

THE SIREN

July/August 2022

WELLINGTON FIRE/EMS

Kansas Turnpike

Wellington Fire/EMS responds to 26 miles of the turnpike from the Oklahoma border to the Belle Plaine service area. Over 30,000 vehicles pass through the Wellington area each day. We respond to all types of vehicle fires, grass fires, medical emergencies, hazardous material releases and most often to vehicle accidents. I jokingly refer to the turnpike as it's own little country. Working on the turnpike is very dangerous! Impaired and inattentive drivers kill or injure hundreds of first re-

sponders each year on roadways. As a department we have protocols on how to turn around on the turnpike (very dangerous) and to position our apparatus as to protect staff and patients from oncoming traffic. Closing a lane or stopping traffic altogether is some times necessary for everyone's safety. There is some times reluctance on the part of KHP to shut down traffic and that makes our job more dangerous. Our goal is to get our job done as quickly and safely as possible to re-

move our staff and any patients from the roadway. Many times if the occupants of a vehicle do not want transported to a medical facility we will put them in one of our vehicles and take them to a safe place to wait on family or friends. Yes, there are times we also take the family pet or pets with us and their luggage and any other items that they may need immediate access to. If you see emergency vehicles working an accident or fire scene please slow down and pay attention. Our life depends on that!! By Chief Tim Hay

New Employee

Welcome to our newest employee James Yunker, aka JT. James grew up in Atlanta, Georgia and moved to Kansas for his sophomore year in high school. He played several sports at South Haven high school and broke several state 8-man football records including rushing yards, touchdowns,

tackles and sacks. During his off time he enjoys hunting and various sports. His dad was a former city police officer. James is assigned to B shift as a Firefighter/EMT. He will be attending Hutchinson Community College Firefighter training in August.

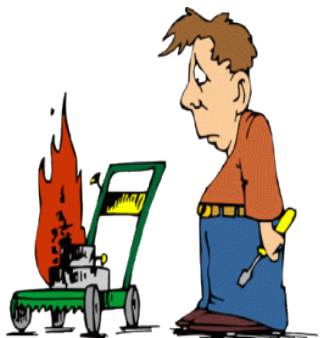


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Lawn Mower Fire Safety



Lawn mowing can cause fires when the conditions are hot and the grass is dry. Dry grass getting packed in the mower deck can result in a lawn mower catching fire. Fires can also happen from lawn mower striking rocks and igniting a spark that can set dry grass on fire. If you need to mow dry grass it is recommended to mow early in the morning when the humidity is higher. One common cause of lawn mower fires is when

you add fuel or oil to a very hot engine that has been in use and the muffler is capable of igniting the vapors and starting a fire. Fill up mower with gas and check the oil level before you start mowing, and if you run out of gas and need to refill let the mower sit and cool off for a little while. When you finish fueling the lawn mower or store the mower, don't store the gasoline container near the mower and wipe up any spills. There have been cases of

gas containers close to mowers starting fires. It should go without saying but don't smoke while you are adding oil or gasoline to your mower. If the mower has frayed electrical connections or excessive oil leaks discontinue use and get the mower repaired. Always know where you keep your fire extinguisher at home in the event of a fire.

ECG Interpretation



There are lots of skills that Paramedics are trained in. One of the things that Paramedics know better than almost anyone else is interpretation of electrocardiograms better known as ECG's. ECG's allow Paramedics to look at the electricity as it travels through the heart. While ECG's have become a mainstay in the back of the ambulance and in

emergency departments, the ECG has not been around forever. The technology used to do ECG's was invented by Willem Einthoven in the year 1895. Einthoven was a Dutch physiologist which is why you may hear it call an EKG from German spelling elektrokardiogramm. Einthoven received the Nobel Prize in 1924 in Physiology/Medicine. ECG's are very

useful diagnostic tool. They allow Paramedics to figure out your heart rhythm to see if you are having a heart attack, and guide certain treatments. ECG's can even be used for things like basic lab values and checking the lungs. Overall, ECG's are a key tool for Paramedics and it is important to remember how far we have come in terms of medical technology.

By Clayton Steele

Department Training

Class presentations in house for June and July were respiratory emergencies, head injuries, operations of various rescue equipment, Firefighter I practical day, splinting of extremities, fire nozzles, electrical transformer fires, and starting IV's. Janica Haynie attended a one day pump operations course in Hutchinson. Casey Hayes and Clayton Steele attended a two day swiftwater rescue class in Oklahoma City. John Faust attended a fire investigator conference in Topeka.



Water Rescue

On May 31st at 7:03 PM Wellington Fire/EMS responded to a water rescue at 1377 S. Oliver Rd. Dispatch advised that a car was swept off the road by high water and the vehicle was wedged in a tree. An ambulance, Rescue truck and the Chiefs vehicle responded. Enroute boats were requested from the station and Fire District 9. Dispatch advised enroute that one individual

was out of the vehicle and in a tree stating "help me". Upon arrival South Haven Fire was on scene and stated vehicle now submerged one individual in a tree unknown if there were other occupants of the vehicle. A Wellington rescuer entered the water with protective gear and made his way through the swift water to the victim in the tree. The victim spoke broken English, so ascertaining if

there were additional occupants of the vehicle was difficult. The female victim was brought to safety and it was confirmed she was the only occupant of the vehicle. The victim was assessed by EMS and released to her boy friend. The area received several inches of rain in a short time which made a narrow water way a roaring river.

Officer Corner by Captain John Faust

Wellington Fire/EMS covers approximately 92 miles of US highways and interstate within our response area. This doesn't include county maintained blacktop roads which consist of another 64 miles. We see on average 100 motor vehicle accidents every year. We see firsthand the importance of vehicle restraint systems in vehicle crashes. The first US patent for a safety belt was created in 1885 by Edward Claghorn to keep tourists safe in New York taxis. In 1922, racing

pioneer Barney Oldfield became the first driver to use a seat belt at the Indy 500, by 1954 the SCCA required all competing drivers to wear seat belts. In 1959 Volvo designed the current three point restraint we use today. However, in America auto manufacturers had seat belts as optional equipment. US auto makers were afraid that by making safety equipment standard on their vehicles the American people would perceive them as

unsafe. It wasn't until 1966 that American auto makers were required to have seat belts as standard equipment. Vehicle fatality rates had increased in numbers into the early 70's. After 1972 the fatality rate in motor vehicle accidents slowly decreased to present day. In 1995 the Click it or Ticket laws went into effect in 49 states excluding New Hampshire. We see the first hand importance of seat belts on a regular basis, but they only work if you use them.



Swiftwater Rescue in the 1300 block of S. Oliver



Garage fire in the 800 block of North B



Tour at the Fire/EMS Station

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A FIRE OR EMS CAREER PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO RIDE ALONG WITH US DURING THE DAY TO SEE WHAT OUR JOB IS LIKE. IF YOU LIKE WORKING 9 DAYS A MONTH THIS JOB IS FOR YOU. THE CITY PROVIDES GREAT BENEFITS AND WE CAN HELP YOU WITH FURTHER TRAINING COSTS.

Let us know what you would like to see in the newsletter by contacting timhay@cityofwellington.net

If any organization/business would like a "Stop the Bleed" class (30 minutes in length) contact the fire station at 620 326-7443.

Smoke detectors are available from the department at no cost. Combination smoke carbon monoxide alarms are available for home owners only.

Fire extinguisher use class available from the department by calling 620 326-7443.

Upcoming Projects, Training, Events

- Kitchen remodel
- Storm Siren installation
- Air conditioning replacement
- KEMSA Mulvane in August
- Into the Job Wichita August
- Wichita HOT October

Visit the Fire/EMS website at cityofwellington.net or call 620 326-7443 for more information. Join City of Wellington Fire/EMS Facebook

Around the Station

Gave tour to second graders from Kennedy Elementary.

Participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at the cemetery.

Thank you to Ascension for bringing barbecue and all the fixins for EMS Week.

Helped instruct safety courses to a babysitting class through KSU Extension.

Staff painted 153 fire hydrants throughout the city.

Staff participated in several events at the annual Wheat Festival.

Gave tour to summer school kids.

C shift attended a July 4th dinner held by the Hillside Baptist Church.

Staff attended the funeral of past Mayfield Fire Chief Dick Goodrum. Dick was a great friend of the department and will be missed.

Received a grant from the Kansas Forestry Department for \$802 to purchase weather stations and wildland boots.

A huge thank you to Mulvane EMS for loaning us an ambulance and a driver for three days while all of our ambulances had mechanical issues. It's a good feeling when you can count on a neighbor to help out!

COVID cases are increasing protect your self and get vaccinated/boosters!!

