To: KHA Member Hospital CEOs, Risk Managers and Engineers

From: Ron Marshall, Director Regulatory Advocacy

Date: March 19, 2018

Re: Kansas Office of State Fire Marshall Update

The Kansas Hospital Association recently received several communications from the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal regarding additional documentation required when healthcare facilities are surveyed. This documentation was required when CMS adopted the 2012 NFPA Life Safety Codes for healthcare facilities. Given the very short notice of effective dates, if a healthcare facility is surveyed before implementing the requirements below, a waiver request form should be submitted to the OSFM. The waiver is located on the Office of the State Fire Marshal’s website at the following link: https://firemarshal.ks.gov/information-on/healthcare.

**NFPA 110 8.3.8** states “A fuel quality test shall be performed at least annually using tests approved by ASTM standards.” The OSFM will need to see the analysis, which is usually a one-page document from a laboratory. This testing only applies for diesel fuel. The OSFM wants to make the fuel testing process as easy as possible for facilities. The OSFM will begin enforcing this effective March 19th. The OSFM has provided the instructions below on how to complete a waiver.

1. Complete the top portion of the waiver (name of facility down to the requested waiver end date).
2. **EVIDENCE THE DEFICIENCY DOES NOT POSE A HAZARD TO THE OCCUPANTS** – Please address the life safety equipment within your facility. (i.e. fire alarm system, smoke detected, fire extinguisher, pull stations.....)
3. **HOW CORRECTION OF THE DEFICIENCY POSES A HARDSHIP TO THE FACILITY** – Please address why your facility needs the extra time to complete this deficiency.
4. **CONSTRUCTION MILESTONES** - This is a timeline from the beginning to the completion of the deficiency. (i.e. contacted vendor (calendar date), bid accepted (calendar date), fire alarm plans submitted to OSFM (calendar date), vendor to start the FA installment (calendar date), FA installment completed (calendar date; this date must be the same as the requested waiver end date at the top of waiver form)
5. **ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO COMPENSATE FOR THE DEFICIENCY** – Must choose two safety measures.

**NFPA 10 5.5.5.3** requires “A placard shall be conspicuously placed near the extinguisher that states that the fire protection system shall be actuated prior to using the fire extinguisher. This applies to all K Extinguishers. The OSFM recommends having this action outlined in your fire plan to make sure the fire
protection system is emphasized for the safety of staff. In order to give facilities time to meet this requirement, the OSFM will not start citing this deficiency until April 1, 2018.“

**NFPA 10.2.3.6 and 6.3.3.1.5** “CMS accredited healthcare facilities will now need to conduct assessments of power strips on an annual basis. The assessment requires inspecting the entire facility on an annual basis to ensure the power strips and surge protectors are used in their correct areas. A checklist provided by the Office of the State Fire Marshal to assist facilities in conducting these assessments is linked to this document and available on-line at the KHA hospital preparedness webpage. In order to give facilities time to meet this requirement, the OSFM will not start citing this deficiency until April 1, 2018.”

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Joel Beckner at the Office of the State Fire Marshal by phone at 785-295-0659 or email joel.c.beckner@ks.gov or Ron Marshall at KHA by phone at 785-276-3125 or by email rmarshall@kha-net.org.

Ron Marshall  
Director, Regulatory Advocacy  
Kansas Hospital Association  
Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation  
785-276-3125 (O)  
785-224-8152 (C)  
rmmarshall@kha-net.org