

# ***THE WICHITA HEAT***

**APRIL, MAY, JUNE  
2006**



This Edition

WFD Project Up-  
dates

Fire Photos

RIT

Training Opportu-  
nities

Size-Up

A firefighter opens up an exterior wall in the 600 block of Winter-  
set to check for fire extension. The fire caused an estimated  
\$200,000 of damage to the building and contents.

First due Station 5 arrived to find a moderate smoke condition from a private dwelling on the corner of Mossman and Grove. Firefighters contained the fire to the rear of the dwelling, but not before the dwelling suffered extensive damage. Pictured below, a firefighter assists pulling line on the exterior of the house for the attack crews.



Fire vents from the attic at a residential fire in the South part of the city. First due Sta-12 arrived and advised heavy smoke and fire showing from a single story frame. A lightning storm moved through the area causing two early morning fires in the city.



Captain's Miller and Vulgamore direct crews at a well involved defensive fire in the 4500 block of S. Meridian. First due Sta-12 reported heavy smoke showing from the attic area on arrival. The dwelling had a built up roof on top of another making access difficult.



Firefighters operate a line into a basement window in the 1200 block of Do-reen.



Captain Haynes vents an exterior window in the 100 block of N. Madison during an afternoon fire. First due Engine 5 reported a two story multi family dwelling with heavy smoke showing from the basement. Engine 5 contained the fire to the room of origin with some extension to the floor above. Crews were on the scene for three hours overhauling.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

FIREHOUSE EXPO- BALTIMORE, MARYLAND JULY 25-30, 2006  
FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTOR 1- JUNE 26, 2006 WICHITA-KANSAS



**WFD Project Update:**

Here is a brief update where we are at on several projects.

**2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant**

Emergency Fire has received the bid to install three new Bauer air compressors. Captains Bohannon and Call should go to the factory to be trained on these units mid July. The equipment to upgrade both Mobile Air trucks to 6000-psi systems is either on order or has been received. This work will be performed by the mechanics as time allows.

**2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Proposal**

The Department has submitted a proposal to replace the Exhaust Emissions System at Stations 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18. The Department has requested stand alone filtration units that do not require any type of hose connections.

**2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grant**

The Department is still working to refine the 2007 proposal for a physical fitness program, including a medical evaluation and fitness assessment for each firefighter.

**Accountability System**

We are getting closer to implementing a County Wide Accountability System. The focus is now on developing a County Wide database for the system and printing of the tags.

**Drivers Manual**

The Drivers Manual has been printed and placed in each station. The manual was not placed on Department Shares due to the size of the file.

**Equipment Manual**

The Equipment Manual is still being developed. We still hope to complete the manual by fall.

**Operations Manual**

No work has been done on the Operations manual since the Promotional test. Chief Gonzalez, Chief Keeton and Captain Jones hope to start work on this project soon

**Training Academy Improvements**

Gossen Livingston has been selected as the architect to design and oversee the improvements at the Training Academy. We hope to begin the design process very soon. No date has been set to begin construction.

**Developing List of Equipment to purchase with 2006 Apparatus**

The Training Division is working with the Equipment Committee to develop the list of loose equipment for the 2006 Apparatus. Specifications for RIT Escape Harness have been requested (to replace the current rope bags on the air packs). 13 Thermal Cameras have been ordered and should be in by early August. This purchase will allow us to place a TIC on every front line engine/quint. Carabineers and webbing are also on order, so we can provide every firefighter with 15' of webbing and two carabineers to carry in a PPE pocket. We also plan to purchase a 90° Streamlight flashlight for each firefighter.

## From the Wichita Fire Department Training Division

### Recent Activities

Promotional Test and Assessment Exercises were held in March and April respectively. Fifty-two candidates participated in the Lieutenant's exam. Forty-four candidates participated in the Captain's exam. Assessment exercises were held at Century II for those who qualified. The new lists are effective until May 1 of 2008. Seniority will be recalculated effective May 1, 2007.

The Training Division interviewed ninety-one new hire applicants over four days. From that pool of applicants, fifteen candidates were selected to begin training on July 10<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that the graduation ceremony will be on October 6.

The Rescue Team completed eight hours of training on the new Stanley Tools. These tools are specialty tools designed for cutting and breaching concrete. This training is a prelude to an 80-hour Structural Collapse Technician class. The first half of the class will be held August 22<sup>nd</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>. The second half will be held September 18<sup>th</sup> through September 29<sup>th</sup>. All new Rescue Team members were also certified in SCUBA.

The Clothing Committee is searching for a uniform that is acceptable to all parties. The Committee is looking for a uniform that is: NFPA compliant, of professional style, available with cargo pockets, available in shorts and reasonably priced. The uniform shown in the recently in drill was not NFPA compliant.

The Department hosted Command and Control of Target Hazards, National Fire Academy Regional Delivery Class at Station One the week of April 17. A total of thirty-one students including students from Hutchinson, Topeka, and Kansas City KS participated in the class.

Most of the Battalion Chiefs attended a two-day class on Leadership and Core Values. Retired Chief Debra Jarvis led the class, discussing the difference between leadership and management and how to align the Department's actions with its mission statement. A lot of discussion was centered around organizational values and culture and how to bring about change.

On May 6<sup>th</sup> the Department added Chief Don Kersting's name to the Wichita Firefighters Memorial in front of Station 1. Although Chief Kersting did not meet the State or National line of duty death criteria, the Department felt it was appropriate that his name be placed on the Wichita Fire Department memorial, because he passed away in performance of his duties.

Chief Keeton recently attended the Regional TRADE conference in St. Louis MO, where he had the opportunity to tour the St Louis Fire Academy as well as the St Louis County Fire and Law Enforcement Academy. At the different academies he had the opportunity to view their facilities and listened to presentations on how they set up and perform RIC and Regional Rescue Teams. He also had the opportunity to gather ideas and information that can be utilized as Wichita remodels its training facility.

The Fraternal Order of Leatherheads Society (FOOLS) recently hosted "Truck Company Operations" at the Training Academy. This is the first joint venture between the FOOLS and the Department. It was attended by approximately thirty firefighters from across the area and well received. The Training Division hopes to partner with the FOOLS to host future classes to further increase the knowledge of our firefighters all in an effort to improve operational efficiency

and safety on the emergency scene.

The Training Division is working with Kansas University Med Center, WPD, Sedgwick County, and a number of other agencies to bring a large-scale disaster training exercise to Wichita, similar to one the KU sponsored in Kansas City in September 2005. The biggest hurdle to overcome is location of a facility in which to conduct the exercise. We ultimately located buildings in the footprint area of the new Sedgwick County Arena, in Downtown Wichita. However, due to delays in acquisition of these properties, the event is being postponed until October of 2007.

The WFD is purchasing over 60 Pulse Oximeters and Glucometers as part of the miscellaneous equipment order for the 10 new engines being purchased in 2006. Since the training schedule for the year is booked almost solid, training for this equipment is being completed as schedules permit. Wichita Fire's MTOs will be providing the Pulse-Ox training to all department members, Glucometer training will be decided in the future.

The next EMSS drill cycle will be over Spinal Immobilization. This has taken the place of CPR which was postponed due to cost (AHA requires that each student receive a text book at the cost of \$11.00, and a certification card (\$1.00). \$12.00 per student multiplied by 700+ students may need further budgeting).

Also postponed was the Adult Cardiac Arrest training which could not be done until the AEDs could be re-programmed to deliver shocks per the new guidelines.

Also postponed was the training to cover the new Protocols. These were slated to be completed by June but is being reviewed by the Medical Society of Sedgwick County and will not be released until at least late July 2006.

#### UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

- KU Instructor I, June 26 – 29
- Aerial Operations Drill Begins July 31
- NFA Incident Safety Officer, September 14, 15
- Pump Test September 25 – 29
- Pump Operator, October 9 – 19
- Haz Mat Symposium, October 26 - 29



### FORCIBLE ENTRY TIP

Firefighter C. R. Cox  
Firehouse 12-A

Size-up of your door reveals identification of a drop bar set in an outward swinging door (note the bolt heads on the door). You are still doing to attack the door with standard conventional forcible entry techniques i.e. the irons, but first the drop bar must be addressed.

Place the pike end of the halligan and drive it into the door next to the bolt head. Two to four holes should be enough to allow for the bolt to fall thru.

Repeat this step for as many bolts are showing on the door.

After you have completed this task, move on to attacking the door

Now the bolts will drop into the holes when you pry the door outwards. The drop bar will act as leverage as the door is being pulled away from the drop bar.

Granted, there may be other securing devices attached to the door, but you may at least start on the door while waiting for a saw, etc. Keep The Faith brothers.



**R**apid Intervention is a task on the fire ground that for the most part goes unnoticed until we need it. We have all pulled up at a fire and have heard the words “ Engine 1 you will be RIC.” As you acknowledge your assignment you are cussing the IC who assigned your company this task. In a way it should be viewed as a compliment as the IC has trust that if there is a MAY-DAY transmission he or she has confidence that your company can mitigate the situation. Of all the assignments at a working fire, there may not be a more important one than the rapid intervention crew. The RIC team is rarely deployed on the fire ground but must always be in a ready state. The RIC team is assigned at every working fire and is comprised of a minimum of two people. There are numerous acronyms used for Rapid Intervention in the fire service, but regardless of the name they all mean the same thing. Some departments have a dedicated company such as a FAST Truck that is dispatched as the FAST Truck that already knows prior to their arrival that they are there

for that function only. Departments that are shorthanded often have mutual aide agreements with other townships that they will send a RIT Team on a working fire response. Locally, any fire that is beyond an incipient stage fire or where there is not a known life hazard requires that a RIC Team be assembled prior to making entry. Numerous seminars and training opportunities are focused solely on rapid intervention teams and techniques and offer excellent training. There are numerous areas that all firefighters should become efficient in that include air management skills, forcible entry techniques, rope deployment and rescue techniques. [www.rapidintervention.com](http://www.rapidintervention.com) is a web site dedicated solely to RIT and is very informative. Often times on the fire ground it is the little things that make a big difference, if the incident starts off on the right foot it *usually* ends up on the right foot. This photo was taken during an incident in Toronto, Canada where firefighters had to make a rapid exit from the second floor due to extending fire conditions. It is not met to critique or criticize, only to emphasize the necessity for the RIC team to provide a secondary means of egress prior to interior crews needing one. Train hard and safe.



This photo was taken after a small fire in Station 11's first due area. What looks like your run of the mill private dwelling from the street side is actually a firefighters nightmare if a proper size up is not done prior to making entry. Note the series of pictures that accompany this.



C and D sides of the house



This photo was taken from the rear C-side of the house that shows what used to be the garage. This area was enclosed and is now used as a living room.

