



HOT SPOT

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 12

If You Can Read This You're Second In

Definition: 1) a tool used to disperse water over a large area; 2) a life saving device. What is it? It's a hose! A hose can be used to shine up a big red truck or to spray off the driveway. But a gardener uses a hose to keep their plants alive, while in given circumstances, a firefighter uses a hose with the purpose of saving a house, a pet, and of course, a person's life. On an engine, you may find a collection of 1 ¾, 2 ½, and 5 inch hoses. But hose is just one piece of gear among the many valuable tools you may find a firefighter's "tool belt."

So what other tools can you find aboard Engine 9? That's what we found out during CFAAA's visit to Station 9 during the August monthly meeting. How about the water that powers these hoses of which we speak? 750 gallons of it to be exact. The faster the water comes out, the quicker a raging fire gets under control, and eventually extinguished.

What else? Let's start with a device called the Toughbook. The Toughbook, described by Captain J. Roff as "handy as a shirt pocket," is an electronic device using GPS and touchscreen technology. Besides guiding the engine company to a particular destination, it can also tell a crew where the nearest hydrant location will be once they arrive. Handy, right?!



You can find stretchers and ropes, the miniature jaws of life and a Stokes basket, air packs, and a device they call a TIC. The TIC doesn't suck the blood from anything, but it can suck the heat out of a room filled with smoke, figuratively speaking, by producing an image on its screen, displaying where a heat source lies. The images, similar to the technology used in night vision equipment, can warn a firefighter where not to go to avoid flames. And in a search effort, it can help spot somebody trapped inside before a rescuer would hear or feel the person. But beware, this gadget is so in

tune to heat, that if you wave and the image waves back, move on. The TIC is able to pick up the reflection of the rescuers heat off common household surfaces such as mirrors, dishwashers, and refrigerators. In essence, the TIC, or the Thermal Imaging Camera, gives a rescuer the gift of sight in the midst of a pitch black smoke-filled room.

The most important thing to remember, however, is that while these men and women of the Lexington Fire Department may have some pretty amazing tools, tools that "change the way you fight fire," it's following good practice and regular training that gets the job done and keeps our city safe.

So what do you think is the most common tool used by our friends at Station 9? Nope, not the hose. The most commonly used "tool" is...stay dry kitty litter.

A Year in Review

If 2010 was anything for you like it was for many, the year simply flew by. Here is some of what went on last year with the Citizens Fire Academy since the last release of the HotSpot:

- On May 10th, just two days after UK's 143rd commencement, CFA celebrated its 16th commencement with Class #16, as they officially ended their 12-week journey. Class #17 graduated from the program on September 20th. Welcome to all the new alumni members!

CFA Class #18 is set to begin on February 18th.

- CFAAA welcomed some fantastic guest speakers throughout the year. David Gutierrez, assistant director in the Division of Violence Prevention Resources, stopped by our May meeting with information regarding domestic violence. July's meeting brought out Assistant Director for the Division of Fire Prevention and State Fire Marshal, Richard Peddicord. His presentation expanded our insight into preservation of life and property in fire-related issues. In addition, Garvey, the LFD's newest arson dog, was on hand for those who were interested in meeting him. And as part of October's meeting came Miles Phelps of Amachi, who spoke to the group on the need for mentors to children in our area with incarcerated parents. Thank you to all our guests who took the time to visit with us!

If you have ideas for upcoming meeting topics or guest speakers you would like to hear, please, let us know. Contact the officers of CFAAA at lexcfaaa@hotmail.com. New ideas are always welcome!

- CFAAA became a co-sponsor of Garvey the Accelerant Dog's trading cards.
- August and October sent the alumni association packing from the usual meeting spot at the Training Center to an off-site meeting and tour of Station 9 and Station 1, respectively.
- CFAAA's 1st Annual Yard Sale opened for business on August 7th. Thanks to the generous donations of our firefighters and friends, the event was a huge success.
- Chief Robert Hendricks along with Assistant Chief Rich Jordan, Battalion Chief Marshall Griggs, and Firefighter Nick Newman grabbed their aprons and stepped up to the grill at the end of the summer as guest grillers during the August 25th Mongolian Grill fundraiser. Delicious!



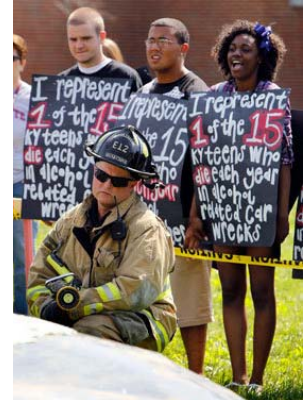
- At the Fire Prevention Parade on October 11th, three Station Grants were awarded. Funding for each of the grants was the result of the successful CFAAA fundraisers throughout the year. Congratulations to our station winners – 5, 6, and 10 – who each received \$500 to go toward the cost of station amenities. A generous donation was made by the Public Safety Commissioners Office this year to Station 2 which was awarded a Bowflex workout system, sending a fourth station home a victor too.

I Heard About That

- ☞ The University of Kentucky makes up a large part of the Lexington community. In September, Engine 5 and Ladder 2 dropped in on campus. They brought with them the yellow smoke tent for demonstration and fire safety information, and handed out Kool Kats t-shirts in front of the Main Building. They know the way to college kids' hearts!

The visit to UK was part of Fire Safety Month on campus.

- ☞ During prom season, many high school students have dancing and dresses on their mind. To encourage students to also take into account the dangers of drinking and driving, Lafayette High School was visited by the Lexington Fire Department, including firefighter Hobert Parsons, who participated in a mock vehicle accident demonstration.



To read more visit:

<http://www.kentucky.com/2010/05/07/1255936/mock-accident.html#ixzz0nGgqcbra>



- ☞ About five years ago, Kentucky ranked second in the nation in deaths in the line-of-duty. As a result, the Bluegrass State joined a national health and wellness initiative, and the Kentucky Fire Commission began hosting the annual Firefighter Combat Challenge regional competition. On August 15th, this year's competition switched locations from downtown at Cox Street to the Hilton Suites at Lexington Green. Dressed in full gear, with five tasks to tackle, it's a battle against time, opponents, and self. It's a display and reminder of how important physical fitness is in a physically demanding career as a firefighter. Approximately 400 firefighters from 20 states and Canada participate in the event nationally. This year's championship was held in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Starting in 2013, firefighters in the state of Kentucky must acquire a Candidate Physical Agility Testing (CPAT) card, which indicates the cardholder is fit to do the job.

Results of the regional Firefighter Combat Challenge are available at www.firefighterchallenge.com.

Watch a piece of the action at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMYrUpghh8k&feature=related>



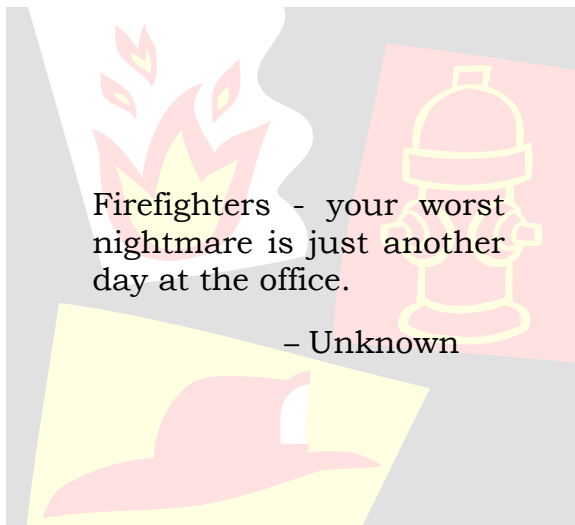
Photos courtesy of: Herald-Leader/ Charles Bertram

A is for...Ambulance, B is for Bus

Yeah, it's a big bus, but hopefully it won't be traveling anywhere soon. This bus isn't for a school field trip or cross-country tour. Inside this bus there are very few seats. Instead, you will find 20 beds and an oxygen system that can supply 72 hours worth of oxygen. A regional asset, the Medical Ambulance Bus is to be used for mass casualties and evacuations in Lexington and surrounding areas. Arriving this past August, it is the first of its kind in Kentucky.

A walk through this emergency room on wheels during CFAAA's October meeting left many with the hope that this particular bus never has a need to leave its spot in the garage at Station 1.

For more information, visit: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?recordid=1654&page=24>



Four Take the Floor

During a vote at the CFAAA November meeting, the following members were elected to office, with the task of leading the organization in 2011:

- Mary Ciarlette – President
- Lori Sanford – Vice President
- Beverly Blackburn – Treasurer
- Stephanie Reedy – Secretary

Congratulations and best wishes for another successful year!

The **CFA Alumni Association** will be meeting on the **4th Monday** of each month. We will meet at the Fire Training Center, and begin each session at **6:30pm**. Hope to see you all there!

Do you have something you would like to include in the next edition of the HotSpot? Questions? Comments? Concerns? Please contact Lori Minter at LexCFAAA@hotmail.com.