



# Kansas Insurance Department

Sandy Praeger, Commissioner of Insurance

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## Commissioner urges Kansans to ‘thank a firefighter’

*Fire Prevention Week a good time to do so*

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger is urging Kansans to thank a firefighter for their efforts in keeping citizens and their property safe.

“During National Fire Prevention Week, we want to recognize the efforts of our local firefighters,” Commissioner Praeger said. “These Kansas men and women put their lives on the line for us in emergencies, and they spend time this week and throughout the year educating us about fire safety. For that, we offer our deep gratitude.”

National Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 4-10. This year’s theme is “Stay Fire Smart. Don’t Get Burned.”

The Commissioner said that fire is still the No. 1 peril for property in Kansas, followed by wind and hail.

“This week firefighters are focusing on promoting fire safety and prevention, especially among young people,” Commissioner Praeger said. “A little common sense about matches, candles and electrical devices each day of the year goes a long way toward fire prevention.”

In 2008, a total of 264 Kansas firefighters were injured as a result of a fire.

“Prevention and promotion are essential to keeping the number of fires low and the number of firefighters injured in the line of duty even lower,” Commissioner Praeger said.

The Kansas Insurance Department distributes money to local Firefighters Relief Associations (FRAs) throughout the state on behalf of the Kansas Firefighter Relief Act. The money is collected from a 2 percent tax paid by insurance companies on fire and lightning insurance premiums written yearly in Kansas. During 2009, the department distributed more than \$9.2 million among 582 local FRAs throughout the state.

This fund assists firefighters and their families when an accident or death occurs in the line of duty. It also funds educational purposes and research.

*The Kansas Insurance Department, established in 1871, assists and educates consumers, regulates and reviews companies and licenses agents selling insurance products in the state. More about the department is online at [www.ksinsurance.org](http://www.ksinsurance.org).*