

THE SIREN

November/December 2018

WELLINGTON FIRE/EMS

Natural Gas Leaks/Explosions

Natural gas leaks and explosions can be caused by a number of things. Outside gas pipelines can deteriorate or be struck by equipment and burst. The size of the pipeline can range from a major transport line which there is one just east of Wellington to the small ones that run from the supply line (usually in the street) to your house. Meters that are struck are common sources of leaks especially those located near a roadway. Just because a pipeline is small in diameter doesn't mean that it can't cause major damage. Natural gas leaks in structures are common and can be caused by a loose connection to an appliance, deteriora-

tion, or be struck. Leaks inside a structure can also be caused by over pressure of the line by the gas company which occurred recently in Massachusetts causing numerous explosions/structure fires. We respond to numerous gas odor/leaks each year inside a structure and outside. Odors outside can be from the natural gas supplier equipment which is painted green and has pipes running outside the ground. Usually this odor is not a danger and is the equipment operating properly. Odors inside the house usually are coming from heating equipment that is either leaking or not working properly. When Fire/EMS responds to these leaks or odors we

always bring equipment to detect not only natural gas leaks but other gases as well such as carbon monoxide, oxygen levels and hydrogen sulfide. Actions we may take are evacuation of the structure, removing or turning off operating equipment, ventilating a structure, and turning off the natural gas supply. If we cannot determine the source of the leak we will call the natural gas supplier to investigate. If there is natural gas leak inside a structure all occupants should immediately evacuate until the source is determined and controlled. Do not turn off lights or operate anything that is electronic as it can be an ignition source. If you can smell natural gas you should call 911 immediately!

By Tim Hay

Active Shooter Drill

The City of Wellington conducted an active shooter drill on November 8th with the following agencies participating-Wellington Fire/EMS, Wellington Police, SRMC, City Hall staff, Sumner County 911, Sumner County Emergency Management and Sumner County Sheriff. City Hall employees were actors with simulated injuries and

some were transported to SRMC where they were triaged and treated. An actual call was made to 911 and law enforcement responded to secure the scene and protect EMS personnel. Triage of victims were made by Fire/EMS and were treated as real life injuries. Sumner County 911 had to work with several different radio frequencies. After the drill

an after incident action review was conducted at city hall to determine what corrections needed to be made. Participants were asked for input on what could be done differently for improvement. The week after the drill city hall staff were given a class on what to do in the event of an active shooter.

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Sleep Deprivation



There is evidence of a link between insufficient sleep and the risk of cancer. In particular, people with circadian rhythm disorders-in which the bodies biological clock is disrupted because of shift work. A study in the international journal of cancer found a relationship between women's irregular work schedules and the rate of breast cancer. Researchers compared 1200 women who had developed breast cancer between 2005 and 2008, with 1300 women who did not have a cancer diagnosis. They found

that the rate of breast cancer was 30% higher for the women who had worked shift work. Women who had at least four years of night shift work, as well as those with fewer than three night shifts per week (keeping them from ever fully adjusting to a set schedule) were at highest risk. Shift work has also been shown to increase the incidence of certain cancers-for example prostate cancer in men. Researchers suspect that a disruption in the

circadian rhythm could pose a risk for developing cancer, since the bodies internal clock affects so many biological functions. Indeed, scientists have seen this link in animal studies; for example, when they manipulate the sleep/wake cycles of rodents for an extended time, cancers grow faster. To learn more about how to cope circadian rhythm disorders and develop healthier sleep habits see the National Sleep Foundation website.

Smoke Alarms

Three out of five fire deaths between 2010 and 2014 occurred in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. While you can take steps to reduce fire hazards, there is little that can be done to predict a

random wiring malfunction that could lead to a devastating fire. Smoke alarms serve as a first alert, letting your family know there's imminent danger and providing a few moments warning for you to enact your fire

safety plan. If you don't have smoke alarms installed, Wellington Fire/EMS offers them at no cost. You can also opt for wireless alarm systems that are interconnected, sounding all the alarms in the

home for better notification of a problem in one area of a house. Those extra few seconds can be enough to save lives.

By Jeremy Wiens

Department Training



John Faust, Sam Pacino, Javan Wright, Jeremy Wiens, and Jerry Preston each have completed 50 hours of blue card incident command training. Blue Card is an interactive computer class on how to mitigate structure fires.

Class presentations in house for October/November were cardiac arrest, mass casualty incidents, primary search of structure, knots, hazardous material suits, pharmacology, Fire/EMS safety, and electrical hazards. Nine of our staff completed a 40 hour Driver/Operator course through Kansas University. Justin Patrick completed 160 hours of arson investigator training at the Law Enforcement Academy. Rebekah Murray completed 80 hours of Firefighter I and II classes through Hutchinson Community College. Tim Hay and Jeff Mraz attended 3 days of Fire Leadership training in Colorado. Sam Pacino and Nate Keller attended three days of boat rescue training in Salina. Seven staff completed 3 1/2 days of Aerial/Operator training through Kansas University. One person attended an emergency stroke class in Wichita. Katlyn Humphrey obtained her emergency medical technician license.

Combine Fire

On October 23rd staff responded to a combine fire in the 600 block S. Oliver. Dispatch advised that the combine was in the middle of the field and the operator thought he had the fire out. With this information a brush truck responded as well. Units arrived on scene and found a combine in the northwest corner of the field with light smoke coming

from the rear of the combine. Command was established and the Brush truck made its way out to the combine and spoke with the operator who advised he thought the fire was out but it was still smoking around the engine. A booster fire hose was used to finish extinguishing the fire in the engine compartment. The fire appeared to be caused by a short in wiring

harness. The buildup of soybean residue is what was smoldering and smoking. There was approximately \$1000 damage to the combine. As this incident was finishing there was a call of a grass fire in the 300 block of East Mill in Wellington that was handled by the call back crew.
By Harold Parkey

Change of Apparatus to Enhance Water Supply

Like many cities throughout the United States Wellington faces a challenge to replace aging water lines. Older water lines are smaller in diameter and also have corrosion within the pipe that diminishes its diameter e.g. a six inch water line may only be a 4 inch water line. Water line replacement is budgeted

each year but only enough for a few hundred feet. Throughout the years the department has encountered low water pressure during a structure fire. Often the department has to extend a second water supply line from a distant fire hydrant to acquire adequate pressure for suppression. Because of this fact we now have decided to change the apparatus response to city

structure fires. Two years ago we purchased a Engine that carries 2500 gallons of water. The Engine's first purpose was to enhance water availability in rural areas without a fire hydrant. We now use the Engine in town to ensure we have several hundred gallons of water initially for fire suppression which "buys" us time until an adequate water source can be established.

Photographs



Fire prevention week at elementary schools



Baler Fire Drury & 90th South



Vehicle accident requiring the extrication of two occupants

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

TYLER WEISS NOVEMBER 20TH

JEFF MRAZ NOVEMBER 23RD

HAROLD PARKEY DECEMBER 2ND

BRADLEY ROBINSON DECEMBER 8

VIC SANDELL DECEMBER 31ST

JAVAN WRIGHT JANUARY 6TH

During the months of October and November staff visited each apartment complex in the city (Woodlawn, Wedgewood, Wheat Capitol, Vantage Point, Plum, Shady Lane and Michigan). Staff checked to see if smoke detectors were in working order or present, and left fire prevention literature which pertained to apartment complexes.

Congratulations to Damian Berry for obtaining his paramedic certification!

Upcoming Classes & Events

December 12th 2019 Wildland Outlook-Wichita

January 2019 Fire Officer I-Winfield

January 2019 Chlorine & Anhydrous Ammonia Emergencies Mulvane

Read past newsletters at cityofwellington.net



Around the Station

Staff attended the air tour at the Wellington airport and displayed the American flag from the aerial.

B shift attended Futures family night and were in the Homecoming parade.

B shift participated in Fall fest downtown.

C shift attended the Nazarene Church festival and visited Futures preschool.

C shift participated in the Health Department flu clinic.

All shifts attended the five elementary schools and gave safety presentations to

kindergarten through 5th grade during fire prevention week.

Staff have been instructing EMT re-certification classes to Oxford first responders each month.

A shift participated in Eisenhower Elementary interest day.

B and C shift spoke at the Middle school on fire safety, careers and fire department activities.

All shifts ate breakfast with elementary students.

CPR class given to 7 citizens.



Nate Keller & Jeremy Wiens going into floodwaters to rescue stranded motorist on Seneca Rd.