

KASC Safety Awareness Meeting on October 21, 2008 at Piccadilly Cafeteria

The meeting was called to order by Gene Faxon with 20 members/guests in attendance. Jack Alvis offered the blessing. Vice President Reports – The Board of Directors scheduled and approved the annual budget for 2008-2009 at our Board meeting on October 9. The 2008 Safety Seminar generated the most income of any on record. The Halloween Treat Bag stuffing is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2008 beginning at 3pm in the Toy F. Reid Employee Center. We will meet at the Fort Henry Mall on Saturday, October 25 beginning at 9am to distribute approximately 1,000 bags to the public (see photos on this site). Jack Alvis is working on putting the Accident Christmas Tree back up to remind the public of the importance of safe driving. Everyone was reminded that October is Fire Prevention Month (change your clock/change your smoke detector batteries) and Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Our speaker was Travis Anderson, adjunct instructor for Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI), Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), Texas A&M University and Training Officer for WSI Fire Services at Holston Army Ammunition Plant. He presented a lot of useful information on airbag technology, sharing specific information on certain makes and models of vehicles that have numerous units aesthetically hidden behind door panels, overhead, beneath seats as well as in the dash area. Non-activated airbags in wrecked vehicles can deploy with deadly force, potentially killing rescue workers or non-suspecting “Good Samaritans”. Travis emphasized that we should begin to look for the SRS Symbols in your own car and know the location of these units. He also noted that if the airbag is deployed, insurance companies will usually total the vehicle because they are so expensive to replace. He also talked about the different types of gases/explosives that are used to generate the force needed to efficiently activate the bags as designed. Airbags can deploy at 264 miles per hour, and some dual-stage airbag systems can deploy twice (by design). Audience members were shown examples of deployed units. This was definitely an eye opening program on the dangers associated with mechanical elements of our passenger protection systems.

The meeting was adjourned, and a gift was presented to Travis. Our speaker next month will be Max Middleton of Eastman who will be speaking on “Combustible Dust Explosions”. Eastman is also sponsoring the meal. Special thanks to Julia Williams for recording these minutes.



Travis opens the program with a challenging question, then proceeds to show samples of how many units are installed on several makes/models and the various locations of hidden airbag systems



Audience members were shown various elements of the system, including several styles of deployed airbags



This was a powerful presentation on vehicle safety, and we had a great audience



Travis ends the day with a productive question and answer session