

UPCOMING
EVENTS

- August 9
Regular Session
Board Meeting
7:00pm—
Headquarters
- August 10
JCMOFA
Board Meeting
7:00 pm—
Station 5

**August
TRAINING
Battalion
Training**

***All trainings
begin at 1830***

4: Stations 2, 3, 9
at Station 2

16: Stations 5, 7, 8
at Station 5

23: Stations 1 & 6
at Station 1

30: Stations 4 & 10
at Station 1

**OTHER
TRAININGS/
MEETINGS**

6: Makeup
Training at HQ
8am & 10am

20: Recruit
Training at HQ
8am

District Dispatch

A publication of the Johnson County Fire Protection District

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AUGUST 2011

Moving & Belted...Are You Compliant?

Most of you have likely read the article in the most recent edition of the FFAM Newsletter that discussed seatbelts and the fire service. Some of you may have seen the title – turned the page – and moved on to a topic that interested you more. If you were one of those that didn't read the article then I would propose you either already use your seatbelt EVERY time you are in a vehicle no matter where seated or you believe you do not need one. If you are in the first category then let me say Thank You for your efforts. If you are in the second category then we need to work together to re-evaluate your seatbelt use.

The District covers seatbelts (safety restraint systems) in Policy P2001-003 under the General heading Section A subsection 2. It simply states "All safety restraint systems shall be utilized by any member driving or riding in a District vehicle during any emergency, non-emergency or training activity". I think when you read that line you can see that there are really no other times that would exist that would relieve you of a responsibility to wear your seatbelt, unless of course you were just sitting in a non-moving vehicle.

Let's move away from the policy compliance issue as I know you each strive to meet the policies that help the District move and visit about what repercussions could be present should you chose not to use your seatbelt. Have you ever paid much attention to the fatality reports resulting from motor vehicle accidents? Have you paid much attention to the fatality reports resulting from fire apparatus collisions? If you answered no to either of these questions you have missed some interesting information. Many of

the fatality reports share common phrases about the dead person we will refer to as X, "X was thrown from the vehicle and was not wearing a seatbelt", "X was thrown from the vehicle, which then rolled on top of X

resulting in X's death". Just insert your name in place of X and re-read those two phrases. Is that what you want your family to read?

By no means is this an attempt to scare you into using a seatbelt, but it is an attempt to have you think about why you should use a seatbelt EVERY time whether in a fire apparatus or your personal vehicle. Most statistical data shows that you are more likely to survive a serious vehicle accident if you stay inside in a restrained position. How easy is it to simply buckle up and stay buckled up and help reduce the potential for serious injury or death? A simple click can have long reaching benefits for you and your family. How devastated, emotionally and financially would your family be if you didn't come home.....EVER?

Have you ever thought about the impact your use of a seatbelt could have on the members of the District that rely on you? Your actions obviously can have a large affect on everyone else on the apparatus. Okay, so you stand up while responding and try to put on your PPE or SCBA and you fall out of the vehicle and either die when you impact the ground or are run over by the apparatus, what impact did that action have on the response to the emergency or the other members of the District? Not the passenger – then you must be the driver. Have you ever thought about what happens if you are no longer able to control the vehicle you are driving because you are no longer sitting behind the wheel?

Many many years ago in a time somewhat forgotten in a vehicle with vinyl type seat covers I had a police driving instructor insist I wear a seatbelt to which I proudly responded "I don't need no stinkin seatbelt and besides it slows down my gazelle like speed when exiting the vehicle in hot foot pursuit" (well it went something like that).



Continued Pg 2

Procedure Reminder...

Passing Gas - Field Procedure

Although this information is not a written policy/procedure/ guideline or even a protocol it appears timely to touch on the subject. It is hot outside. Now the thought that just went through your head was one of amazement or disbelief that I pointed this breaking news out to you. I know you are aware of the heat and since we often talk about rehabilitation at fire scenes and keeping yourself hydrated and cool as much as possible we won't dwell on that topic again. We will however talk about at least one other thing that heat can affect that most of us don't give a second thought. Many of the citizens we serve utilize LP gas as a heating or cooking source in their homes. So what happens when a tank sits in the relentless sun on these over 100 degree days?

Rarely, but on occasion extended exposure to heat (sun related or due to a fire) the pressure relief valve on the tank may open allowing a release of product from inside the tank passing uninhibited through the valve. If the product does not ignite then what action do we take to help the situation? The most effective method would be to apply water to the tank to help cool it and hopefully the valve will reset and stop the flow of product. Remember you don't have to be right on top of the tank to apply the water and if you need to approach at all do so from the sides and not the ends of the tank. Once the valve closes work with the homeowner to assist in protecting the tank from additional heat or you will likely be returning in a short time to do it all over again. Carpeting over the tank was used recently for extra protection. Similar items would work or the homeowner's tarp and rope could be used to string up a temporary sun shade. Don't forget the supplier of the gas could be contacted for additional assistance or advice.

Be creative and be careful!!



7/12/11

Crews from Stations 5, 9 & 10 assist Holden Fire Dept. during the Heiman's Grain Elevator fire

"When the going gets tough, you shut up and do your job."

Troy Landry

6/11

Crews set up tanker shuttle operations during the District's ISO testing



National Firefighter Health Week 2011 will be held August 14-20. The theme is: "When it comes to your health, you're always on duty." Each day of the week will focus on a different topic to help first responders take the steps towards a healthy lifestyle.

Visit www.healthy-firefighter.org/healthweek for more info!

Moving & Belted...continued...

His response was a smile and the order to start driving. When he put the vehicle in a controlled skid and I rather less proudly found myself sitting on his lap on the passenger side of the vehicle he simply asked "Now what are you going to do to control this vehicle?". My response was somewhat sheepish and quiet, but was simple "put on my seatbelt". From that time on whenever we went skidding around on the driving course I stayed where I was supposed to be and was able to maneuver my vehicle to a safe ending point. My point in this little story is simple: If you are not still behind the wheel because of some unknown reason just because you failed to wear your seatbelt then how can you steer the vehicle and bring it to a safe stop or even reach your destination without putting everyone on board lives in danger? I think you may come to a single conclusion – you cannot.

Let's all be safe and employ the seatbelt provided for your use in all District vehicles and maybe even your private vehicle too. We truly have a vested interest in making sure all of our members are protected as well as possible. Be careful and be aware – is every one belted in?

If you have anything you would like to share in the District Dispatch, just contact the office at (660)747-5220 or email at jcfpd@jcfpd.net