health-Resources.aspx
The 2022 Safety Stand Down theme is “Situational Awareness: The Foundation for Good Decision Making.” The theme of Safety Stand Down 2022 focuses on the importance of situational awareness to help firefighters solve problems, prevent bad outcomes, and make better decisions in high-stress environments. During Safety Stand Down week – this year from June 19-25 – daily focus areas highlighted situational awareness during multiple incident types:

Day 1: Situational awareness at structure fires: 4 questions to guide decision-making

Day 2: Situational awareness at EMS incidents: Overcoming complacency

Day 3: Situational awareness at roadway incidents: Honing a defensive mindset

Day 4: Situational awareness on wildland fires: Share the mental workload

Day 5: Situational awareness during acts of violence: Vigilance is key

To learn more and to review these resources visit: https://www.safetystanddown.org/resources/
National Safety Month

Observed annually in June, National Safety Month focuses on reducing leading causes of injury and death at work, on the road and in our homes and communities.

This year the following weekly topics will be highlighted during National Safety Month:

Week 1 - Musculoskeletal Disorders: MSDs are a leading cause of workplace injury and cost billions each year in workers' compensation and lost productivity. Gain the latest resources and practical tools to help your organization take action.

Week 2 - Workplace Impairment: We all know the dangers of substance use on the job. But did you know mental distress, stress, and fatigue are also impairing? Access resources to recognize the signs and address impairment, in all its forms.

Week 3 - Injury Prevention: In 2020 alone, more than four million workplace injuries required medical attention in the U.S. Learn about approaches to preventing injuries and deaths, including identifying hazards and assessing risks.

Week 4 - Slips, Trips, and Falls: With falls the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death, this week the focus will be on reducing slips, trips, and falls as well as falls from heights and cover how technology can play a role in saving lives.

To learn more and obtain free safety materials visit: https://www.nsc.org/workplace/national-safety-month
Grant Funded, No Cost Training for Illinois Firefighters and Departments.

ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE

UPCOMING CLASS DATES:

JULY 11: ALTON
JULY 12: WOOD RIVER
JULY 18: FAIRMONT CITY

REGISTER ONLINE:
FSI.ILLINOIS.EDU

CONGRATULATIONS on your RETIREMENT

Illinois State Fire Marshal
Matt Perez
Steve Hrustich, Project Manager for Vision 20/20, taught a Two-Day Data Class supporting Illinois CRR efforts on June 22-23 in Palatine.

This two-day workshop was designed to assist departments in creating their own Community Risk Assessments. The OSFM provided departments response data so that they could better understand how to manipulate that data.

Learn more about the Illinois CRR Statewide Taskforce by visiting their website at www.illinoiscrr.com.

Their mission is to promote the importance of risk reduction in Illinois by inspiring community ownership and providing coordinated resources.
Youth Firesetter Intervention Class

The Charleston Fire Department is pleased to announce they will be hosting a Youth Firesetter Intervention Program class for the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Here is the training information:

**Date & Time:**  Wednesday, September 14, and Thursday, September 15, 2022

**Wednesday:**  8:30 am to 4:00 pm  
**Thursday:**  8:30 am to 3:00 pm

**Place:**  Charleston Police & Fire Training Facility  
1251 W. Madison  
Charleston, IL 61920

If you would like to register for this training, please click here:  
[https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Events/Pages/Youth-Firesetter-Interventionist-Class-Charleston.aspx](https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/sfm/Events/Pages/Youth-Firesetter-Interventionist-Class-Charleston.aspx)

This class is limited to **20** due to the current COVID-19 distancing safety measures.

There is a fee of $100 per student for this class. Please make the check payable to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and mail it to the Office, prior to the training date.

Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal  
Arson Division – YFSIP  
1035 Stevenson Drive  
Springfield, IL 62703

For further information, please feel free to call me at (217) 415-7206, or email me  
Simony.Weyforth@illinois.gov

We are looking forward to seeing you in Charleston!

*Simony Weyforth*  
Youth Fire Setter Program Coordinator
Fire Prevention Week Theme Announcement

The OSFM is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®)—to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week TM (FPW), October 9-15, 2022. This year’s FPW campaign, “Fire won’t wait. Plan your escape TM”, works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires.

Today’s homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less time) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.

You don’t have to wait until fire prevention week to create or review your home fire escape plans. Have a family meeting and make sure everyone in your home knows two ways out of every room and where your meeting place is located.
**CPR/AED Awareness Week**

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**Hands-Only CPR Fact Sheet**

**Why Learn Hands-Only CPR?**
Cardiac arrest – an electrical malfunction in the heart that causes an irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia) and disrupts the flow of blood to the brain, lungs and other organs – is a leading cause of death. Each year, more than 350,000 EMS-assessed out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States.

When a person has a cardiac arrest, **survival depends on immediately receiving CPR from someone nearby.**

According to the American Heart Association, about 90 percent of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. CPR, especially if performed immediately, can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim’s chance of survival.

**Be the Difference for Someone You Love**
If you are called on to give CPR in an emergency, you will most likely be trying to save the life of someone you love: a child, a spouse, a parent or a friend.

- **Over 70 percent** of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen in homes.

- **Only about 40 percent** of people who experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest receive the immediate help that they need before professional help arrives.

**Hands-Only CPR has been shown to be as effective in the first few minutes as conventional CPR for cardiac arrest at home, at work or in public.**

**Hands-Only CPR has just two easy steps, performed in this order:**

1. **Call 911 if you see a teen or adult suddenly collapse.**

2. **Push hard and fast in the center of the chest to the beat of a familiar song that has 100 to 120 beats per minute.**

**Call 911**
The telecommunicator on the other end of the line can assist you while getting the emergency help you need on the way.

**Music Can Save Lives**
Song examples include “Staying Alive” by the Bee Gees, “Crazy in Love” by Beyoncé featuring Jay-Z, “Hips Don’t Lie” by Shakira or “Walk the Line” by Johnny Cash. People feel more confident performing Hands-Only CPR and are more likely to remember the correct rate when trained to the beat of a familiar song.

When performing CPR, you should push on the chest at a rate of 100 to 120 compressions per minute, which corresponds to the beat of the song examples above.

**Take 90 Seconds to Learn How to Save a Life**
Watch the 90-second video. Visit heart.org/handsonlycpr to watch the Hands-Only CPR instructional video and share it with the important people in your life. Hands-Only CPR is a natural introduction to CPR, and the AHA encourages everyone to learn conventional CPR as a next step. You can find a CPR class near you at heart.org/CPR.

NOTE: The AHA still recommends CPR with compressions and breaths for infants and children and victims of drowning, drug overdose, or people who collapse due to breathing problems.

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Office of the State Fire Marshal
June 2022

WWW.SFM.ILLINOIS.GOV/
CPR/AED Awareness Week

5 Ways To Get Involved

Take Charge of Your Health

Know the signs of a heart attack
Visit your family practitioner and get a check-up
Live healthier by trying new heart-healthy recipes and exercises

Learn CPR

♥ Watch the Hands-Only CPR video and share it on social media with 5 friends – one minute can save a life.
♥ Find an Instructor-led CPR course near you.
♥ Give a CPR Anytime Infant kit to a new parent or grandparent in your life.
♥ Organize a CPR training session within your community.

Advocate

♥ Go to BeCPRsmart.org and Pledge your Support.
♥ Approach a local business to purchase a CPR in Schools Training Kit for your child’s school or purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for a school or community center.
♥ Host a fundraiser to purchase CPR Anytime Kits or AEDs for an organization in your community.

Social Media

♥ Post the CPR Week Image as your Twitter or Facebook profile picture from June 1-7.
♥ Post a photo of you and your family on Instagram using the tags #CPRwithHeart.
♥ Honor a survivor of cardiac arrest on Facebook by linking to the Hands-Only CPR video.
♥ “Like” the AHA CPR First Aid Facebook page, @AHACPR and Twitter page, @HeartCPR.
♥ Recognize someone who has saved a life as a Heartsaver Hero.

Corporate

♥ Print the CPR Week Cubicle Sign.
♥ Post or Print the CPR Week sign.
♥ Ask Human Resources to add CPR Anytime to your employee wellness program.
♥ Ask your employer to purchase an AED for your workplace.
♥ Start a corporate challenge to see which department can train the most people in CPR.
♥ Host a viewing party with healthy snacks and show the Hands-Only CPR video.

CPR week is June 1-7 | To Learn more, visit heart.org/handsonlycpr | #CPRwithHeart
June is Lightning Awareness Month. There are an estimated 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes each year in the United States, nearly 800,000 of which occur in Illinois alone.

Lightning can be fascinating to watch, but it is also extremely dangerous – it is the underrated killer.

Each year in the United States, more than 1,000 people are struck by lightning.

The 10-year average was around 55 fatalities each year when Lightning Safety Awareness Week began in 2001. The 10-year average has now dropped to around 23 deaths per year.

Remember this saying: “When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!”
Traffic incidents involving electric vehicles are already commonplace. The number of electric vehicles on the roads is likely to increase significantly in the next few years.

Responder safety is always a concern during incidents involving electric vehicles with lithium-ion batteries. Responders face safety risks related to electric shock, thermal runaway, battery ignition and reignition, and stranded energy.

Electric vehicle makes and models vary significantly in how they are designed. Responders need practical and accurate emergency response guidance specific to the unique features of each electric vehicle. This information is essential for safe and effective vehicle extrication, rescue, and fire suppression.

RV Fire Safety Tips

Recreational Vehicle Fire and Life Safety Practices

Whether you are heading out to the campsite, traveling cross-country or living in a recreational vehicle (RV), it’s important to know about the fire and carbon monoxide (CO) hazards present in these moveable structures.

Recreational vehicle fires
From 2018 to 2020, there were an estimated average of 4,200 RV fires reported to U.S. fire departments each year. These fires result in an estimated 15 deaths, 125 injuries and $60,300,000 in property loss.

Most of these fires occur:
- Between the hours of 2 and 3 p.m.
- During the months of May through August.
- On Fridays and Saturdays.

Carbon monoxide in recreational vehicles
CO is an odorless, tasteless, invisible killer that can readily build up within the small area of an RV and cause severe illness and possibly death. Improper use of generators is a leading cause of CO poisoning. Malfunctioning gas-fed appliances are an additional source of CO poisoning.

Life-saving tips for the RV user:
- Check propane supply lines for kinks or damage. Test all fitting connections with a gas leak detection device.
- Make sure generator exhaust is pointed away and downwind of the RV.
- Stay in the cooking area when preparing food. If you leave, turn off the burner.
- Have a portable fire extinguisher on board that you can easily reach. Adults should take a brief training course on how to properly use an extinguisher. Remember the acronym P.A.S.S. — Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep.
- Keep doors and windows clear for escape and make sure they open easily. Practice a fire escape plan with everyone staying in the RV.
- Don’t overload the electrical outlets. Using too many electrical appliances at the same time can cause a fire.
- Have a trained technician thoroughly inspect your RV at least once a year.

All RVs should have working CO and smoke alarms installed inside to alert you of potential life-threatening hazards. Test your alarms every month.

For more information and free resources, visit usfa.fema.gov.
Jim Coffey retired from the OSFM after serving as a Storage Tank Safety Specialist for 25 years of service.

Pictured above: Jim in the middle with members from the Petroleum and Chemical Safety Division.

Pictured Left: Jim and Scot Johnson, Statewide Administrator
**What you need:** 8 1/2 x 11 piece of white paper, wrapping paper or tin foil, pencil with eraser, push pin, glue, crayons, and scissors.

**What to do:** Print out the pinwheel on your white paper. Glue a piece of wrapping paper (or tin foil) to the back of the pinwheel before you cut it out. (If you don’t have wrapping paper or tin foil you can color the back of the paper with crayons.) Cut out the pinwheel and fold the corners with the circles into the circle in the middle. Stick your push pin through the circles and into the pencil eraser (have a grown-up help you with this).