



Community Safety Awareness Meetings

These meetings are held on a monthly basis at a local restaurant and are open to the public. The purpose is to provide a platform for training and a forum for discussion of relevant public safety issues. This is an excellent opportunity to network with local safety professionals as well as other interested parties. We are always open to new ideas that would improve this program.



Tammie Heaton and Dr. McNeilly, Pulmonologist with Mountain States Health Alliance, spoke on the importance of screening employees for lung cancer who meet the criteria from CMS or by occupational exposures. Our police and firefighters have an increased risk as well. Dr. McNeilly covered the exposure risks and technology available for early diagnosis and treatment.



On Tuesday, January 17, 2017, Kingsport Lifesaving Crew hosted a luncheon at their station in Kingsport. Several members of their organization gave an overview of their financial challenges due to shrinking donation from the United Way Program. Jim Carter gave an excellent presentation on their current technical rescue and other emergency response capabilities. KASC was a founding supporter of KLSC, and we appreciate their hospitality and selfless commitment to the safety of our community.



Andrea Thomas of Eastman gave a presentation on “What Process Safety Management Means to Me”. This was an excellent overview of the OSHA requirements for a PSM program, and she explained how to implement a highly effective program. Special thanks to Eastman and Brenda Lowder for making this meeting successful and providing an excellent venue. Attendees gave donations in the amount of \$430.00 that was provided to the Second Harvest Food Bank.



On Tuesday, October 18, 2016. Barry Brickey, Public Education Officer with the Kingsport Fire Department, gave a very interesting program on Fire Safety. He also introduced the newest addition to his training program, Sparky the Fire Dog. This unit was designed to coordinate with the color and other features of KFD units. A local business donated this equipment for Barry’s use in training local youth regarding fire safety in the home.



On Tuesday, August 16, Bruce Sites with Appalachian Miles for Smiles Program gave an exceptional overview of the area's Mobile Dental Unit that is deployed during local events along with the remote medical clinics. The trailer provides full dental capabilities and is manned by volunteers at all deployments.

On Tuesday, July 19, Kelly Hare, FNP with the Indian Path Center Sleep Lab spoke on "Untreated sleep apnea in the workplace." She provided clinical data that explains the reasons we may feel tired throughout the day and how it affects our work performance. She gave great advice on how to manage our rest habits.



On Tuesday, June 21, 2016, during our picnic at Borden Mill Park, Fest Director Mike Lattier and Lucy Fleming gave an overview of this year's scheduled Fun Fest events. Lucy also spoke to the extensive level of planning that goes into making all events as safe as possible, including weather related emergencies. KASC is conducting a new event on Saturday, July 23 near the Civic Auditorium at 0830.



On Tuesday April 19, 2016, Mark Moody with the Sullivan County Health Department gave a presentation on the Zika Virus that was focused on health care workers, first responders, and the general public.

On Tuesday, March 15, SCEMA Director Jim Bean gave an overview of the Sullivan County Local Emergency Preparedness Council. This organization that is comprised of industry and emergency response leaders meets on a monthly basis to review major incidents and discuss plans for community event related to their group. A major drill is being planned for Bristol Motor Speedway simulating a tornado touching down during a BMS event.

On February 16, 2016, the Sullivan County Volunteer Fire Fighters Association presented a program on their organization and the training programs they provide to our volunteer fire fighters. KASC sponsors several attendees for their annual FF Training Conference that is held at Northeast State each fall.



On January 19, 2016, Officer Dustin Jackson, Accident Reconstruction Specialist with the Kingsport Police Department, gave an excellent presentation on Traffic Safety with special emphasis on the hazards of winter driving and how to be better prepared. The best strategy is to stay off slick roadways if at all possible. Should you need to drive, there are several tactics that can assist you with improving vehicle traction. He also discussed what to do if you become stuck or stranded.



On November 24, 2015, Tom Patton, Kingsport Police Department and Teresa Campbell, Eastman Security gave an overview of an active shooter exercise that was conducted at Eastman in the spring of 2015. Intruders were spotted with rifles inside the facility, so local security officers and the Kingsport Swat Team responded to handle the situation. Several lessons learned were shared that should help other companies be more aware and better prepared for a similar incident.



On October 20, 2015, Dr. Don Teeter with the National Safety Council presented a program on understanding Opioids and other drug abuse issues. Several organizations were in attendance to hold an open forum on the different aspects of this growing dilemma in our region. Dr. Teeter works with various agencies to help educate interested parties on the scope of the problem and administer programs that help deal with drug addictions.



On August 18, 2015, ETSU Public Safety Officer Amanda Worley presented an excellent program on S.A.F.E. (Self-defense Awareness and Familiarization Exchange) that is designed to prevent crimes of sexual violence against adult and teenage women in our community. This training is available through ETSU for community groups such as churches and other organizations.



On Tuesday, April 21, 2015, Ben Wexler, Warriors Path VFD Fire Chief, spoke on the Sullivan County Volunteer Fire Fighters Association Training Conference that is held for regional fire training at Northeast State Community College. He also presented information on the smoke simulation trailer that is used by area fire departments for realistic hands-on training exercises. This unit was built by local volunteer fire firefighters to enhance their capabilities.



On Tuesday, March 17, 2015, Michelle Turner from the Children's Advocacy Center of Sullivan County spoke on child abuse prevention services that area available in our area and through the state. She shared very sobering statistics regarding the number of reported cases and types of circumstances surrounding the children who are involved. A majority of cases involve a close relative or friend who utilize serious threats to keep children from telling an authority figure.



On January 20, 2015, Dr. Testerman of Wellmont provided a graphic training session on ATV Safety. His presentation covered types of injuries that occur from ATV accidents and trends relative to use of proper personal protective equipment. He stressed the importance of wearing helmets in reducing head injuries and following the manufacturer's recommendations on safe operations. He showed several videos clips of unsafe operations to emphasize what not to do.



On November 20, 2014, Richard Strang of Eastman spoke on various aspects of the Haz-Mat programs at his facility. His presentation covered types of emergency notification systems used, response capabilities and responsible communication with the surrounding communities. Eastman utilizes state-of-the-art computer programs and highly training emergency responders to lessen potential impact should an incident occur.



Barry Brickey, Public Education Officer for the Kingsport Fire Department, presented a highly informative fire safety program on October 21, 2014. Barry spoke to statistics that identify areas needing improvement for reducing injuries and fire related deaths. He also reviewed the local trends and emphasized the importance of maintaining working smoke alarms. Several types and styles are available, including units designed for the hearing impaired. KFD will be spearheading a project to install new smoke detectors throughout Kingsport.



Doctor Ladley of Wellmont CVA Heart Institute provided an excellent overview of the Calcium Scores and their relevance to early heart disease identification at the August 19, 2014 meeting. Wellmont recently installed the scanning machine at their main facility, and prices have been reduced to allow more widespread use of this program. Early detection is a major key in preventing serious conditions and reducing long term health impacts.



On July 15, 2014, Dr. Ron Morton, MA, Certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor gave an informative program relative to the increasing problems with mental health issues in our society. Relating to recent national incidents where mental health was considered a contributing factor in crimes committed, the need for early detection has become more obvious. This 8 hour course teaches how to recognize symptoms and what to do if you encounter persons struggling with mental health issues.



On June 17, 2014, Jim Perry, Sullivan County EMS Director, gave an update on services provided to our community by his organization. This service is not funded by tax payers and is self-sustaining. He spoke about the number of calls and the increased level of services available. More advance cardiac care was of notable interest due to the short time frame for critical care being administered.



Brian Ramsey of Eastman Fire Department (older photo shown) gave a presentation of Fire and Chemical Safety at the April 15, 2014 gathering. Brian shared several fresh ideas about home fire safety gathered from his vast experience in the emergency response industry. Chemical storage in the home environment is often overlooked until after an incident occurs, usually involving children gaining access to unsecure materials.



At the March 18, 2014 meeting, Jamie Vance with the Wellmont Foundation gave a detailed description of new programs available at the local facilities. He described the changes taking place within the health care industry and their approach to keeping the best trauma services available for this area. He also spoke to pediatric care and other specialized fields, soliciting community support for these costly services. New equipment will be installed as funding becomes available.



At the February 18, 2014 session, Ray Heim, RN BSN CEN of Wellmont Health Systems discussed several of their programs that are designed to promote a safer community. Dr. Testerman recently provided a sizable grant to Wellmont that will be used to directly impact safety initiatives. For example, a new driving simulator has been purchased and is available through Wellmont for use at area events.



Drew Deakins and Ben Wexler of the Sullivan County Volunteer Fire Fighters Association discuss design and use of the new fire fighter training unit at the January 2014 meeting. This trailer provides challenging situations that simulate fire ground scenarios, enhancing skills needed for fire suppression and rescue situations. This unit was built by volunteers from area departments and will be used throughout Sullivan County.



On November 21, 2013, Keith Bennett of Eastman gave a presentation on Eastman's Emergency Notification Systems. He explained the various components of several communication systems that are used for various classifications of emergencies. All units are routinely exercised, and mutual aid response drills are conducted to ensure readiness for actual events. Eastman provides an on-site fire department to handle fire, EMS and HAZMAT calls.



Barry Carr, Assistant Fire Marshall for the Kingsport Fire Department, gave an excellent presentation on October 15, 2013. Barry gave a lot of useful information regarding practicing fire safety at home, such as practicing your family's escape plan, knowing two ways out if possible, staying low under smoke, and calling 911. He also provided personal stories from his career as a fire fighter and EMS responder, so he was passionate about conveying this safety message to attendees.