

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Byron Hollander

State of Oklahoma Office of State Fixe Manshal

4030 LINCOLN BOULEVARD • 424-4371
BUILDING 3 SUITE 100
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73105-5285

August 26, 1991

Karen L. Fernicola, Issue Analyst The Tobacco Institute 1875 I Street, Northwest Washington, DC 20006

Dear Karen:

I am in receipt of your letter dated June 5, 1991, concerning The Tobacco Institute's interest in helping to fund public education programs in the State of Oklahoma. For the past three legislative sessions, I have lobbied for funds not only to establish a public education staff for the State Fire Marshal's Office, but for funds to implement specific public education programs statewide. My efforts have failed and public fire education is a low priority item at our State Capitol.

Oklahoma remains one of the sunbelt States with one of the highest fire death rates in the Unites States. In 1990, we set an all time record with 143 fire deaths and have averaged over 104 per year for the past 25 years. At the local level, the City of Oklahoma City Fire Department has taken several steps to reduce the fire death rate in Oklahoma City. Of the 143 fire deaths in 1990, only six were recorded for Oklahoma City.

Four years ago, the Oklahoma City Fire Department developed a "Kid Safe Program", utilizing a grant from the Federal Government. It is a Fire Safety Education Curriculum for Pre-School Children and it has been well accepted by the Oklahoma City Community and the Oklahoma City Fire Department is to be complimented for their efforts in implementing the program. Their statistics had shown that over 50% of their fires were directly related to juvenile firesetters. The results of their efforts to implement and carry out the "Kid Safe Program" is having a major impact on their annual fire fatalities with only six reported and none were under the age of five. Statewide, 31% of the fire fatalities were five years of age or less.

Through Public Education Conferences held in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma City Fire Department has been able to tell others of their success and have offered the cirriculum to anyone interested. As the result of this offer, other fire departments in Texas, Kansas, Arkansas and Florida have now implemented the "Kid Safe Program". The "Kid Safe Program" is a valuable program and it was our intent to obtain funds through the legislative process and implement the same program statewide and our efforts have failed.

Many State fire chiefs, day care owners and public education personnel are aware of this program. They have been to these conferences, have seen the presentations and are aware of the results, however, the majority cannot afford to have the complete curriculum printed for their department or the community they protect. For this reason, I am requesting your assistance in obtaining a grant through The Tobacco Institute, in the amount of \$7,500.00 for the purpose of having 1,000 copies of the "Kid Safe Curriculum" printed for distribution throughout the State of Oklahoma.

(continued)

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Page 2.

The Oklahoma Department of Corrections, when informed about the "Kid Safe Program", agreed to print the entire curriculum for the cost of materials, which was estimated at \$5.85 per book. (The Oklahoma City Fire Department has these same books printed at a regular print shop at \$25.00 each). The Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester, Oklahoma, has a complete print shop operated by inmates and provide printed envelopes, letterheads, brochures, pamphlets, etc., for many State agencies.

Total expense in printing each book would be \$5.85 times 1,000 which would equal \$5,850.00. The remainder of the funds \$1,650.00, would be use to print several thousand copies of the "pre-and-post test, reward stickers and certificate of completion". Also furnished with this curriculum is a "Kid Safe Program Coloring Book". The curriculum book itself, can be used over and over again.

Your consideration for this grant request is very much appreciated and The Tobacco Institute is to be complimented for their efforts in promoting public fire education programs and the resources available through the Institute's Fire Safety Education Program.

A conference for Early Childhood Burn Prevention is scheduled here in Oklahoma City on November 7 and 8, 1991. The "Kid Safe Program" is the main feature of this conference and hopefully this year, we will be able to present the program and give each participant a complete cirriculum when they leave the conference.

If you should need a complete copy of the "Kid Safe Program" cirriculum, please let me know and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely

Byron Hollander State Fire Marshal

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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THE TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, DC 20006

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THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE

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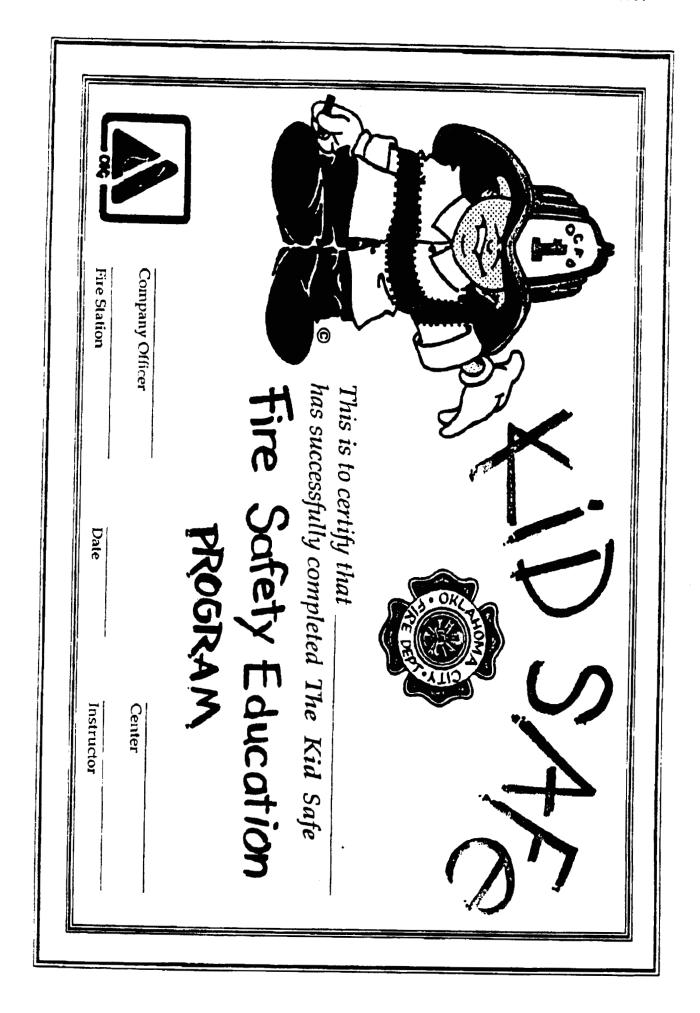
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CHECK REQUEST



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Parent Fire Safety Kit

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