

# Fire Prevention Week a huge success

Story and photos by  
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Oct. 3 – 9 marked a week of observance and education for Charleston AFB personnel and their family members. Fire Prevention Week was an opportunity for the base fire department to reiterate fire safety and prevention.

“Our goal was to promote fire education and safety to everyone,” said Tech. Sgt. Chris Summers, assistant chief of technical services. “We want to stress that everyone should establish fire safe practices to ensure their protection.”

Members of the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Fire Prevention Flight spent the week giving demonstrations and educating students.

“We taught EDITH (Exit Drills in the Home) to many children using the smoke trailer and a base housing unit,” said Summers.

This year the campaign theme was ‘Fire Drills, the Great Escape’ and EDITH, is a program designed to promote fire drills in the home for the whole family.

“Children should know how to evacuate a house that is on fire,” Summers said.

Another tip that was taught to the students was the Stop, Drop and Roll method, which should be used when their clothes are on fire, Summers said.

The week of events finished with a parade of fire trucks from Charleston AFB and the surrounding areas.

“We had 13 units in the parade, the most ever as far as I know,” said Summers. “All of those trucks with lights and sirens was an impressive sight. I enjoyed the look in the kids’ eyes, young and old as the trucks pulled into the commissary parking lot.”

The trucks lined up and were put on display for everyone to look at and inspect. Some of the different stations involved in the parade brought handouts and pamphlets offering fire safety tips and gave them to visitors.

“We had a tremendous turnout this year,” said Michael Stallings, chief of the fire protection flight. “We tried some new programs this year and the overall attitude of the participants was great.”

At the end of the afternoon, the ladders came down and the trucks returned to their home station, but the fire fighters hope the lessons learned will be remembered.

“Here at the fire department, we do business day in and day out,” Stallings said. “We always encourage people to be safe, but once a year we stress it. Accidents still continue to happen, which is proof that fire safety and prevention can never be overemphasized.”

Members of the Charleston AFB Fire Department participated in the annual Firefighter games at Charlestowne Landing. The team finished third in three of the four events.

Participants were: **Senior Airmen Benjamin Marker, Glen Pilger, Oliver Risigari-Gai, Ryan Morgan, Craig Spears** and **Airmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class Bryan Tarentino, Daniel Lee, Matthew Coleman.**



Staff Sgt. Horace Hightower, 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Fire Prevention Flight, shows Ashley Bertrand the proper way to extinguish a fire (simulated on a piece of plywood) using a fire extinguisher, as her mother, Laurie, looks on. Ashley’s father is Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Andy Bertrand of the 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron.



Robert Hoffman, 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Fire Prevention Flight, helps Emilie Potter “escape” a burning house. The base fire department uses the Smoke Trailer to simulate a burning house, giving people the opportunity to learn proper fire drill techniques.



Staff Sgt. John Todd, 437<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron, and his son, Michael, look at fire prevention displays.



Sparky and Airmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class Bryan Tarentino greet people on the parade route and (right) Sparky shares a hug with Jasmine Hansley, daughter of MS2 Mark Hansley and his wife Diane.

