



Special Issue

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DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

October 4-10

Duke Observes Fire Prevention Week



TRAINED IN FIRE SAFETY—15 Medical Center administrators and nursing personnel took part in the first 12-hour fire safety class in August. From left to right, first row, are Mrs. Edna Watkins, nursing supervisor for the Surgical Specialty Unit; Mrs. Sara Jeffreys, nursing supervisor on the General Surgical Unit; Lifton Lewis, PCA III in the Medical Out-patient Clinic; Mrs. Joan Dunston, unit services supervisor on the Psychiatric Unit; and Marshall Fowler, Medical Center fire marshal. Second row: James Daniel, unit administrator on pediatrics; S. Douglas Smith, assistant hospital director who presented certificates to those who completed the class; Mrs. Jane Howell, nursing supervisor for the Emergency Department; James Wall, unit administrator on psychiatry; Mrs. Mary McColm, director of nursing service for the Ambulatory Division; and Paul Eckel, second-year hospital administration student. Other members of the class were not present when the picture was taken. (photo by David Hooks)

Twelve-Hour Class in Fire Safety Offered to Nursing, Administration

To make Medical Center employees more aware of how to prevent fires and what to do about them if they do break out, Fire Marshal Marshall Fowler has established a 12-hour hospital fire safety course.

The class is presented in one-and-a-half-hour sessions over an eight-day period. Nursing personnel and administrators learn the chemistry of fire, the types of fires and how to extinguish each type, and fire prevention and safety measures. In addition, all participants learn the proper methods of evacuating patients in case of fire.

Mr. Fowler is a certified instructor in

fire service training with the state Department of Community Colleges. Jerry Johnson, a Durham fireman who also works in inhalation therapy at Duke, helps teach evacuation procedures. The entire program is organized through Durham Technical Institute.

The first fire safety class represented a large number of hospital departments, including six nursing supervisors, several unit administrators, a hospital administration student and other nursing employees.

More classes are planned in the future and Mr. Fowler says he hopes to be able to teach one a month.

Duke Hospital has never had a major fire in a patient care area.

And it's up to all of us to make sure we keep that record perfect.

This special issue of *Intercom*, published for National Fire Prevention Week October 4-10, is designed to inform employees of the fire safety programs in progress at the Medical Center and to make sure that everyone knows what to do in case of fire.

The greatest danger in a fire is panic. Through fire prevention techniques the Medical Center is reducing the potential for fires, but if a fire does get started, then people who are aware of what to do and go about it systematically can do much to eliminate this panic.

In this issue are included an article about the fire safety training courses held each month for nursing and administrative personnel and one on the newly organized Medical Center Fire Brigade.

In addition, there are stories about the newly instituted fire violation notice and what you should do if you spot a fire.

Every single employee must be vitally concerned with the importance of fire prevention in a hospital. It is up to each of us to make sure that trash and other flammable materials are not allowed to accumulate anywhere.

We must be extremely careful with cigarettes and matches to see that they are not carelessly flipped into waste baskets either by employees or by patients or visitors. Also, those of us who work with flammable liquids in laboratories must be doubly sure to handle and store them properly.

As part of the Medical Center's goal to prevent all fires, Marshall Fowler, an expert in fire safety programs, was hired as Duke's first fire marshal late last year.

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