

# Memorandum



DATE: October 2, 2009

TO: Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway, Chair  
and Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: **Tour of Dallas Fire-Rescue's Fire Prevention and Safety**

The Public Safety Committee members will tour the Dallas Fire-Rescue's Fire Prevention and Safety on Monday, October 5, 2009. The committee will convene in 6ES at 12:00 p.m. and depart to the vans located at Level 1 (green). The vans will depart no later than 12:15 p.m. Lunch will be provided. After the tour the committee will reconvene in 6ES as a formality to adjourn, prior to the 2:00 p.m. Housing Committee Meeting.



Ryan S. Evans  
First Assistant City Manager

# Memorandum



Date: October 2, 2009

To: Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway, Chair  
and Members of the Public Safety Committee

Subject: Inspection & Life Safety Education Division

The Public Safety Committee will be briefed on the Inspection & Life Safety Education Division on Monday, October 5, 2009.



Ryan S. Evans  
First Assistant City Manager

## Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary  
Tom Perkins, City Attorney  
Craig Kinton, City Auditor  
Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager  
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager  
Dave K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer  
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor/City Council Office

# Inspection & Life Safety Education Division



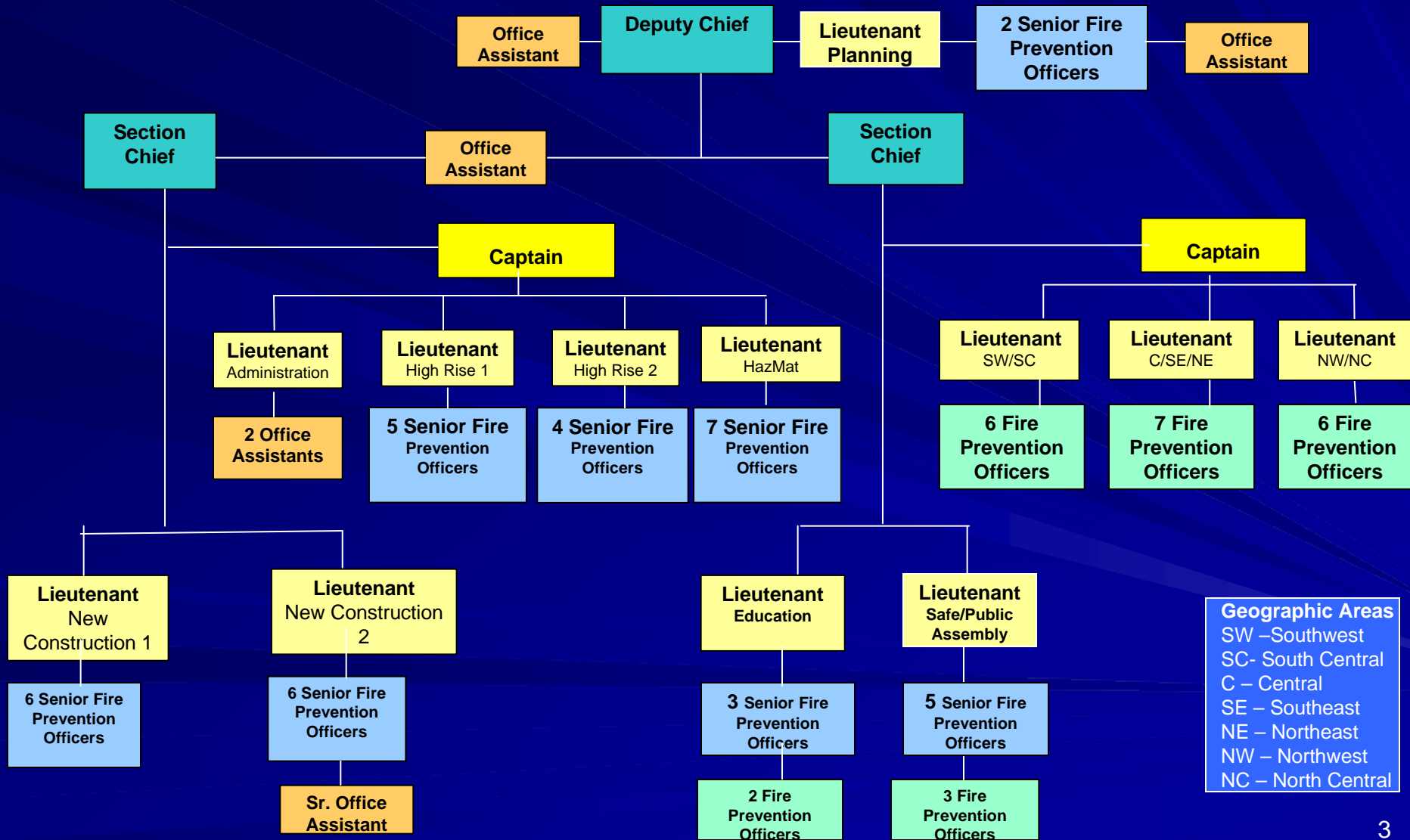
**Dallas Fire-Rescue  
Department**  
October 5<sup>th</sup> 2009



The purpose of the briefing is to provide an overview of the Inspection and Life Safety (I&LSE) Division to highlight:

- Organization
- Resources
- Inspection Activities
- Education Activities
- Accomplishments

# Inspection & Life Safety Education Division



# Occupancy Inspection Schedule

- Immediate
  - Complaints
- As Needed
  - New Construction (fire alarm and sprinkler tests)
  - General Requests/Smoke Detectors/Education Programs
  - Special Events
  - Trade shows

# Occupancy Inspection Schedule (cont.)

## ➤ Annual

- State Licensed Facilities
- Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Public Assembly Occupancies
- Hotels/ Motels
- Schools
- Permitted Occupancies
- Hazmat Occupancies
- Airports
- Malls (Core annually & special systems)

# Inspections and Operations Unite

- Inspectors assist Operations with inspections/complaints
- Field Lieutenants direct liaison with the fire stations
- Collaboration between Strategic Customer Service Area Coordinators and Field Lieutenants
- Inspectors operate out of 2 field offices at Stations 40 and 42



# Field Inspections

- Inspect Life Safety Systems
- Inspect for Fire Code Violations
- Investigate Citizen Complaints
- Maintain Fire Lane Compliance
- Check for Appropriate Certificate of Occupancy
- Issue Fire Permits When Applicable



# Field Inspections include:

- General Business
- State Licensed Facilities
  - Daycares
  - Assisted living facilities
- Hotels and Motels
- Schools
  - Public
  - Private
- Public Assemblies
  - Night Clubs
  - Bars
  - Restaurants
  - Theatres
- Multi-family dwellings

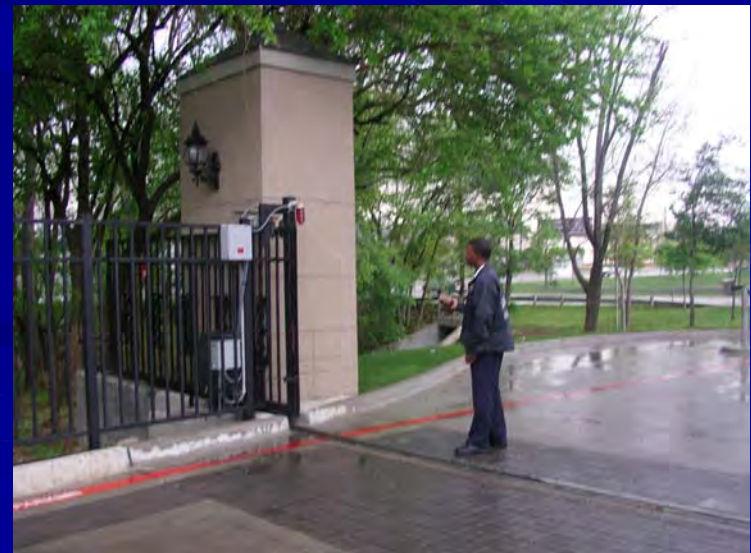


# Multi-family Dwellings



- 3,877 multi-family properties
- 38,088 buildings
- 257,914 units
- Check fire lanes and gates
- Check Fire Department access

- Test Smoke Alarms
- Investigate Complaints
- Approval of chemical storage
- Issue permits for hot work



# Task Forces

- Created to emphasize inspecting high risk occupancies
- Goal is to inspect these facilities alternating years
- Task forces
  - Hazardous Materials
  - High Rise



# Haz-Mat and Airports

- Inspect Hazardous Materials Facilities
- Inspect Aboveground/Underground Flammable Liquid Storage Tanks
- Inspect Spray Paint Booths
- Issue Hazardous Materials Permits



# High Rise Buildings



- 468 High Rise Buildings
- Review Fire Safety Plans and Conduct Fire Drills
- Inspect and Test Life Safety Systems

# New Construction

- Testing Life Safety Systems:
  - Automatic Sprinkler
  - Fire Alarm
  - Elevators

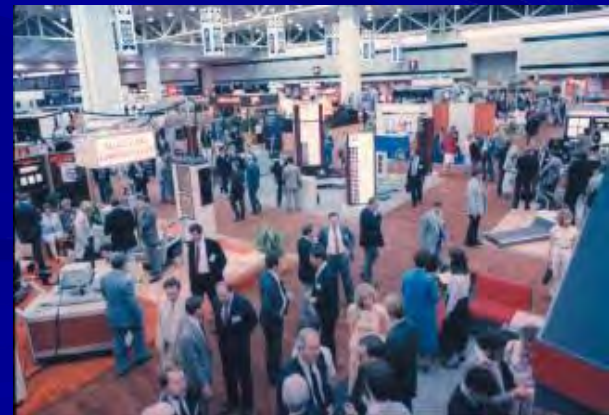


- Check for Fire Department Access
- Testing of Electronic Egress Devices
- Testing of Emergency Generators

# Tradeshows, Conventions and Special Events



- Check Emergency Exits
- Check for Overcrowding
- Inspect Life Safety Systems
- Monitor Pyrotechnic and LPG Displays



# Hospitals and Nursing Homes

- 1 inspector assigned to inspect these 111 facilities



- Inspect Annually
- Investigate Complaints
- Check Life Safety Systems
- Issue Appropriate Permits



# Smoke Alarm Installations

- Free to single family and duplex homes in the City of Dallas
- Smoke alarms have tamper proof 10 year lithium batteries



# National Fire Statistics\*

- In 2008, 403,000 fires or 78% of all structure fires occurred in residential properties
- Every 22 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the nation. A fire occurs in a structure at the rate of one every 61 seconds, and in particular a residential fire occurs every 78 seconds
- An estimated 890 lives could be saved each year if all homes had working smoke alarms
- You have a 50% greater chance of surviving a home fire if you have a working smoke alarm

\*as per the National Fire Protection Association

# Dallas Fire Statistics

- Top fire death causes in Dallas
  - electrical
  - combustibles too close to heat source
  - careless smoking
- Fire deaths in Dallas continue to decline
  - FY 04-05, 17 fire deaths
  - FY 05-06, 12 fire deaths
  - FY 06-07, 12 fire deaths
  - FY 07-08, 11 fire deaths
  - FY 08-09, 10 fire deaths



# Public Education



# Education Is The Key To Prevention

- Special programs target children
- New program designed to educate fire and life safety for seniors, our fastest growing population
- Career day programs teach teens about life in the fire service
- Partnerships include Leadership Dallas, Center for Disease Control, Injury Prevention Center and The Meadows Foundation



# The Fire Safety House

- Children under age 5 are 1½ times as likely to die in a home fire as the average person
- Children are taught to crawl low under smoke, have two ways out from their bedroom, meet their family at their special meeting place and to call 9-1-1



# Sparky Teaches Children About 9-1-1

- The Sparky Puppet Show is an interactive program used to teach the young child about the dangers of fire
- Children learn about calling 9-1-1 for emergencies only
- Sparky reminds children not to play with matches or lighters
- Recently added lessons about our new “All Hazards Approach” to teach children about life safety



# Risk Watch Injury Prevention Program

- Risk Watch targets 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students in public and private schools in west and south Dallas

WELCOME TO NFPA's

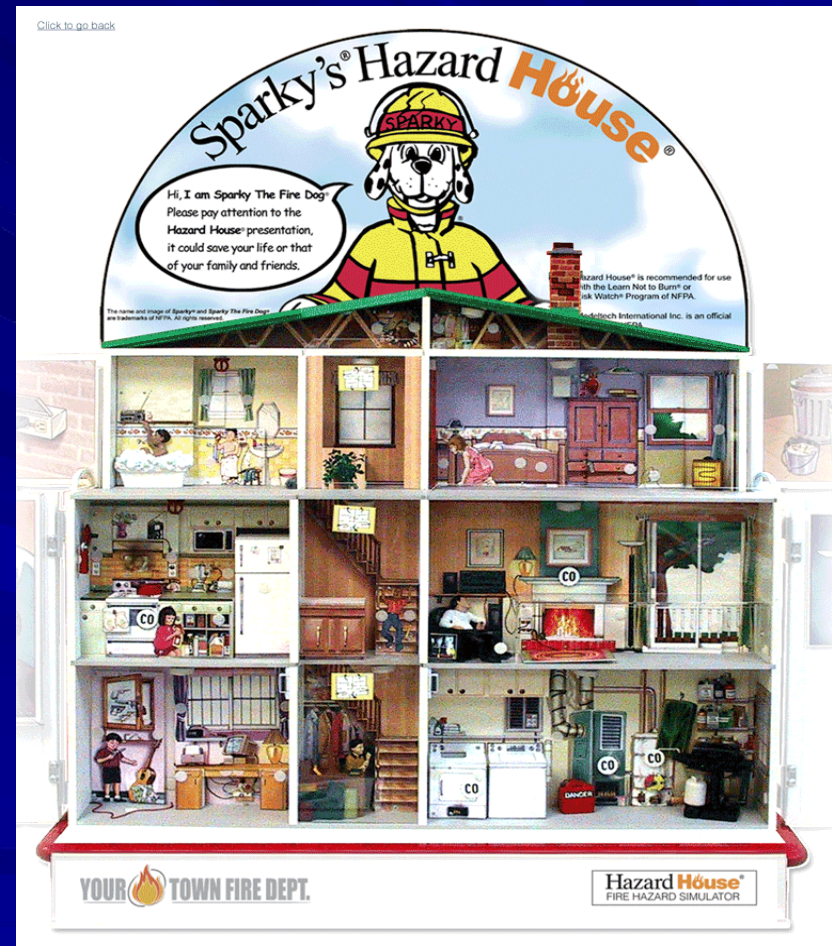


- Teaches:
  - Fire & Burn Prevention
  - Poisoning Prevention
  - Motor Vehicle Safety
  - Choking, Suffocation & Strangulation Prevention
  - Falls Prevention
  - Bike & Pedestrian Safety
  - Firearms Injury Prevention and Water Safety

# Hazard House

➤ One of our newest additions is Sparky's Hazard House. This interactive tool addresses multiple household hazards including:

- Electrical Hazards
- Flammable & Combustible Storage
- Carbon Monoxide
- Smoke/Fire Hazards
- Choking/Strangulation
- Firearms



# Fire Extinguishing Training

- Adults practice putting out a real fire
- Teaches the classes of fire and different types of extinguishers
- Program is not conducted during ozone alert days



# Fire Prevention Month 2009

- National Fire Protection Association has named “Stay Fire Smart, Don’t Get Burned” as the theme for this year’s Fire Prevention Month
- October’s water bill will include a special fire safety message: “*Stay Fire Smart, Don’t Get Burned! Be a Good Example. Practice Fire Safety With Your Children.*”



# “Smoke Signals” Life Safety Newsletter

➤ New life safety newsletter is free and mailed electronically in PDF form in both English and Spanish each quarter

➤ By updating newsletter each quarter, the changing fire and life safety hazards can be addressed with each season

➤ Recipients can print and distribute newsletter or forward as an email to their staff, tenants or other interested parties

-Neighborhood Associations

-Housing Associations

-City Departments



**Smoke Signals**  
A Life Safety Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3  
Summer 2009

City of Dallas

### Bicycle Safety

Summer vacation means more outdoor activities and children who love riding their bikes. Keep yours safe with these tips:

- Require children to wear helmets every time they ride their bike.
- Ride bikes only in safe areas and never at night.
- Children should walk, not ride a bike across the street, and cross only with a grown-up.
- Children under 10 years-old should ride on side walks or safe areas only like a bike path. Teens may ride in the street, riding with traffic, after they learn the rules of the road.
- Teach children how to cross the street. Stop at the curb or edge of the road and look left then right, then left again for moving cars. Wait until the street is clear; keep looking left and right until you have safely crossed the street.

### What causes our homes to burn?

#### Electrical Fires

Currently the most common cause of residential fires in Dallas are extension cords and overloaded outlets. Do not use an extension cord for more than 90 days and avoid overloading outlets. Only plug one high wattage appliance into each receptacle at a time.

#### Unattended Cooking

More residential fires begin in the kitchen than in any other part of the home. Monitor your oven and stove carefully. Keep anything that can catch fire such as oven mitts, towels or curtains away from your stove.

#### Incorrectly Discarded Smoking Materials

If you smoke, smoke outside and make certain cigarette butts and ashes are completely out before discarding them—especially during these hot dry months when the fire danger is high. Keep matches and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach.

#### Playing with Fire

Preschoolers and kindergartners are most likely to start fires when playing with matches and lighters. **And are most likely to die in them.** Never use matches or lighters as a source of amusement—children may imitate you. Use only lighters designed with child resistant features. If you know of a juvenile who has exhibited tendencies to start fires, call 214-670-4312. Our Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program can help you.

#### Combustibles near a heat source

While space heaters are not in use during hot weather, other heat sources are still a concern. Every home has “combustibles” which are objects capable of igniting and burning. Be careful to keep them at least 3 feet away from any heat source. Never leave a candle burning unattended and monitor your kitchen appliances that generate heat. Grills on apartment balconies are not allowed unless they are 10 ft. from any combustibles including roofs and overhang.

### Water Safety

Swimming is a great way to stay cool, but be safe. **This year in Texas the number of child drownings had already reached 50 before the start of Summer.**

- Make sure pools are enclosed on four sides with a fence at least 5 feet high with self-closing and latching gates.
- Drains in pools should have anti-entrapment drain covers.
- Children should always swim under the supervision of an adult. Every child over the age of three should have swimming lessons.
- Children using air-filled swimming aids should always be supervised by an adult within arm's reach.

Publication No. 08-09-98

**Does your home have a working smoke alarm?**

If your home does not have a working smoke alarm, please call 3-1-1. Dallas Fire-Rescue will be happy to install a smoke alarm for you!

# I&LSE Accomplishments For FY 08-09

- Installed over 7,000 smoke alarms free to the citizens of Dallas
- Created new fire and life safety program for senior citizens
- Created new life safety newsletter sent electronically to the public free of charge
- Expanded Risk Watch program into more schools including charter and private schools

# Accomplishments (cont.)

- Participated in large public events
  - Mayor's Back to School Fair
  - Veteran's Day Parade
  - Fire Rescue-International Chief's Convention
  - National Night Out
  - Citizens Emergency Response Team Training
  - Numerous health and safety fairs

# Questions?

