

KNOX COUNTY TENNESSEE

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

The mission of the Knox County Fire Prevention Bureau is to make Knox County a safer place to live, work or visit by protecting its residents and guests from the ravages of fire. We accomplish this by conducting life safety inspections of existing structures and new construction, developing proactive and diverse public education programs and maintaining an aggressive fire investigation program

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT





## Mission Statement

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### Inspections



### Education



### Investigations



The mission of the Knox County Fire Prevention Bureau is to make Knox County a safer place to live, work or visit by protecting its residents and guests from the ravages of fire. We accomplish this by conducting life safety inspections of existing structures and new construction, developing proactive and diverse public education programs and maintaining an aggressive fire investigation program.

## History & Overview

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The Knox County Fire Bureau was established in 1984 to enforce applicable codes adopted by Knox County to reduce the incidence and severity of fires. The Fire Bureau's efforts to meet this goal are channeled through the following concentrations: Codes Enforcement, Public Education and Fire Investigation.

The Fire Bureau is managed by Kathy Saunders, Fire Marshal, Travis Evans, Deputy Fire Marshal, and Aaron Allen, Fire Investigation Unit Supervisor. The remainder of our team consists of five inspectors, Rick Smith, Steve Chamberlain, Jan Hart, Sam Anello, and Jack Kersey, two public educators, Larry Wilder and Colin Cumesty, five investigators, Shawn Short, Greg Lampkin, David Ilove, Dan Johnson, Michael Patrick, and an office manager, Jann Owens. Although our responsibilities are diverse, we work as a cohesive team in a combined effort to make Knox County a safer community.

# Fire Marshal



## Kathy Saunders

Fire Marshal

Serving Knox County Since: January, 2001

Kathy Saunders is the liaison between the Senior Director of Engineering and Public Works, Jim Snowden, and the Fire Bureau. Kathy represents the Bureau for public and professional organizational interaction. Kathy manages all activities and operations for the Bureau, which includes:

- Developing and implementing goals, objectives, policies and priorities
- Creating and navigating the Bureau's operational budget
- Monitoring and evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery methods, programs, and procedures
- Selecting, training, motivating, and evaluating Bureau personnel
- Acting as liaison between county government and local emergency agencies
- Developing new programs and improving existing programs to assist county fire departments

### Certifications Held:

- Fire Inspector Level II (ICC)- State certified (Tennessee) 2004
- Fire Inspector Level I (ICC)- State certified (Tennessee) 2003
- First Responder- State certified (Indiana) 1998
- Firefighter I- National Fire Protection Association 1995
- Instructor I- National Fire Protection Association 1994
- Emergency Medical Technician-State certified (Kansas) 1993

### Professional Affiliations:

- International Association of Fire Chiefs 1995
- Women in the Fire Service 1997
- National Fire Protection Association 1997
- Women Chief Fire Officers 1999
- Tennessee Valley Society of Fire Protection Engineers 2001
- East Tennessee Regional Council of Fire Chiefs 2001
- East Tennessee Building Officials Association 2001
- Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association 2002
- Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association 2005
- International Code Council



## Travis Evans

Deputy Fire Marshal  
Serving Knox County Since: June, 2001

Travis Evans is the liaison between the Fire Marshal and the Fire Inspectors. Travis supervises the fire inspectors and conducts fire plan reviews for Knox County. Duties include but are not limited to supervising directing and evaluating staff, processing employee concerns and problems directing day to day operations for inspectors and other duties as directed, by the Fire Marshal.

### Certifications Held:

- Certified Fire Protection Specialist (NFPA) 2015
- Fire Plans Examiner (ICC) 2008
- Fire Inspector Level II (ICC)- State certified (Tennessee) 2004
- Fire Inspector - State certified (Tennessee) 2002
- Fire Inspector Level I (ICC)- State certified (Tennessee) 2002
- Fire Inspector Level 1 - Southern Standard Building Code Congress 2002

### Professional Affiliations:

- East Tennessee Building Officials Association 2001
- Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association 2002
- International Code Council 2002
- NFPA - 2016

## Office Manager

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### Jann Owens

Office Manager

Serving Knox County Since: October, 2007

#### Duties Include:

- Assistant to the Fire Marshal
- Schedule Inspections
- Daily prepare the inspectors for their inspections with necessary files
- Direct phone calls appropriately and quickly
- Greet office visitors
- Compile, monitor, and obtain authorization for payment of invoices
- Contact vendors with invoice issues
- Submit travel vouchers and responsible for making travel reservations
- Submit purchase requisitions
- Responsible for submitting payroll time sheets
- Enter data for plans review and new construction as well as establish new files
- Process office mail
- Review supply orders and keep a running inventory of supplies
- Maintain inventory of the Bureau vehicles

**KNOX COUNTY TENNESSEE**

**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

**INSPECTIONS & ENFORCEMENT**

# Inspections

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**I. New construction** is assigned to Steve Chamberlain, Jan Hart, and Sam Anello. These inspectors take the plans reviewed by Deputy Fire Marshal, Travis Evans and apply that information at the project work site. New construction inspections range from inspecting the initial slab of concrete up to the final inspection for the required Certificate of Completion. Meetings are often conducted to clarify code requirements and are actually recommended during the initial stages of a project as well as during the pre-construction stages of a project. The following list identifies some of the functions of the new construction team:

## Activities – New Construction

- Plans review and onsite inspections
- New buildings, plan revisions, renovations
- Inspections for tents
- Inspections for fuel tank installations
- Framing and firewall inspections
- Progress checks
- Coordinating new hydrant testing
- Fire alarm and detection systems testing
- Suppression system testing
- Issues court citations when all other means fail
- Logs and stickers existing vacant buildings
- Permit required for all occupancy changes
- Inspect facilities that serve beer
- Issues CO when ready and sends report to Travis Evans for Beer Board meetings
- Annual and quarterly reports

**II. Existing structure inspection** is assigned to Rick Smith. This team conducts inspections on existing Knox County businesses in an effort to maintain the fire and life safety features of these establishments through inspections for code compliance. Typical activities of the existing inspection inspectors are:

## Activities – Existing Inspection

- Existing facility inspections
- State licensed facility inspections
- Beer Board applicant inspections
- Complaint inspections
- Occupancy and tenant changes

- Existing hydrant issues
- Fire alarm and detection systems testing
- Suppression system testing
- Check existing Knox Box units with occupant to verify that it contains proper information and keys
- Coordinates fire watch with Fire Department and property owners and obtains records for file

**III. Governmental construction** is inspected by Steve Chamberlain and Jan Hart. This includes facilities owned by government entities and all private schools located in Knox County.

### **Activities – Government Construction**

- All inspections required by governmental facilities
- Plans review and onsite inspections
- New buildings, plan revisions, renovations
- Framing and firewall inspections
- Progress checks
- Existing facility inspections
- Complaint inspections
- Occupancy and tenant changes
- Coordinating new hydrant testing
- Existing hydrant issues
- Fire alarm and detection systems testing
- Suppression system testing

### **IV. On-call inspector services**

Our on-call program assists local fire departments by providing technical expertise regarding life safety features. This aids them in determining whether a building is safe to occupy after an incident has occurred. The inspectors are scheduled to be on-call on a weekly rotation.

Providing on-call inspectors is just one of the various measures taken by the Fire Bureau in an effort to create a safer community. It allows an inspector's input at a key time, helping to ensure all fire protection system discharges or impairments are returned to working order and therefore able to deliver the protection they were intended to provide.



## Existing Structure Inspector



### **Rick Smith**

Fire Inspector II

Serving Knox County Since: October, 1990

Rick Smith conducts inspections of existing structures and facilities for compliance with the codes adopted by Knox County. Duties include but are not limited to:

- Performs scheduled and unscheduled inspections of buildings/structures Conducts fire plan reviews
- Witness the testing of fire protection/detection systems.
- Respond to fire and life safety related complaints.

### **Certifications Held:**

- Fire Inspector Level II (ICC) – State certified (Tennessee) 2006
- Firefighter I – State certified (Tennessee) 1994
- Fire Inspector Level II – State certified (Tennessee) 1994
- Fire Inspector Level I – Southern Standard Building Code Congress 1993
- Fire Inspector Level I – National Fire Protection Association 1991
- TN. Rural Metro Fire Department Fire Academy Graduate 1991

### **Professional Affiliations:**

- Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association 1990
- East Tennessee Building Officials Association 2002
- Knox County Government Safety Committee Member 2005
- International Code Council 2006

## New & Existing Construction Inspectors



### Jan Hart

Fire Inspector II

Serving Knox County Since: October, 2004

Jan conducts inspections of educational and governmental facilities for compliance with codes adopted by Knox County. These facilities include all Knox County Schools, all private schools located in Knox County, and all buildings, parks, and other businesses owned by Knox County. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Performs annual inspections of all Knox County Schools
- Performs annual inspections of all Private Schools located in Knox County
- Performs annual inspections of all Knox County owned buildings, such as Libraries, Senior Centers, Correctional Facilities, Health Departments, etc.
- Performs annual inspections of all Knox County Parks and Recreation facilities
- Responds to fire and life safety issues
- Responds to all Freedom of Information Act requests
- Responds to all complaints concerning damaged or obstructed fire hydrants

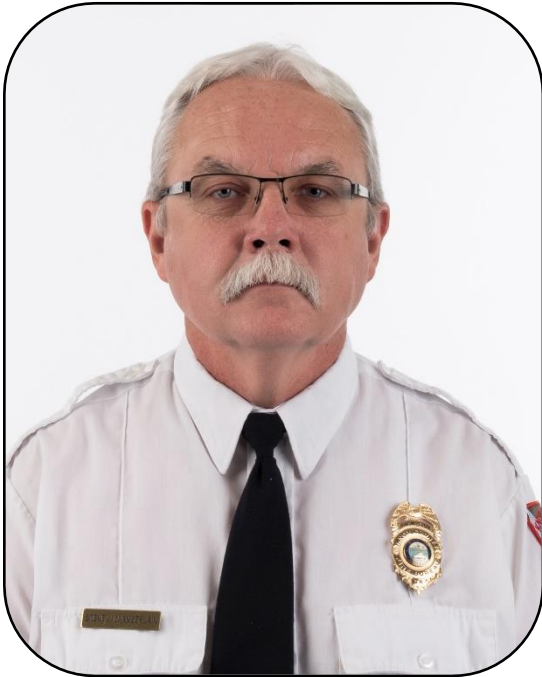
### Certifications Held:

- Fire Inspector Level II (ICC) State certified (Tennessee) 2015
- Fire Inspector Level I (ICC) State certified (Tennessee) 2012

### Professional Affiliations:

- International Code Council 2012
- East Tennessee Building Officials Association 2012
- American Society of Civil Engineers 1985

## New Construction/Governmental Inspector



### Steve Chamberlain

Fire Inspector II

Serving Knox County Since: June, 1993

Steve conducts inspections of new constructions projects, educational and governmental, conducts fire plan reviews and/or existing structures and facilities for compliance with the codes adopted by Knox County. Duties include but are not limited to:

- Performs scheduled and unscheduled inspections of buildings/structures
- Conducts fire plan reviews
- Witness the testing of fire protection/detection systems
- Respond to fire and life safety related complaints.

#### Certifications Held:

- Fire Inspector Level II (ICC) – State certified (Tennessee) 2004
- Fire Inspector Level I – Southern Standard Building Code Congress 2002
- Fire Inspector– State certified (Tennessee) 2002
- Fire Inspector Level II – National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications 2002

#### Professional Affiliations:

- East Tennessee Building Officials Association 2001
- Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association 2002
- International Code Council 2002

# New Construction Fire Protection & Detection System Inspection



## Sam Anello

Fire Inspector II  
Serving Knox County Since: January 2016

Sam conducts, inspections/plans review for fire protection and detection systems of compliance with the codes adopted by Knox County. Duties include but are not limited to:

- Performs scheduled and unscheduled inspections of buildings/structures
- Conducts fire plan reviews
- Witness the testing of fire protection/detection systems
- Respond to fire and life safety related complaints.

### Certifications Held:

- Fire Inspector Level II (ICC) State Certified (Tennessee) 2016
- Fire Inspector Level I (ICC) State Certified (Tennessee) 2014
- Fire Inspector I (NFPA) 2008
- Fire Prevention Officer I - State Certified (Illinois) 2008
- Fire Officer II - State Certified (Illinois) 2007
- Fire Instructor II - State Certified (Illinois) 1986
- Fire Apparatus Engineer - State Certified (Illinois) 1986
- Firefighter III - State Certified (Illinois) 1986
- EMT-Paramedic - State Certified (Illinois) 1984
- Associates of Applied Science, Fire Science - Prairie State College 1983

### Professional Affiliations:

- International Association of Firefighters - 1987
- Associated Firefighters of Illinois - 1987
- Illinois State Honor Guard - 2003
- National Fire Protection Association - 2005
- International Code council - 2005
- Tennessee Fire Safety Inspector's Association – 2014

## New & Existing Construction Inspectors



### Jack Kersey

Fire Inspector I

Serving Knox County Since: May, 2018

Jack conducts inspections of new construction projects mostly consisting of apartments and duplexes.

Duties include but are not limited to:

- Performs scheduled and unscheduled inspections of buildings/structures
- Witness the testing of fire protection/detection systems and equipment
- Responds to fire and life safety related complaints

#### Certifications Held:

- Fire Inspector Level I (ICC) State Certified (TN) 2018
- Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction Incident Response Awareness - 2018

#### Professional Affiliations:

- East Tennessee Building Officials Association – 2018
- International Code Council – 2018
- Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association – 2018

## Inspection Totals - 2018

1st Stage.....	76	Hood Test.....	46
24 Hour Air Test.....	8	Hydro Static Test.....	324
Above Ceiling.....	40	Kicker .....	12
Access Control .....	1	Mechanical.....	1
Alarm Test .....	274	Meeting/Consult.....	154
Electronic Gate Test		Misc Comments .....	12
Existing Inspection.....	936	MPC Concept Plan	
FB Complaint .....	0	Progress Check.....	291
FB Supervisor Notes .....	0	RC1 Chanel .....	13
Final & Gas .....	4	Sprinkler Checklist	
Final Commercial.....	0	Sprinkler Final.....	136
Fire Call .....	7	Sprinkler Flow Test.....	1
Fire Stop .....	32	Sprinkler System.....	8
Fire System Test .....	3	Stop Work Notice .....	7
Firewall .....	150	Tank Install .....	5
Flam/Comb Liquid And		Thrust Block .....	42
Flush .....	98	Violation Notice .....	92
Framing .....	170	Violation/Stop.....	5
Framing Firewall .....	0	Work Inspection.....	5
Fuel Tank Removal .....	1		
Fuel Tank Test.....	1		
Gas .....	2		
Green Stickers.....	76	<b>Total Fire Inspections 3,028</b>	
		<b>Plans Review 1,007</b>	

**KNOX COUNTY TENNESSEE**

**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

**PUBLIC EDUCATION**



# Public Education

## Overview

The Public Education Office of the Bureau is charged with providing fire prevention and life safety education programs to the citizens and businesses of Knox County. Although programs are offered to all demographics, we primarily target children and senior citizens as they are the most susceptible to death and injury from fire.

## A Partnership



The Knox County Fire Bureau and Rural Metro Fire Department partner together in the public education effort. It is a more cost-effective way to deliver this valuable life saving information, and allows the two public education officers to utilize resources from each agency.

As children are a primary focus area of life safety education, the office uses a custom built mobile classroom called the Life Safety House to teach young school children. It is designed similar to a typical residential household, only in a child friendly size. The Pub-Ed office also performs numerous training classes for businesses, civic groups, churches and others to assist in their safety planning needs.

The Bureau takes pride in being the region's leader in developing proactive and diverse public education campaigns. In addition to serving the citizens of Knox County, we are routinely called upon to share our knowledge with neighboring counties, who may not have the resources to offer this lifesaving training to their communities.

## Life Safety House

We are fortunate to have a variety of teaching tools to aid us in the delivery of our programs. In 2006, we received a tremendous boost from a Department of Homeland Security Grant. The grant of nearly \$50,000.00 enabled us to purchase a brand new Life Safety House mobile classroom trailer. It is designed as a "kid sized" home with a bed- room, kitchen and living room that we use to teach valuable fire and life safety education at the schools. If not for this program, many children would not receive this unique type of training.





We are very confident that this endeavor has made a difference in saving both lives and property. Fire investigation interviews have revealed that children acted to alert families and aid in their evacuation from burning homes several times. These children reported that they received their training from the Life Safety House education programs. It clearly has made a profound difference in the quality and safety of life we enjoy.

### **Additional Opportunities To Educate Children/Young Adults**



Each year, Rural Metro Fire Department and Knox County Fire Prevention Bureau participate in Knox County School's Career Mentoring Program, providing an opportunity for students interested in these fields to learn more about them via an on-the-job environment. Fire Prevention Specialists Larry Wilder and Colin Cumesty assist in coordinating the fire division's activities for the students. These activities usually include touring the fire station, riding on the fire engine when calls come in, donning and doffing fire gear, hands-on use of a fire extinguisher on a controlled fire, and flowing water at the nozzle of a hose line.

A great deal of fire prevention education is carried out by firefighters conducting truck visits to schools and community events at which children are naturally drawn to the fire truck and firefighters.

Upon request, we conduct fire prevention and safety presentations at schools, up to and including high school and colleges. We also respond to such requests at daycares, preschools, and other such entities.



### **Educating Parents**

In addition to educating children and young adults, it is imperative that parents receive fire prevention and safety education. We can teach children the information, but reinforcement and application of the safety skills learned are interventions required of the parents or guardians. Furthermore, purchase of, and/or assurance of, good working smoke alarms and escape ladders is something children can preach to parents, but only the

parent has the ability to follow-through with these vital purchases and maintenance of such.

We educate parents and even grandparents in various ways. Fire prevention and safety literature is made available when we give presentations and at various events open to the community at which we have a vendor booth. Attendees are entered for a prize drawing upon turning in a vendor sheet which they have had initialed at every booth. This allows for extensive parent contacts through which we provide information both verbally and in written form. Any time we participate in an event, we are able to share safety information but also information about our agency and the services we provide to contribute to the community safety.

- **Healthy Living Expo**
- **Knox County Sheriff's Dept. Appreciation Day**

Parents also receive fire safety messages via media releases, the fire safety house, presentations to new parent classes, educational literature distributed upon request, and more.

Rural Metro Fire Department plays a large role in the delivery of fire prevention and safety education to both children and parents. Fire truck visits and station visits provide excellent opportunities for firefighters to deliver this education to the audiences with which they interact. Requests for such activities are received by Fire Prevention Specialists Larry Wilder and Colin Cumesty, who schedule the activities according to station availability and subsequently notify the fire stations with the necessary details.

## Seniors

We have also made great strides in providing education and training to the Senior Citizen community of Knox County. Our office is actively involved in programs with the Knox County Office on Aging, the Knox County Sheriffs Office Senior Citizen Awareness Network (SCAN), Senior Companions, Knox County Senior Centers, Baptist Senior Health and others to regularly provide fire and life safety education to this growing demographic. The number of programs delivered to this segment has grown steadily over the past 7 years and we look forward to new opportunities in the future to serve our senior community.

Each year we participate in numerous Senior Citizens Community Events, including Pancake Breakfasts, The Spring Fling and the Health & Safety Fairs. The events are well attended, therefore, providing a remarkable opportunity to educate this facet of the community.

## Neighborhoods/Homeowner Associations

Additionally, we have grown in the number of programs delivered to Neighborhoods and Home Owner Associations (HOA's). We actively participate in the National Night Out program where we deliver education and training to thousands of families each year.

## The Workplace

We have increased the number of programs delivered to businesses and industry in Knox County by teaching such programs as portable fire extinguisher use and evacuation drills. General workplace fire prevention and safety messages have included topics such as abstaining from candle use at the office, safe operation and supervision of small space heaters in the workplace, the dangers of overloaded outlets, extension cords, prohibiting circuit breakers from being taped open, maintenance of smoke alarm systems, fire extinguishers, and posted escape plans, the dangers of creating large fuel load sources by piling vast amounts of boxes, files, etcetera, the importance of having visibly marked exits, evacuation paths free of any obstacles, and the value of conducting evacuation drills to include a good system of communication and coordination to account for all occupants at the meeting place.

## Portable Fire Extinguisher Training

The Fire Bureau recently was able to purchase a new state of the art computerized fire extinguisher training simulator. This equipment manufactured by the Bullex Company, provides safe and effective training on the use of fire extinguishers to businesses and the general public.

## Smoke Detector and Replacement Battery Programs – Conventional And Visual/Strobe Detectors

Working smoke detectors in a home increase an occupant's chance of surviving a fire by 50 percent. The Fire Bureau stresses the importance of this life-saving device through its educational endeavors. We do not want someone to be without them because they cannot afford them. Therefore, we have the following programs available to the public.

### (a) Conventional Smoke Detector Program

This program provides for one smoke detector in households otherwise unable to afford them. The Fire Bureau provides the detectors and Rural Metro Fire Department installs them.

### (b) Visual/Strobe Smoke Detector Program

This program provides for one visual/strobe light smoke detector, model 7109/LS, in households otherwise unable to afford them. The Fire Bureau provides the detectors and conducts the majority of installations. These detectors were purchased at cost (\$79) by way of a special program available through the manufacturer, Gentex. If we receive a request for one of these detectors from someone who is able to afford one at cost, we allow them to purchase from us. In turn, we use that payment to purchase another visual detector for someone who is unable to afford one.

### (c) Replacement of Smoke Detector Batteries

It is imperative that smoke detector batteries are replaced at least two times per year, preferably in conjunction with the Daylight Savings time changes as a helpful reminder. If unable to afford a battery, we will provide one and Rural/Metro will install it in place of the previous battery. Even residents with hard-wired detectors need to keep up with maintaining a reliable back-up battery in case the power failed.

To access these programs, the Fire Bureau has a smoke detector line available for requests at 865 -215-FIRE (3473).

**Funding/Donations:** The Fire Bureau is a non-profit agency, depending primarily on donations from the community to support and maintain the above programs.

## Media Releases And Interviews

At certain times during the year, particular fire hazards seem more profound than others. For instance, alternative heating sources pose a higher fire hazard during winter months. One step the Fire Bureau takes to mitigate heightened seasonal risks is educating and reminding the public about these risks through public service announcements in the newspaper, on television, and via radio.

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK - EVERY OCTOBER

Fire Prevention Week takes place every October. It provides an opportunity for a national focus on fire prevention and safety. The National Fire Protection Association chooses a specific fire prevention theme for Fire Prevention Week, such as “watch what you heat,” and “practice your escape plan.” the Fire Bureau and Rural Metro Fire Department team up by distributing information and materials to the schools as well as hosting open houses at fire stations during the month of October

## ANNUAL FIRE DEPARTMENT FALL FESTIVAL

Each year in the month of October, the Fire Bureau partners with area fire departments, law enforcement agencies, healthcare and other public service providers to host a fire and life safety festival. The event is an opportunity for us to share valuable fire prevention and life saving information with the general public in a family friendly environment. Activities include the Life Safety House, the Residential Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer, hands on fire extinguisher training, E-911 phone call simulator, fire truck displays, games and food. The event coincides with the National Fire Prevention Week Campaign.

## ANNUAL SUMMER SAFETY BASH

Each year, in the month of April, the Fire Bureau partners with area fire departments, law enforcement agencies, healthcare and other public service providers to host a fire and life safety festival that is geared toward making summertime outdoor activities safer for families. Safety demonstrations include boating, pool & water safety, mower safety, barbecue grill safety, bike safety, games and food. The event is a kickoff to summer as the school year is ending.

SMOKE DETECTORS INSTALLED	
CONVENTIONAL DETECTORS (entire year) 2018	VISUAL DETECTORS 2018
372	5
COMBINED TOTAL 377	

### SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERIES INSTALLED

- TOTAL 175

Number of people reached in 2018.....64,595  
 Number of people visiting fire stations in 2018.....4,340  
 Number of people reached increase over 2017.....1,695

PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS BY RURAL METRO FIRE DEPARTMENT STATIONS		
Station Number	Station Visits	Truck Visits
10	20	32
41	28	48
44	14	20
15	12	16
16	10	23
17	7	16
25	6	12
26	20	15
27	3	8
28	15	22
30	25	38
31	15	22
32	6	12
42	14	18
33	10	10
34	12	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Station visits</b> 217	<b>Truck Visits</b> 302

VARIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS	
Life Safety House School Visits	8
New Parent Classes	19
Senior Programs	72
Homeowners Associations Education	31
Extinguisher Training Programs	29
Training for Workplaces	57
Expos/Fairs/Pub Ed Booth	17
Miscellaneous Programs and Events	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>293</b>

## Fire Prevention Specialists<sub>(Fire Bureau Title)</sub>

## Public Education Officers<sub>(Fire Department Title)</sub>



### Larry Wilder

Fire and Life Safety Specialist  
Serving Knox County Since: January, 2003

Larry is a Public Fire and Life Safety Specialist. His duties include the planning, development and implementation of proactive and diverse education programs. Larry represents the bureau and various functions with the 4 fire departments serving Knox County.

#### Certifications Held:

- TN Public Fire Educators Association - Public Fire Educator Advanced
- Licensed Emergency Medical Technician in the State of Tennessee with multiple certifications

#### Professional Affiliations:

- National Information Officers Association (NIOA)
- Public Information Officer 2001
- Tennessee Public Fire and Life Safety Educators Association (TPFEA) 2005



### **Colin Cumesty**

#### **Fire Prevention Specialist**

Serving Knox County Since: August, 2010

As a Fire Prevention Specialist responsible to the Knox County Fire Marshal, Colin develops and delivers public education programming with the goal reducing injuries and the loss of life from fire and life safety emergencies. In addition, Colin specifically manages the Fire Sprinkler Demonstration Trailer as well as the Special Events Trailer bringing educational programming to community events. Colin also serves as a Fire Investigator with the Knox County Fire Bureau's Fire Investigation Unit.

#### **Certifications Held:**

- International Association of Arson Investigators Certified Fire Investigation Technician 2015
- Fire and Life Safety Educator I – State Certified (TN) 2015
- Hazardous Materials Technician – State certified (Tennessee) 2011
- Fire Inspector Level I (ICC) – State certified (Tennessee) 2009
- Fire Inspector Level I – State certified (Tennessee) 2009
- Firefighter I – State certified (Tennessee) 2002
- Licensed Advanced Emergency Medical Technician – State certified (Tennessee) 2002

#### **Professional Affiliations:**

- Member of the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association since 2009
- Member of the East Tennessee Building Officials Association since 2009
- Member of the Tennessee Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators since 2011
- Member of the Tennessee Advisory Committee on Arson since 2011
- Member of the International Association of Arson Investigators 2015

**KNOX COUNTY TENNESSEE**

**FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

## Investigations

## Fire Investigations

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### **Aaron Allen**

Fire Investigation Supervisor

Serving Knox County Sheriff's Office since April, 1997

Office Direct Line Phone: 865.215.4643

Email: [aaron.allen@knoxsheriff.org](mailto:aaron.allen@knoxsheriff.org)

#### **Certifications Held:**

- Tennessee POST Certified Law Enforcement Officer
- Certified Hazardous Devices Technician
- State of Tennessee Hazardous Materials Technician

#### **Professional Affiliations:**

- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
- Tennessee Chapter, International Association of Arson Investigators (TN IAAI)
- International Association for Identification (IAI)
- Tennessee Chapter, International Association for Identification (TN-IAI)
- International Association of Bomb Tech's Investigators (IABTI)



# Fire Investigations

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## Greg Lampkin

Fire Investigator

Serving Knox County Since: January 2002 Office Direct Line  
Phone: 865.215.4664 Pager Number: 865.749.3581  
Email: greg.lampkin@knoxcounty.org

Greg Lampkin is a fire investigator in Knox County Tennessee. The unit investigates fires for the purposes of criminal investigations, product reliability, and fire code performance. This unit also conducts investigations on any explosive incidents that occur in the region. The fire investigation unit works with both the Fire Marshal and the Sheriff's Office in an effort to prevent future fires and criminal acts involving fire.

### Certifications Held:

- Certified Fire Investigator-International Association of Arson Investigators
- Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator-National Association of Fire Investigators
- State of Tennessee Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, Fire Service Instructor 1, and Fire Officer 1
- State of Tennessee Emergency Medical Technician
- State of Tennessee Hazardous Materials Technician

### Professional Affiliations:

- International Association of Arson Investigators
- National Association of Fire Investigators
- International Association of Firefighters
- TN Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators
- TN Advisory Committee on Arson

# Fire Investigations

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## Shawn Short

Fire Investigator

Serving Knox County Since: 2008  
Office Direct Line Phone: 865.215.2007  
Pager Number: 865.749.3030  
Email:shawn.short@knoxcounty.org

### Certifications Held:

- P.O.S.T Certified
- Fire Fighter I & II
- Hazardous Material Technician
- Post Blast Investigator
- Explosives Recognition
- Confined Space Rescue Technician
- Improvised Explosives

### Professional Affiliations:

- International Association of Arson Investigators
- International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators
- TN Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators

## Fire Investigations

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### **Jerry Glenn**

Fire Investigator

Serving Knox County Since: 2019

Office Direct Line: 865.215.4643

Email: [jerry.glenn@knoxsheriff.org](mailto:jerry.glenn@knoxsheriff.org)

### **Certifications Held:**

- Firefighter 1 – State Certified (Tennessee)
- Firefighter 2 – State Certified (Tennessee)
- Firefighter 3 – State Certified (Tennessee)
- Fire Service Instructor 1 – State Certified (Tennessee)

### **Professional Affiliations:**

- International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) 2019
- Tennessee Chapter, International Association of Arson Investigators (TNIAAI) 2019

# Fire Investigations



## Fire Investigation Statistics

### Knox County Fire Investigation Unit - 2018 Year End Report

Total Cases worked by the unit: 125

Breakdown:

- Fire: 104
- Explosives: 20

Fatalities: 0

Arrests: 9

### Cases by Investigator:

Allen: 76

Short: 20

Chamberlain: 3

Cumesty: 13

Johnson: 0

Mowry: 1

Patrick: 0

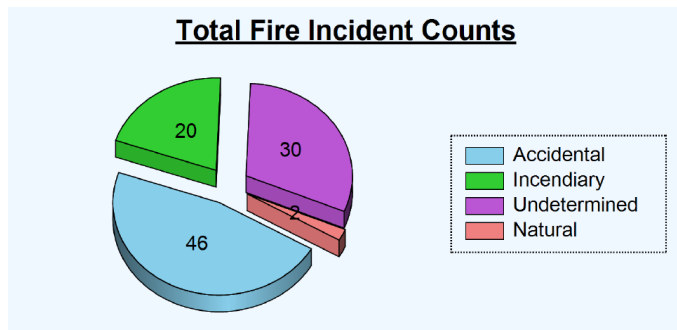
Pratt: 1

Roberts: 7

Wilson: 3

Winship: 4

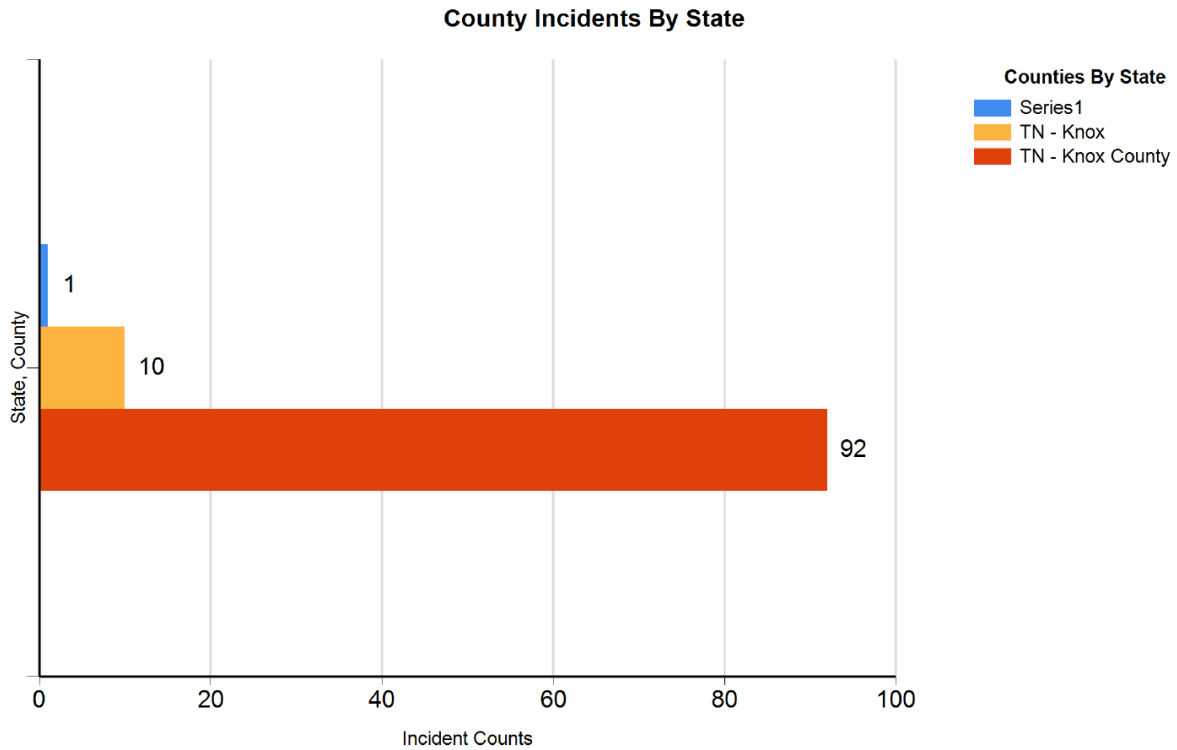
# Fire Investigation Statistics



## Total Fire Incident Counts

Fire Incident Status	Accidental	Incendiary	Undetermined	Natural	Total
Closed by Exceptional	0	1	0	0	1
Closed with Arrest	0	6	0	0	6
Investigation Closed	46	3	22	2	74
Investigation Inactive/ Suspended	0	0	3	0	3
Investigation Open	0	10	5	0	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>102</b>

# Fire Investigation Statistics

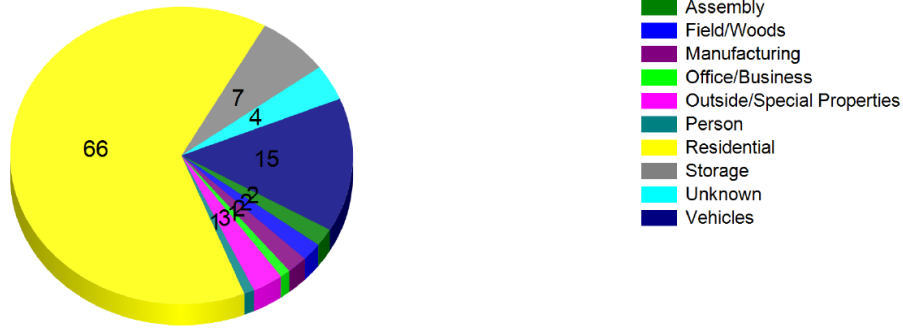


## Totals by County

State	County	Damage/Loss	Injured	Killed	Count
		\$0.00	0	0	1
TN	Knox	\$0.00	0	0	10
	Knox County	\$3,930,605.00	6	0	92
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,930,605.00</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>103</b>

# Fire Investigation Statistics

Incidents by Property Type

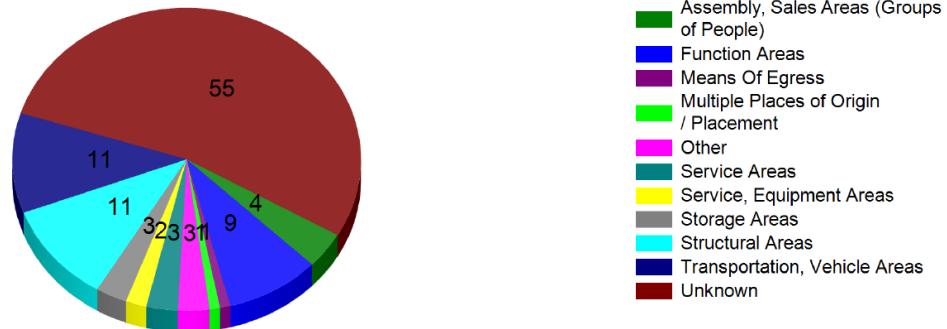


Totals By Property Type

Property Type	Damage/Loss	Injured	Killed	Count
Agriculture	\$0.00	0	0	0
Assembly	\$6,000.00	0	0	2
Education	\$0.00	0	0	0
Field/Woods	\$0.00	0	0	2
Manufacturing	\$ 255,000 .00	0	0	2
Mercantile	\$0.00	0	0	0
Office/Business	\$ 250,000 .00	0	0	1
Outside/Special Properties	\$13,000.00	0	0	3
Person	\$0.00	0	0	1
Residential	\$2,979,530.00	9	0	66
Storage	\$55,825.00	1	0	7
Unknown	\$0.00	0		4
Vehicles	\$346,250.00	0	0	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,830,407.00</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>103</b>

# Fire Investigation Statistics

Incidents by Area of Origin



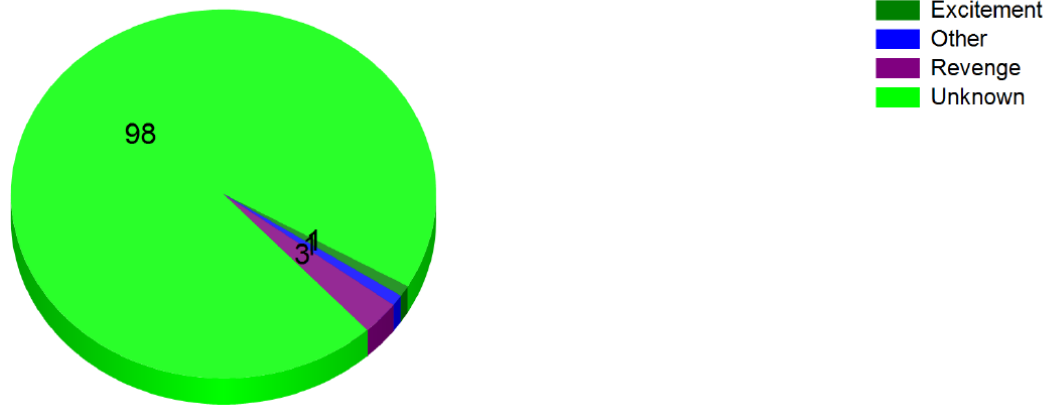
Totals by Area Of Origin

Area Of Origin	Damage / Loss	Injured	Killed	Count
Assembly, Sales Areas (Groups of People)	\$40,000.00	0	0	4
Function Areas	\$265,585.00	2	0	9
Means Of Egress	\$30,000.00	0	0	1
Multiple Places of Origin / Placement	\$0.00	0	0	1
Other	\$50.00	1	0	3
Service Areas	\$785,000.00	0	0	3
Storage Areas	\$143,000.00	1	0	3
Structural Areas	\$825,500.00	1	0	11
Transportation, Vehicle Areas	\$1,050,070.00	1	0	11
Unknown	\$201,400.00	0	0	3
Unknown	\$500,000.00	3	0	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,930,605.00</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>103</b>



# Fire Investigation Statistics

Incidents by Primary Motivation



## Totals By Primary Motive

Primary Motive	Damage / Loss	Injured	Killed	Count
Excitement	\$55,000.00	0	0	1
Other	\$400.00	2	0	1
Revenge	\$550.00	1	0	3
Unknown	\$106,000.00	1		3
Unknown	\$3,768,655.00	2	0	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,930,605.00</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>103</b>

## Fire Classifications

Fire causes are divided into three separate classifications. In 2006, the number of accidental fires was higher than the number of incendiary fires in Knox County. Many of these accidental fires can be effectively prevented through public education and code enforcement.

Incendiary fires are costly to the citizens. Fire protection costs and increased insurance rates are just a couple of reasons work is continually done to solve arson fires. Many long hours and multi-agency cooperation are required to complete this task.

An investigator responds to all working fires in Knox County. Responding to every working fire provides Fire Prevention personnel with an accurate account of fire causes in Knox County, thereby allowing public education programs to be designed to address specific problems. It also prevents an intentionally set fire from being overlooked by fire department personnel.

# Types of Fire



The Fire Investigation Unit investigates many different types of fires.



The Fire Investigation Unit investigated fires from cooking



The Fire Investigation Unit works closely with the Sheriff's Office Auto Theft Division and many insurance companies to solve these fires.



An elderly man died as a result of this fire in south Knox County

## Fire Investigation Task Force

2011 brought the biggest changes ever to the fire investigation unit. In February, after 32 years of service, Mike Dalton retired from Knox County. After a retirement party attended by fire investigation professionals from all over the southeast, Mike enjoyed several months of retirement before accepting the position as Director of the State of Tennessee Bomb and Arson Unit in July 2011.

Mike's retirement brought Investigator Greg Lampkin to the position of Unit Supervisor. Greg has been with the fire investigation unit in several capacities since 1994. Greg served as a volunteer task force member and on call investigator until he was hired as a fire investigator in 2002. Greg trained 17 years under Mike Dalton and has carried the unit well into this new chapter.

The field of fire investigations requires constant training and updates in a variety of fields. Investigator Shawn Short attended and graduated from the Knox County Sheriff's Office Police Academy. This is an intensive ten week program that covers all aspects of law enforcement. The unit taught several classes at the sheriff's academy and at various fire departments throughout Knox County. In August, Investigator Lampkin along with Former Knox County fire investigator Chris Allen, taught a session to the International Association of Arson Investigators annual seminar in Pigeon Forge Tn.

In October 2011, Aaron Allen joined the fire investigation unit. Aaron previously served 12 years with the Sheriff's Office Forensic Unit and was promoted to the position of detective and reassigned to the fire investigation unit. Aaron brings many years of investigative experience to the unit and has made great strides in learning the field of fire investigations.

All three current members of the unit also serve on the Knox County Bomb Squad. The bomb squad operates in the greater Knox County area and also conducts training to local responders.

The fire investigation unit is served by three volunteer fire investigators that assist with on call coverage and scene work. Two of these investigators, Michael Patrick and David Ilove come from the Sheriff's Office Reserve officer program. David Ilove also serves as a fire investigation consultant all over the world and brings decades of experience to the unit. David Ilove also writes fire investigation text books and many photos from the Knox County were published in the recent text Kirk's Fire Investigation. Fire investigator Dan Johnson also assists the unit. He serves as the fire marshal for the Town of Farragut.

The unit has begun groundwork for two new programs involving members of the area fire departments. The fire investigation task force and the fire investigation apprentice program have been created to assist investigators on fire scenes, as well as educate the fire service. These programs are set to begin operation in early 2012.

The fire investigation unit has continued to serve the wide array of professionals involved in the fire investigation field. By operating on the ATF arson task force, working closely with investigation units from the City of Knoxville and surrounding agencies, working with multiple area fire departments and law enforcement agencies, and operating with many personnel from the insurance industry, Knox County has worked to create an atmosphere of cooperation and unity in order to better serve the citizens of our community.



Aaron Allen	Full-time	Fire Investigation Supervisor	Knox County Fire Bureau	575
Greg Lampkin	Full-time	Fire Investigator	Knox County Fire Bureau	FM10
Shawn Short	Full-time	Fire Investigator	Knox County Fire Bureau	FM9
Michael Patrick	Volunteer	Fire Investigator	Knox County Fire Bureau	FM11
Dan Johnson	Volunteer	Origin and Cause Investigator	Town of Farragut	FM21
David Icove	Reserve Officer	Fire Investigator	Knox County Sheriff's Office	

**Arson is to blame for this fire in east Knox County.**



This report was compiled and composed by Fire Investigator Greg Lampkin, Knox County Fire Prevention Bureau. The data listed in this report was gathered from the Fire Investigation Unit's computer database. All information is public record and is used to prepare education and prevention materials.



## Knox County Fire Prevention Bureau

400 Main Street • Room 585 • Knoxville, Tennessee 37902