



CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

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John Selberg, Fire Chief
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After Action Report: Germantown Festival

Purpose:

The Germantown Fire Department is charged with the responsibility of providing emergency medical care, fire protection, code enforcement and public education for the Germantown Festival. The scope of work performed during the event includes public education provided by team members from Fire Auxiliary Support Team (FAST), the Public Safety Education Commission (PSEC), fire department reserves and members of the fire marshal's office. Inspections are conducted prior to the festival's opening and throughout the event. Emergency medical care and response is offered by engine company personnel who rotate throughout the duration of the festival.

Executive Summary:

Pre festival meetings with vendors and exhibitors helped with the reduction in code violations this year. Though there were some deficiencies identified the number of violations was greatly reduced in comparison to years past. The volunteers from FAST and the PSEC helped significantly with manning the fire prevention and safety booth, with the distribution of educational pamphlets, and assisting with the bean bag toss. Howard Thompson provided entertainment for the children as Sparky. Through his efforts as Sparky the attendance was increased at the fire and safety booth. The safety trailer was used as a traditional smoke house in an attempt to offer some variety to this year's festival. The fire and safety booth was relocated closer to the "walk-in" entrance of the festival grounds. This provided a higher visibility to the public and a greater attendance to the booth. There were five emergency medical calls handled by shift personnel during the festival. Crews were able to respond rapidly when needed. Communications between festival staff, the police and fire departments was greatly improved via a radio patch. The patch allowed the three departments to communicate during emergency conditions. Overall the Germantown Festival was a successful and safe event that was enjoyed by many.

Lessons Learned:

Communication is the key to a successful and safe event. The fire department will continue to meet with vendors and exhibitors prior to the start of the festival. Outlining the fire code requirements and safety expectations allows for those participating in the festival to plan accordingly. Planning sessions between festival, police and fire department staff is critical to ensuring emergencies can be managed. It was also determined that location, location, location is key to getting patrons to visit the fire and safety booth.

Action Items:

There has been several action items identified and solutions put in place to address past concerns with the festival. Those action items have proven to be successful for this year's event. There will be a concerted effort to have more FAST and PSEC volunteers. The programs offered in the upcoming festivals will be more educational and themed with the National Fire Protection Associations fire prevention safety message for the year. The location of the fire and safety booth will remain close to the walk-in entrance of the festival and the safety trailer will be relocated next year so that it is adjacent to the booth. Fire department staffing for emergency medical calls will remain the same. Setup for the festival will continue to occur two days prior to the event using shift personnel to assist Howard Thompson.

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