

## **KINGSPORT AREA NOMINATED FOR SAFE COMMUNITY AWARD**

**Safe Communities America** is sponsored in the United States by The National Safety Council who serves as the Affiliate Support Center for the World Health Organization's international programs. The NSC encourages and supports those communities aspiring to achieve this International Safe Community designation, and additional funding is provided by the Center for Disease Control.

The City of Kingsport and the surrounding community have been nominated by the Tennessee Governor's Council on Injury Prevention to represent the State of Tennessee as a "National Safe Community." A grant for \$10,000 was provided to complete this process, including the Application Fee, travel expenses for the verification team, and the presentation / celebration ceremony. This unique and outstanding award has only been presented to five other cities in the United States, so we are truly honored to be selected to represent Tennessee as a "role model safe community." Holston Valley Trauma Services and the Kingsport Area Safety Council have taken the lead in forming the required committees and completing the Application Forms. Several members of our council as well as other business representatives have been working diligently to collect the required information, including examples of how local businesses implement their safety programs and evaluate their success.

On June 8 and 9, a team from the National Safety Council office in Chicago visited the Kingsport area for a preliminary review of our Application Package. Rachel Poulin and Donna Stein-Harris coordinated their activities with Gene Faxon and Melissa Hamilton. On Monday afternoon, they were given a tour of Holston Valley Hospital and Bristol Motor Speedway. We also visited the ETSU campus as they are an integral element of our success. We also visited the Red Lobster for obvious reasons.

On Tuesday, we visited Holston Army Ammunition Plant where they were given an overview of the explosives operations and the safety management programs. We also toured the manufacturing area. We then met at Kingsport Fire Station #1 with Fire Chief Craig Dye who gave an excellent presentation on the emergency response capabilities of their department. He also shared information on their Tennessee State and International Accreditation status. The Emergency Multiple Agency Command was also meeting at the station during this portion of the tour, further demonstrating the mutual aid capabilities of our community.

Our next stop was at the Kingsport Justice Center. Kingsport Police Sergeant Joe Earles demonstrated the red light camera enforcement system. Lieutenant Jerry Mowl demonstrated the surveillance camera system. Chief of Police Gale Osborne, Deputy Chief David Quillin, and Community Relations and Crime Prevention Officer Tom Patton were present to offer comments and field questions. They also met Accident Reconstruction Specialist Dale Farmer who is an active participant in council functions. We proceeded to meet with Jill Davenport of Wellmont Health Systems who gave an overview of the New Drivers Car Control Clinics at Bristol Motor Speedway and the impact they are having on young drivers from our region.

We continued with a luncheon at Picadilly Restaurant for representatives from many local agencies, including Eastman Chemical Company, East Tennessee State University, Kingsport Fire Department, Sullivan County EMS, @Work Personnel, City of Kingsport Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Holston Army Ammunition Plant, Wellmont Holston Valley, Tennessee Department of Labor, Tele-Optics, Northeast State Community College, and Holston Valley Trauma Services. Donna and Rachel presented highlights of this recognition program and the projected benefits to our community. They also commended our region for an exceptional safety culture throughout the community and the incredible networking that exists between most agencies.

After lunch, we visited the Eastman Chemical Company with Randy Cassell, Doug Giles and Tonya Foreman. They provided an excellent presentation on Eastman's safety programs. Our final visit was with Domtar Paper. Dusty Parsons, Tom Sugglehorst and Charlie Floyd discussed their exceptional safety record and how they manage to maintain a safe working environment.

Within the next few months, a team from the National Safety Council will visit our community to verify the information submitted. When the award is granted, we will have a community celebration that will be open to the public. The local news media will be provided ample opportunities to participate, and the information will be posted on the KASC and National Safety Council websites. Special thanks to Melissa Hamilton for leading this effort. We truly appreciate your support in making our community a safer place to live and work.



Melissa Hamilton gives a brief description of the nomination by TN Governor's Council on Injury Prevention



Donna Stein-Harris and Rachel Poulin of NSC further explained the significance of this recognition program



Several community businesses/organizations were represented at the luncheon to show support for this project