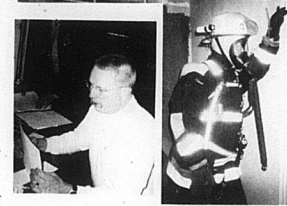
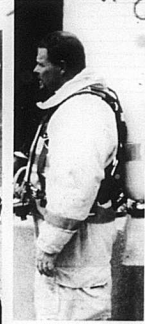
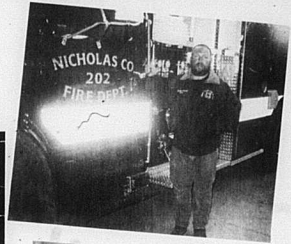
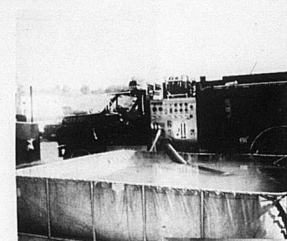


Fire Prevention Week



NICHOLAS CO. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mark Hughes, Fire Chief; Miles Hughes, Asst. Chief; Larry Ring Jr.; Mike Phillips, Asst. Chief; Scot Allison; Stevie Bloomfield; Calvin Denton, Captain; Mike Warner; Benny Buckler; Dustin Mitchell; Rodney Hedges; Shane Bussell. Not Pictured - Doug French; Randy Howard; Bill Denton

Plan Escapes To Protect Yourself And Your Family

Smoke detectors are not the only tool families should use to protect themselves from fire. Families also should think about prevention and escape.

"In Kentucky, fire was the No. 1 cause of death between 1990 and 1997 among children ages 1 to 4," said Susan Pollack, M.D., pediatrician with Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center. "Preschoolers and the elderly are particularly at risk for injury in fires."

"Families need to be proactive in preventing fires, having smoke detectors, and planning escape routes in case of a fire."

You can prevent fires and keep your family safe by practicing the following prevention techniques:

- Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach. Remember that "child resistant" does not mean "child proof."
- Keep portable heaters, including space heaters and other alternative heating sources, at least three feet from anything that can burn.

- Do not install wood stoves in manufactured or mobile homes. Wood stoves often are incompatible in these homes because they cannot be vented properly. Ask your local fire department to inspect your home before installing a wood stove, and if one already exists ask the fire department to check to see whether it's safe.
- Clean fireplaces and chimneys regularly. Have your furnace inspected at least once a year.
- Inspect electrical cords periodically. Any cords that are worn, frayed or damaged should be replaced.
- Don't overload outlets, and avoid running electrical cords under carpet or furniture.
- Don't smoke in bed or when you are drowsy; have been drinking or have taken medication that causes drowsiness.
- Buy flame retardant and/or close fitting sleepwear for children.
- Install a portable, multi-purpose, dry chemical fire extinguisher in the kitchen. However, don't try to fight large kitchen fires. Get out and call the

fire department.

Smoke detectors save lives. Install smoke detectors outside every bedroom and make sure there is at least one smoke detector on each level of your home. Test your alarms once a month and change batteries at least twice a year.

If your smoke alarm goes off, be sure you and your family know how to escape without injury. Although your children may practice fire drills at school, most fire deaths occur at night in homes. Plan an escape route, and agree on a meeting place in front of your home. Home escape routes also need to be practiced.

If a fire does occur, get out of your home and stay out. No material item is worth losing your life. Remember to think about more than detection when you think about fires. Think prevention and escape.



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