

Life Safety News & Clues

FALL 2009

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Employee Spotlight



Jim Lassiter works in the fire suppression division of our sister company, Extinguisher Co. No. 1. He services fire extinguishers for our customers in Adams, Jay and Wells Counties and surrounding areas.

After working 29 years for GE, he took an early retirement and did a few 'odds and ends' until he came across a position in the fire suppression industry.

Now, 12 years later, he sees his transition into this industry as a life changing experience. He enjoys visiting different places, old buildings, and factories. He likes "watching the industries going on" and feels a sense of satisfaction in helping to protect them.

This November, Jim and his wife, Judy, will be celebrating their 49th wedding anniversary. They have a daughter and two grandchildren.

Jim is an avid golfer. A friend introduced him to the sport 20 years ago and has been "hooked ever since". He recently scored a 90 on an 18-hole course - his best score yet!

He enjoys collecting antique tractors, trucks and car toys along with vintage board games. He regularly searches local garage sales and flea markets to find additions to his collection.

Congratulations Doug Cox... Our Customer Received a State Award

For Auburn Fire Department Division Chief Doug Cox, a department's successful response to an emergency means he's doing his job, and doing it well.

Cox has led the department's Training Division since January 2006. He became the training council chair for the Indiana Fire Training System District 3, which encompasses 11 counties, in late 2006.

Since then, the Auburn Fire Department's training has risen to an average of 300 sessions per year, from 160 sessions before he took over, and the firefighters log more than 5,000 man hours of training a year, up from an average of 2,000, according to Fire Chief Michael VanZile. Cox also has helped to bring 640 firefighters from all over District 3 to the Auburn Fire Department for training sessions.

For his efforts, Cox received the **Fire Training Achievement Award** at the Indiana Emergency Response Conference recently. "I was surprised, first of all, and honored," Cox said. VanZile nominated Cox for the award. "We pride ourselves on training," VanZile said. "We do it every day in some way, shape or form."

VanZile said Cox has been instrumental in organizing training sessions, finding new training programs that work for the department and procuring new training props for the department, which is an Indiana Fire-fighter Training Center and the main training facility for District 3. Most recently, Cox helped the department obtain a grant to build a six-story training tower.

In his role at the department, Cox said he is responsible for coordinating... *Continued on page 2...*



Auburn Fire Department Division Chief Doug Cox poses next to a training module at the Auburn Fire Department with a plaque he received for winning the Training Achievement Award at the Indiana Emergency Response

Protecting Your Life, Valuables, and Assets are our #1 Priority

- Fire Alarm Systems
- 24/7 Emergency Service
- Security Alarm Systems
- Inspection and Installation
- Layout and Design/CAD
- Fire Alarm Inspections
- Sensitivity Testing of Smoke Detectors
- Infant Theft Systems
- Patient Wandering Systems
- Card Access Systems
- Nurse Call Systems
- Home Automation Systems
- Voice and Data Cabling
- CCTV/DVR
- System Monitoring
- Internet/Cellular Monitoring
- Temperature/Sump Pump Monitoring

SILENT... BUT DEADLY

Know the Symptoms of CO Poisoning...

Mild Exposure

Slight headache
Nausea
Vomiting
Fatigue
Flu-like symptoms

Medium Exposure

Severe headache
Drowsiness
Confusion
Rapid heart rate

Severe Exposure

Unconsciousness
Convulsions
Cardiac/Respiratory failure
Death

Call us today to get the carbon monoxide protection you and your family can rely on this winter and for years to come:

800 458 6487

As cooler weather approaches, we want to remind everyone about the importance of carbon monoxide detectors. Cooler weather means many of us are now using our furnaces, fuel-burning space heaters and portable generators that may release harmful carbon monoxide (CO).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are approximately **15,200 people treated** for CO poisoning annually. On average, 480 people die.

Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) do not burn completely. Home appliances are primary CO sources and the CDC reports that 64 percent of all CO poisoning occur in the home.

CO poisoning can easily be confused with flu-like symptoms and food poisoning so it's important to know the symptoms (*see chart*).

The bottom line is CO can present an immediate danger and could kill you in a matter of minutes. A carbon monoxide detector can alert you to this deadly gas. If you don't already have a CO detector that is monitored by your alarm system, give us a call... Our top-of-the-line carbon monoxide detector is currently on sale for only **\$89.50** plus installation. The detector is the newest, most refined detector available today. It takes the most accurate readings of CO concentrations, including low levels which can be hazardous over long periods of time to higher concentrations that can present an immediate danger.



CANDLES: A Glowing Concern

Candles can bring us warmth by filling our homes with fragrant aromas and casting dancing shadows against our walls. Candles are also known to cause home fires and even deaths.

According to the NFPA, in the United States, a candle fire is reported to a fire department every 34 minutes. 38% of those fires are started by candles in a bedroom. More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to a burning candle.

IF YOU DO BURN CANDLES, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO FOLLOW THESE RULES:

Never leave a burning candle unattended.

Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.

Use candle holders that are sturdy and won't easily tip over.

Place candle holders on a sturdy, flat, uncluttered surface.

Don't burn a candle all the way down - put it out before it gets too close to the holder.

Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.

Instead of using candles, have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use in the event of a power outage.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are faced with a fire, be sure to have a portable fire extinguisher on hand! If you do not currently have one in your home, please call our sister company, Extinguisher Co. No. 1 today! **Dial: 866-497-9110**



Congratulations Doug Cox...

Continued from page 1...

training, instructors and supplies, documenting training sessions and making sure that firefighters are up to date on their certifications, including medical and instructor certifications.

"He has to keep track of all that, and make sure our staff doesn't lose those certifications," said Deputy Fire Chief Michael Good. For District 3, Cox said, he oversees the council, works with the state on budgets, schedules classes, develops props and distributes textbooks. "That's more of management," he said.

Cox spends a lot of extra time on his duties, Good said, but Cox said the job is fun. He is motivated by providing good training, which helps firefighters respond better to emergencies. "Seeing them perform well on the emergency scene is a reward," he said.

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Source: Jenny Kobiela-Mandor/The Star

OUR CUSTOMERS RESPOND

Recently, we dispatched the fire department to the DeKalb County Airport in Auburn, Indiana. We received a fire signal at 4:00 a.m. from one of their buildings, a 11,500 sq. ft. hanger. The Airport manager was notified of the activity and met the fire department on the scene.

Upon arrival, they found the hanger full of smoke. After feeling the entry door for heat, the fire department opened the hanger door which allowed fresh oxygen-filled air inside. ***The smolder erupted into a blaze instantly.*** The fire was contained to a pile of rags on the floor close to the door. Firefighters quickly moved the fiery pile outside and extinguished the fire.

The previous day, a Airport intern cleaned up an oil leak in the hanger and left the pile of rags on the ground which caused the fire. But how can a pile of oily rags start a fire? *Spontaneous combustion.* A fire can start without the application of heat from an external source. Spontaneous combustion occurs when a combustible material (like oily rags, damp hay, or leaves) is heated to its ignition temperature by a slow oxidation

process. Oxidation is a chemical reaction involving the oxygen in the air gradually raising the inside temperature of something (like a pile of oily rags) to the point at which a fire starts.

Although spontaneous combustion is not a common occurrence, it can be disastrous. There were eight aircraft in the hanger when the fire occurred. Thankfully, the Airport has Priority 1 monitor their fire and security alarm system. If their alarm system was not monitored or if their smoke detectors were not in working order, it is estimated the fire could have cost them \$1 Million in damages!

NOTE: Leaving oily rags in a pile on the floor is not common practice at the DeKalb County Airport. Airport personnel are trained on proper disposal of oily rags and other potential fire hazards.



Threats Made... Panic Button Pushed

In August, an employee of one of our customers pushed her under-the-desk panic button. Our central station received the signal and dispatched the police.

Our customer, a nonprofit company in Northeastern Indiana, had a disgruntled student in one of their programs. The prior week, the student had a one-on-one conversation with the coordinator after fighting with a classmate. The student became verbally abusive, threatened to harm the student, and consequently was suspended from the program.

During suspension, the student and a family member went to discuss the situation with the program coordinator. Before long, the discussion went sour and tempers flared.

Because of earlier threats the student had made, our customer wasn't going to take any chances and pushed the panic button. The police were there in less than five minutes to escort the student and the family member off the premise.

Golf Club Facility Gets Serious About Security (after three break-ins in nine months)

In June, we were contacted by the owners of a local golf club who were frustrated with reoccurring break-ins. In the 77 years of operation, the club did not have a history of break-ins until the fall of 2008.

They did not have an alarm system in place and after their club was broken into three times, the owners decided to look into a security alarm system. By the time they contacted Priority 1, they had already been robbed of approximately \$6,500 in inventory and had spent \$500 in repairing damages.

We met with the owners that same day and designed a customized system to meet their needs. A day later, our installation team completed the install and tested the system to ensure proper operation. Their new security alarm system is equipped with smoke detectors and is monitored by our central station.

Two months later, thieves make an attempt... At 1:59 a.m., our central station received a burglary signal from the club and dispatched the police. The owners were contacted of the dispatch and met the police on the scene. Upon arrival, they found the front door had been pried open, but nothing was stolen.

Our customer said the thieves were likely scared off when the siren sounded and left the scene before stealing any inventory. Our customer is very pleased with how their new system performed.





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Priority 1 Protects Facility that Protects the Environment

Priority 1 was recently contacted by Triton Energy, LLC in Waterloo, Indiana. The primary reason for calling us was for a free proposal on monitoring their fire sprinkler system.

While talking with them, we learned about the company's current and expected growth rate for the coming years. Triton Energy currently occupies a 10,000 sq. ft. building, but in a few short years, they have plans to add 20,000 sq. ft. This would require them to also expand their fire and security alarm system capabilities after construction to cover the additional space and personnel.

To save them money down the road, we proposed installing a larger fire and security control panel now that would not only exceed their fire and security safety needs today, but satisfy their safety requirements in the future.

Triton Energy is a manufacturer of biofuel (renewable diesel). Semi loads of soy bean oil and non-food grade corn oil are delivered daily which the company, using their patented process and formula, manufactures into a very high quality biofuel. Their renewable diesel when blended with diesel fuel reduces green house gas emissions (vs. unblended diesel) into our atmosphere while at the same time increases diesel engine performance by

adding back the lubrication that was taken out with the mandated reduction of green house gas emission causing sulfur that was present in a much higher percentage in diesel fuel. The continued growth of the biofuel industry will help reduce American's dependence on foreign oil while at the same time help to build an Energy Economy in the USA.

We thank owners, Fred Witmer, Gary Jury, Joe Witmer and Dirk McKown for the opportunity to serve their life safety needs!

