

**PLEASE NOTIFY ACOG AT 234-2264 (TTY 234-2217) BY NOON, JANUARY 13, 2006 IF YOU DESIRE A
SIGNLANGUAGE INTERPRETER AT THE MEETING**

OPERATION FIRESAFE OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE
& BURN PREVENTION COMMITTEE AGENDA
10:00 a.m., January 17, 2006
Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
21 E. Main – Suite 100
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. INTRODUCTIONS
- III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES--REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 15, 2005
[\[Attachment IV\]](#)

Action Requested: Motion to approve minutes from the Nov. 15, 2005 meeting.

- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS [\[Attachment V\]](#)

INFORMATION: Committee Chairpersons will lead discussions on the following committee activities.

- A. Fund Development Committee----- Glenda Vassar
- B. Program Development Committee----- Jimmy Gibson
- C. Public Education Committee----- Tim Adams
- D. Mental Health Committee ----- Lois Pokorny

Action Requested: Discussions.

- VI. STATE FARM GRANT FUNDS

INFORMATION: Kelly Dunkerley with State Farm Insurance has donated \$2,000 to Operation FireSAFE. The application we submitted last fall was for Lois Pokorny to attend training in Massachusetts, in November, which has passed re-evaluation by State Farm. It is likely we will receive another \$2,000 in 2006.

Action Requested: For information and discussion.

- VII. OPERATION FIRESAFE PROGRAM STATISTICS

Action Requested: For information and discussion.

- VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- IX. ADJOURNMENT

OPERATION FIRESAFE OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE
& BURN PREVENTION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 15, 2005

The sixth meeting for the calendar year of the Operation FireSAFE Operational Committee convened at 10:10 a.m., November 15, 2005 in the ACOG Conference Room, 21 East Main, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The meeting was held as indicated by advance notice posted at the ACOG Offices at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

PRESIDING

Ken Pontius, Moore Fire Department

PRESENT

Shaum Jennings, Bethany Fire Department
Jim Hock, Del City Fire Department
Tim Wheeler, Edmond Fire Department
Kelly Lewis, Edmond Fire Department
Marie Helene Lareault, Midwest City Fire Department
Getty Williams, Newalla Fire Department
Terry Hamilton, Nichols Hills Fire Department
Tim Adams, Oklahoma City Fire Department
Billy Leibold, Oklahoma City Fire Department
Jimmy Gibson, Shawnee Fire Department
Richard Walston, Tinker Air Force Base Fire Department
Lois Pokorny, Okla. City-Co. Health Dept., Child Guidance
Pat Damron, Oklahoma State Dept. of Health, Child Guidance
Martha Collar, Oklahoma SAFE KIDS Coalition

GUESTS

Joe Eddy, Fire Chief, Pauls Valley Fire Department

STAFF

Jane Sutter, Division Director
Jerry Church, Special Programs Officer
Anita Kroth, Administrative Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ken Pontius called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Self-introductions were made around the room.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

Jimmy Gibson, Shawnee, made a motion to accept the minutes of the Sept. 20, 2005 regular meeting. Tim Adams, City of Oklahoma City, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fund Development – Tim Adams reported that the applications submitted by he and Lois Pokorny to attend the week-long FEMA conference in March 2006 at Emmetsburg were accepted. He said this is for the Fire Prevention Officer certification. Tim explained that this certification equates to the Interviewer Level I & II training offered annually at the OSU Fire Service Training. He said they would return with good information about redefining what we do as a juvenile firesetter intervention program and as a collation to decide what we can do in the future.

Jane Sutter mentioned that the Fire Administration has opened this training to teams which means they have included a mental health professional to attend along with a firefighter as a team. FEMA is covering the costs for Tim and Lois to attend, and ACOG's Operation FireSAFE program will pay for Lois' meals and the City of Oklahoma City will pay for Tim's meals during their attendance at the conference.

Program Development - Jimmy Gibson said a presentation about the FireSAFE program will be made to the Metro Chiefs Association meeting January 12, 2006. Jane added that the meeting will be held in Oklahoma City at the Oklahoma City Training Center at 8:30 a.m.

Public Education Committee - Tim reported that the City of Oklahoma City recently held a brief television news report which allowed a cameo of the Operation FireSAFE program in an arson investigation. Tim said he watched it and it was a human interest story on the fire victims who died a few months ago in a house fire. He said the report included a small mention of Operation FireSAFE. However, the reporter expressed an interest in coming back in early January and doing an in-depth story on Operation FireSAFE. Tim said he would like to see the report made from a metro approach rather than only from the Oklahoma City Fire Department.

Tim reported that since Lois' piece on FireSAFE appeared in the Fire Chief's magazine, he has received numerous inquiries from across the U.S., including Pennsylvania, Utah, and Guam. Tim said in his response to these inquiries he emphasized the role that this coalition plays in this program's effectiveness, and the fact that mental health has dealt with a lot of issues.

Lois said we are at a point now where we could get a psychologist intern to work on making an assessment of the effectiveness of this program.

Ken Pontius said that at a recent IAAI conference he learned about a cognitive technique to use while interviewing. He said yesterday he applied that training to a case he was working on. He explained that the technique relates to bringing the person back to the incident and discussing their memories they had about the incident. This would include asking them, in reference to the incident, what they were thinking, feeling and what they were doing at the time.

Ken said the technique also includes asking them to associate smells, sounds, and other sensory aspects of the experience. In some cases an individual was able to go back decades and remember certain details of the incident that later brought a conviction against the perpetrator in a case. Ken said it is an interesting technique. Ken said the instructor from the FBI that taught the class at the IAAI conference is willing to teach classes here. Ken said he has that contact information if any department is interested. Ken said the FBI instructor said that in England the police have left the interrogation method and have gone to using the cognitive method in their work.

Lois said that is the technique that is used in talking to and helping children who have been traumatized in some way. It helps the child assign new thoughts to the incident and, in turn, helps to bring new resolutions to the situation.

Lois said it is referred to as cognitive behavioral/emotional technique, which is more treatment oriented. This helps the child to go back and take control over what was happening at the time.

Pat Damron said we have people locally that can conduct those kinds of interviews as well as train others. It is usually used to gather evidence in child abuse cases.

Tim Adams asked if interviewers actually should get involved to that extent with the juveniles being interviewed through the Operation FireSAFE program. Tim said the mass of interviewers are primarily public information officers, code enforcement officers and arson investigators. Lois said the technique would be geared mainly towards arson investigation.

Tim said that the number of juveniles coming into the FireSAFE program have dropped over the years. However, the percentage of call-ins compared to arson investigation and code enforcement referrals have stayed about the same, which reflects that the word is not getting out very well about the Operation FireSAFE program. He said 60% to 70% of fires occur in the home and go unreported. He said those numbers are dropping as well.

Tim said he is has been going out to the schools at the beginning of the school year and presenting the Operation FireSAFE program to the school principals. He said Oklahoma City receives a list of referrals from the schools of children who have been suspended and not allowed to enroll in school until they have an intervention through Operation FireSAFE. Tim said the school principals have the latitude to do that.

Tim suggested that we restart using the bus stop benches and billboards to inform the public of the FireSAFE program. Since radio stations are no longer allowing free public service announcements, we are no longer to use that method of advertisement. Tim suggested that we go back to advertising ourselves again.

Martha Collar recalled that SAFE KIDS focused on the Operation FireSAFE program in October with the Channel 4 interviews, and agreed that we need further advertisement. She recommended using the bus benches to do that since they have a high visibility. She thought we should look into the costs involved. Martha recalled that SAFE KIDS paid the costs when we used the benches previously.

Martha suggested that FireSAFE issue a press release at least once a year. She said it could be generic and mainly informing and reminding the public that FireSAFE is available to them in our region.

Martha suggested a one-page, reproducible flyer that could be taken to the schools for them to include in the information they send home to parents weekly. The school would be responsible for making the copies which would reduce costs to the FireSAFE program and not involve using FireSAFE program brochures.

The Public Education Committee agreed to meet at 9:00 a.m., prior to the next regular committee meeting on January 17 to discuss what tactics and approaches to use in a public education effort.

Martha reported that in September SAFE KIDS mailed out an item regarding smoke detectors, and the Save-A-Life program matching detectors program. She said they had a good response. Martha told the committee if any department is in need of smoke detectors, to let her know. She reminded them of the 50 matching detectors program that would enable them to purchase 50 detectors and receive an additional 50 free of charge.

Martha said that SAFE KIDS received a \$25,000 grant from FEMA to work along with Headstart Centers around the state. She said SAFE KIDS is in the process of distributing 6,000 of the long-life smoke alarms to low income families. She explained that these detectors are designed with a 10-year life. She said these should last at least seven to eight years. The Headstart centers are responsible for distributing the smoke alarms to the homes. They also are holding meetings with parents in an education effort about the use of smoke alarms.

Tim Adams said that OSU is conducting a study relating to hearing impaired individuals. OSU received a grant from FEMA to install 300 smoke alarms for hearing impaired individuals. He said the alarms are equipped with strobe lights and bed vibrators.

Jimmy Gibson reported that Shawnee had received a similar distribution of these types of alarms. He said the local news media in Shawnee covered the story. Jimmy said the fire department received a call the day after the report requesting one of them.

Tim said the cost on those types of detectors run from \$80 to \$100 each, which means there will be many people who need them that won't have them because of the costs involved. Tim said if any of the departments get calls from people needing these, they could call Cindy Finkle at the OSU Fire Service Training center in Stillwater and Cindy might be able to get them or help them find a way to get them.

Mental Health Committee – Lois reviewed the Interviewer Training agenda for November 18 with the group.

VI. INTERVIEWER TRAINING NOVEMBER 18, 2005

Lois covered this item in the Mental Health Committee report.

VII. WHAT IS ACOG?

Jerry Church made a presentation to the committee explaining that the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) is a metropolitan planning organization designed to work with local governments on local, state and federal issues. He explained that ACOG is one of 11 council of governments across the state. He also reviewed the current and very important issue of the 50-cent per month E9-1-1 service fee on wireless phones which goes to a vote of the people on December 13th.

VIII. OPERATION FIRESAFE PROGRAM STATISTICS

Current and updated statistics were made available in today's agenda. Each reporting agency maintains and updates statistical information on a regular basis and submits statistics monthly.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. ADJOURNMENT

Tim Adams made a motion to adjourn. Getty Williams, Newalla, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

**OPERATION FireSAFE
Operational Committee**

*Ken Pontius, Chairman, Moore
Darryl Troupe, Vice Chairman, Norman
Resource Person: Jane Sutter, ACOG*

**2006
Subcommittees**

Fund Development Committee

Glenda Vassar, Chair

Jim Hock, Del City
Jane Sutter, ACOG

Mental Health Committee

Lois Pokorny, Chair

Kyle Trumbly, Yukon
Debbie McCoy-Blood, Okla. City-County Health Department

Program Development

Jimmy Gibson, Chair

None

Public Education

Tim Adams, Chair

Shaum Jennings, Bethany
Darryl Troupe, Norman
Martha Collar, SAFE KIDS Coalition
Resource Person: Jerry Chuch