

Cherokee County
Firefighters Association
13677 N. Ridge Dr.
Hulbert, Oklahoma 74441

**JANUARY Meeting is
at the TRAINING
CENTER**

**To schedule the use of your
training center contact
Larry Watts at 456-6773 or
Bob Adrian at 456-8772.**

«First Name» «Last Name»
«Department»
«Address»
«City», «State» «Zip»

www.cherokeecountyfirefightersassociation.com



OKLAHOMA FORESTRY SERVICES

The rural Fire Equipment Revolving Fund makes firefighting supplies available at cost. Forestry Services is able to purchase many items in bulk quantities, which allows us to pass along the volume discount savings. Typically stocked items include: nozzles, shutoff valves and adapters, gloves and pumps. Payment at the time of purchase is required. Soon fire departments will be able to order these supplies on-line through the "Forestry Store." You may also order by calling the Rural Fire Defense office at 405-288-2385.
Oklahoma Forestry Services provides technical advice and assistance through contracts with 10 sub-state planning district and one state employed Rural Fire Coordinator. These individuals work closely with rural fire departments to provide their expertise and experience in solving local problems related to equipment, staffing, and funding. Requests for local one-on-one assistance should be directed to your Rural Fire Coordinator.

CHARGE THE LINE!

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 6

JANUARY 2008



Do you keep your skills and equipment up to date to handle an MVA such as this?

A charter bus carrying 53 people failed to negotiate a curvy, wet road causing it to roll and crash into a side embankment Sunday, in Utah. Nine people were killed and EMS were dispatched to transport about 20 others to the hospital. The incident is being investigated.

The training committee will be presenting a program that will make Accountability possible at the Training Center. This will be of great interest to each department so please be sure to have a representative there, especially those on the Tax Advisory Board.

Union believes many cardiac arrests experienced by fire fighters may be attributable to CO exposure. In a letter to all local union presidents in North America, the IAFF highlighted the need for a new protocol whereby any fire fighter potentially exposed to CO and presenting with headache, nausea, shortness of breath, or gastrointestinal symptoms should be assessed using a Pulse CO-Oximeter. Because CO is present in every fire and its symptoms are nonspecific and easy to miss, the dangers of acute and prolonged CO poisoning are more pronounced for fire fighters. Even a single high level exposure, or prolonged exposure to low levels of CO, has the potential to cause long-term cardiac, neurocognitive and psychiatric damage. The long-term effects of CO -- including Parkinson-like syndromes affecting motor skills and speech, dementia, cortical blindness, acute renal failure, muscle cell death, and more -- can be devastating for fire fighters and their families. Visit this web site: <http://www.masimo.com/>.

MEMBER DEPARTMENTS

- CHICKEN CREEK
- COOKSON
- GIDEON
- HULBERT
- ILLINOIS RIVER
- KEYS
- LOWREY
- NORWOOD
- OKLA. FORESTRY
- PEGGS
- SPARROW HAWK
- SPRING VALLEY
- TAHLEQUAH
- WELLING/BRIGGS
ELDON
- WOODALL

**2007
LODD
115**

PROPANE SAFETY

Composite materials are not new and composite cylinders have been in use for several years outside the United States. They have recently been introduced into the U.S. and are approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation or transportation by highway, marine, rail, and cargo aircraft. Composite cylinders are currently allowed under the National LP Gas Code for outdoor use only. Composite cylinders are presently manufactured in a one and two-piece design. They are basically made from a polymer wrapped fiberglass with an outer casing designed to provide additional protection to the tank shell. Both the one and two-piece designs are equipped with a Pressure Relief Valve set to function at 375 psig. The most common sizes being manufactured are the 20 pound BBQ cylinder and the 33 pound forklift cylinder. A 16 pound version would be manufactured for use with cabinet heaters if they are approved. Recent fire tests conducted in 2005–2006 by three different respected organizations indicate that composite cylinders will not BLEVE when exposed to direct flame impingement. Composite cylinders may reduce the risk to firefighters by eliminating the threat from BLEVE, but tests indicate that they will breach in a fire. Essentially, the propane vents and burns and/or diffuses through the cylinder wall. The remaining composite melts and burns until it self extinguishes. In December 2006 one of the worst winter storms to hit the northwest U.S. in over a decade knocked out power to more than 1.5 million homes and businesses. There were 6 fatalities and 100 injuries from carbon monoxide poisoning in separate incidents in Washington and Oregon. These accidents were caused when people brought unapproved appliances such as BBQ grills, charcoal grills, space heaters, and generators indoors to heat their homes and cook. At least 55 of these people required advanced medical treatment in hyperbaric chambers where pressure was used to force oxygen into their blood. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina (2005) there were 51 cases of carbon monoxide poisoning requiring treatment at hyperbaric chamber treatment facilities in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Between August 29 and September 24 there were 5 fatalities and 46 nonfatal CO poisonings. The majority of these poisonings were caused by bringing a generator into the home to provide electrical supply for lighting and cooking appliances. According to one manufacturer, there are about 240 million high pressure cylinders (both metal and composites) in operation in the world today and about 60 million more are being manufactured annually. There are about 1.5 million composite cylinders in the world market today and the potential market size is estimated at 10 million.

From COMPOSITE PROPANE CYLINDERS- An Overview of Fire Safety Risks for Emergency Responders and Fire Marshals

Be sure to contact the Tahlequah Fire Department to schedule the Safety Trailer for your schools.

'2008 – The Year Without a Firefighter Fatality!'

I know this headline is fantasy, but this time next year wouldn't it be great to see this as the top story on FireRescue1.com? We, as American firefighters, have spoken about reducing firefighter deaths for decades. We have instituted SOPs, created Rapid Intervention Teams, pushed firefighter health and fitness and trained daily to ensure no more firefighters are killed. And yet, each year, around 100 firefighters die. We rack our brains, train our bodies, practice multiple drill ground evolutions, speak about firefighter survival and constantly preach the obvious: no firefighter deaths this year! Yet the numbers never decrease! If you're reading this article, you can be counted as one of the many who are actively trying to reduce those numbers. You do this by constantly trying to learn new ways to keep yourself and crewmates safe. You do this by drilling on a skill until you can do it without thought. You do this by working out every shift and even on days off to ensure you not only can keep up with your team, but at times set the pace when necessary. You do this by eating healthy and encouraging your crews to do the same. You do this by setting the example you expect your people to model. And most importantly, you do this by showing those brothers and sisters you are responsible for how to be safe in everything you do. I encourage everyone to seek education and skills from where ever they can find it in 2008. If everyone continues learning, trying new skills and approaches and learning how to master our profession, some day we may actually be able to see the headline: "The Year Without a Firefighter Fatality!" Stay safe in 2008 and look for ways to ensure "everyone goes home!"

2007 Number of On-Duty Firefighter Fatalities: 115

Count of Hometown Heroes: 8

49 Career 42.6%

3 Wildland Full-Time 2.60%

2 Paid-on-Call 1.73%

59 Volunteer 51.3%

1 Wildland Contract 0.86%

1 Industrial 0.86%

If you have something for this Paper just mail it to 13664 N. sunset, Hulbert, 74441. or email To GGambill@Aol.com, or fax to 772-2228

A state fire school will be held at Tahlequah Regional training center on March 28,29,and 30, this is an OSUFST and OSFA partnership to bring the state fire school to the 4 regions of our state in an out reach program. There will be a lot of good training at this school and new updated methods we can learn from.