

**Fire prevention activities hosted in downtown location**

# Delphi FD works to protect families

Story and photos  
By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Last week was National Fire Prevention Week. Many prevention and educational activities took place through out the county but the Delphi Tri-Township Volunteer Fire Department pulled out all the stops to get people's attention. Hundreds of community members responded to the noteworthy efforts by attending events both Tuesday and Wednesday at the fire station in downtown Delphi.

Children and adults were invited into the 'smokehouse' trailer to learn about dangers in a real-life setting. Prevention specialist Dick Hawkins led group after group through the smokehouse. He explained how normal and everyday things we do, such as hanging a towel on the oven door or warming our backsides at the fireplace fire, can be very dangerous.

Hawkins ushered groups into the 'bedroom' where artificial smoke filtered under the doors. Hawkins taught children and adults to block the smoke coming under the door and how to go to a window and exit down an escape ladder.

Delphi resident Misty Josleyn, who brought five children to the Tuesday night event, said she learned of the activities from a flyer sent home from school.

"I don't have many smoke detectors in my home," she said. "I found the information presented in the smokehouse very helpful."

Josleyn said her family did not have an escape plan before visiting the smokehouse, "but we will probably have one by later on tonight."

The department hosted an education trailer, which displayed prevention material and raffle gifts, a table with picture albums of area fire and rescue highlights and refreshments.

A simulated rescue operation involving a crash scene with two 'victims' was demonstrated using equipment including the jaws of life and 'o' cutters. As expected, the 'victims' were extracted without suffering more injury.

In attendance to help with and promote the activities of the fire department was 15 year-old Nichole Randle, Miss Flame for 2006. Randle is the daughter of Jon and Jean Randle of Delphi and is a sophomore at Delphi high school.

Randle received her title last November. She said she attends functions through out district 9a, which includes Howard, Miami, Cass and Carroll counties, as a goodwill ambassador and helper. She is eligible for various scholarships for educational and other purposes.

Randle said she plans to apply to be Miss Flame for 2007 because she enjoys the activities, including the state pageant.

"The most meaningful thing about this job is being able to go around to meet firefighters and help out," she said.

Delphi VFD hosts fire prevention activities during National Fire Prevention Month in an all-out effort every other year, according to Hawkins. However, the fire prevention program through the local fire department is on-going. Hawkins can be reached for information about programs and presentations at (765) 564-2376.



Smokehouse helps teach children about fire safety



Simulated fire rescue operation

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Questions by local media representatives.