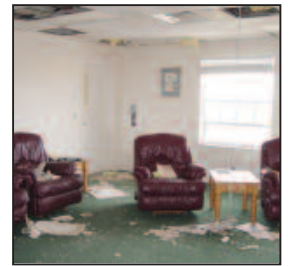


Geared to owners and prospective buyers of the SCOTTY line of vehicles.



Fire Safety House Provides Aid During Busy Hurricane Season



A Note From The Editor...

"At the time our newsletter went to the printers, Hurricane Katrina was a tropical storm in the Atlantic. Mobile Concepts by SCOTTY extends its heartfelt prayers and well wishes to all our many customers, friends and associates in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who were devastated by Katrina's wrath."

After Hurricane Charley slammed into the city of Punta Gorda, Florida with 145 mile per hour winds on Aug. 13, the fire department needed a place to house personnel who had arrived to help with the massive cleanup efforts.

The department's Fire Safety House, manufactured by Mobile Concepts by Scotty, was called up for duty of a different sort. Assistant Fire Chief Matthew Free said they used the trailer to house extra personnel.

"When other fire departments were here for assistance, there was an average of four people staying in the Fire Safety House at one time," said Free. "The generator allowed the air conditioning to run and made it pretty comfortable for the crew after working all day long in the heat and the humidity."

The Fire Safety House was transferred to Station No. 3, it provided temporary living quarters for two firefighters who worked on making repairs to the station house.

"Station No. 3 was a two-story

building and the second floor was demolished during Hurricane Charley," said Free. "The trailer gave the firefighters a place to go between work duties."

All three fire stations in the city were damaged by Hurricane Charley.

"In Station No. 1, the main head-

and we're trying to get back on track now," said Free.

The Lakeland Fire Department in central Florida was affected by three hurricanes in 2004 – Charley, Frances, and Jeanne. Hurricane Frances, a Category Two storm, struck over the Labor Day weekend, while Jeanne, the fourth hurricane that hit Florida, had peak winds of 120 miles per hour.

"We had minimal damage to our fire stations," said Cheryl Edwards, public information officer for the Lakeland Fire Department. "However, our community experienced quite a bit of damage – flooding, roofs blown off homes and businesses, trees down on the roads and on structures."

Lakeland Fire Department purchased their Fire Safety House in March 2003 and have since used it extensively to teach children about EDITH – Exit Drills In The Home.

"Our Safety House travels to 27 public and private elementary schools each year and approximately 8,500 students practice a fire drill in our Safety House each year. We also have home school groups that visit the house here at our station," said Edwards.

During the hurricane season, the Fire Safety House was tucked away inside one of the station houses to prevent it from being damaged during

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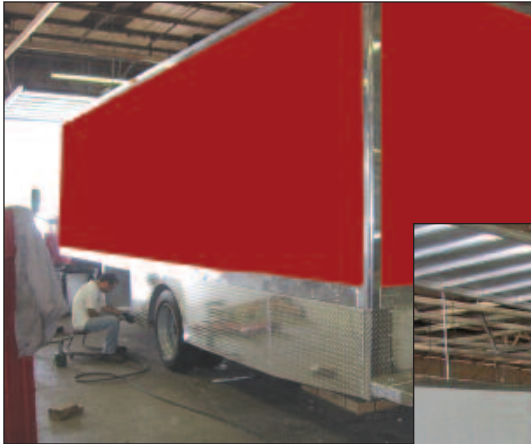


quarters, we thought we'd be smart and pull all our equipment in the main station. But the overhead doors blew out and all our equipment was damaged," said Free. "It was a shocking experience, one that I don't want to experience again."

The Punta Gorda Fire Department received their SCOTTY Fire Safety House through a 2002 Fire ACT Grant. They've used it at local schools and when the school children come to visit the fire station. They've also used it at other special events outside the city.

"The hurricane season put a damper on my fire safety prevention program

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Plan Your Education Program Around FEMA's New Safety Campaigns

FEMA's two new education campaigns for those 65 and older, and college and university students, can be easily geared for use in your **SCOTTY** Fire Safety House and your **SCOTTY** Combination Sprinkler/Fire Safety House.

"People ages 65 and older face a dramatically increased risk of dying in a home fire," said Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response. "With America's older population larger than ever and still growing, it's important that we take steps to reduce this public health problem."

Consider the staggering statistics: from 1989 to 1998, adults ages 65 and older faced three times the risk of dying in a home fire compared to the rest of the U.S. population. The risk at ages 65 to 74 is nearly double, and it increased to nearly four times for people ages 75 to 84, and to more than five times for people ages 85 and older.

The causes of most of these fire deaths are careless smoking, heating, and cooking. Elderly Americans suffer from decreased mobility, health, sight, and hearing, all of which may

limit their ability to take quick actions to escape during a fire.


Fire departments can emphasize these risk factors during adult fire safety lessons in their fire safety house. For college and university education programs, your department's combination sprinkler/fire safety house can be set up at a convenient location on campus for fire safety and prevention classes.

According to NFPA International, over 1,700 fires a year occur in dormitories and Greek housing, causing \$2.8 million in damages each year. Another area of significant concern is the students living off-campus in houses and apartments. The U.S. Department of Education estimates that 2/3 of the students enrolled full-time in four-year institutions live off-campus. In an 18-month period from January 2000 to July 2001, 17 students were killed in off-campus fires.

"The common threads seen in off-campus fire fatalities often include lack of automatic fire sprinklers, missing or disabled smoke detectors, careless disposal of smoking materials, and alcohol," said Ed Comeau, director of the Center for Campus Fire Safety.

Sprinklers in student housing provide an unparalleled level of fire safety, Comeau added. Sprinklers would have saved lives in a fraternity fire at the University of North Carolina on May 9, 1996, which was not only graduation day but Mother's Day. Five students died in that fire. Along with automatic fire sprinklers, fire alarms that will give an early warning of fire.

"Smoke alarms and sprinklers together will give everyone the warning to get out and will control the fire, probably before the fire department even arrives," said Comeau.

Adding specialized fire prevention programs for the elderly and college students to your overall fire safety education plan is certain to be a bonus when you write your Fire Act Grant narrative to purchase that **SCOTTY** Fire Safety House! For more information on FEMA's new campaigns, check out their Web site at: www.usfa.fema.gov. For additional information on campus fire safety, check out www.campusfire.org. 

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the storms. But as residents of Lakeland began cleaning up from the storms, fire department personnel discovered some fire and safety hazards that will be added to their adult fire safety educational program.

Edwards provided a list of those hazards that should help other communities faced with the aftermath of powerful storms.

Power outages – When the power goes out, check all appliances to ensure they are off and unplugged. Turn off the breakers so when power returns you can control it. Many Lakeland residents learned that when their power came back on, so did all their appliances, causing fires.


Candles - Power was out for weeks and batteries were at a minimum. The lesson: Stock up on batteries. Learn how to use candles safely.

Generators – People who had never used a generator before used them during the storms. Many had no idea of their proper use and did not read the instructions. Polk County had two fatalities from carbon monoxide poisoning because generators were used inside houses or in garages. The lesson: Proper use of generators is vital.

Fences/pool enclosures – Because fences and enclosures were blown down from the storms, many waterways and pools had direct access, thus posing a potential drowning hazard. The lesson: Make the community aware of this potential problem before a storm. Encourage people to fix fences quickly.

Tarping/repairing roofs – Many individuals had to get on roofs to cover and/or repair them to minimize damage. The Lakeland community had several fatalities from falls from roofs because people weren't experienced at climbing ladders and

obtaining access to roofs. Lesson: Provide safety information concerning ladder use and accessing roofs. Information on the proper method to place tarps on roofs with safety should be included in all safety education programs.

“We will be adding these safety lessons to our adult fire safety educational programs,” Edwards added. 

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