

LAGNIAPPE

Merry Christmas



LOFTON
SECURITY
SERVICE INC.

Lofton
ENERGY SERVICES

Lofton
MEDICAL SERVICES

Lofton
SAFETY SERVICES

Monthly Employee News

December 2017

Fire Extinguisher Recall By: Steve Ham, Lofton Safety Services

More than 40 million Kidde fire extinguishers are being recalled after reports of the product failing during emergency situations. According to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, the fire extinguisher can get clogged causing it to fail or become hard to activate. The plastic nozzle can also break posing an impact hazard. To date, the company has received 391 reports of the fire extinguisher failing, resulting in one death, 16 injuries and 91 instances of property damage.

The current recall affects 134 models manufactured as early as January 1, 1973, and sold at various locations including Menards, Montgomery Wards, Sears and The Home Depot. The fire extinguishers are also available for purchase online. They were also sold with commercial trucks, recreational vehicles, personal watercraft and boats. Kidde is providing a replacement fire extinguisher free of charge.

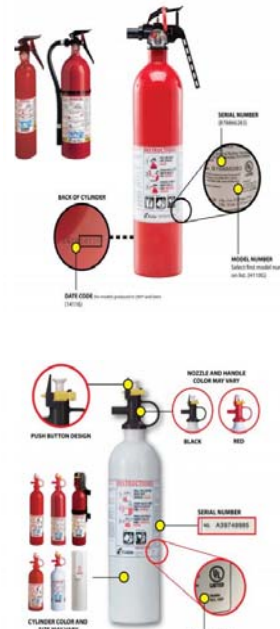
Name of product: Kidde fire extinguishers with plastic handles

Hazard: The fire extinguishers can become clogged or require excessive force to discharge and can fail to activate during a fire emergency. In addition, the nozzle can detach with enough force to pose an impact hazard.

Remedy: Replace **Recall date:** November 2, 2017

Recall number: 18-022

Consumer Contact: Kidde toll-free at 855-271-0773 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET Saturday and Sunday, or online at www.kidde.com and click on "Product Safety Recall" for more information.



What's Happening This Month

December 12
Hanukkah Begins



December 21
First Day of Winter

December 25
Christmas Day

The Lofton Offices Will Be Closed

Monday, December 25th



We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!

December 31
New Year's Eve

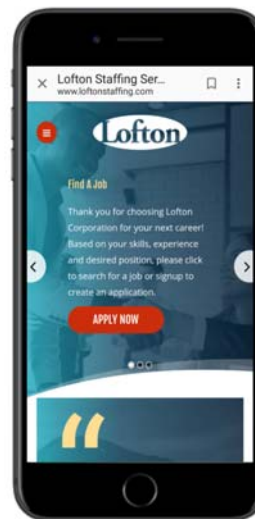


New Mobile Website By: Julie East, Corp. Marketing & Recruiting

Lofton is very excited to announce that our new and refreshed website is now live. The updated site includes changes to navigation and dropdown menus for both mobile and desktop versions. We have also streamlined the structure of our content, so both job seekers and clients get more from a quick read with less clicks. The new mobile platform allows job seekers to complete an application through their mobile devices and gives current Lofton employees more interactive capabilities, including accessing their Lofton profile and accessing payroll records.

Among other new features, the site contains Lofton branch pages to foster improved communication with our employees and clients at a local level. The site also contains integrated social media buttons for Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. We will be constantly updating our content with helpful information, articles, blogs, newsletters, company announcements and both client and employee testimonials throughout the site.

Visit our site at www.loftonstaffing.com. If you have any feedback, please let us know on Facebook or Twitter.





I Heard The Bells on Christmas Day

By: Glenda G. Lofton, Ph.D.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), one of the most famous popular American poets of the 1800's, is remembered for a variety of poems such as Paul Revere's Ride, and one particularly meaningful to us in Louisiana, Evangeline. One of his most treasured works is the poem that became the lyrics for the popular Christmas carol, I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, a poem based on the angels' announcement of Christ's birth to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men." (Luke 2:14) In the December 2003 issue of Lagniappe, I wrote my reflections on the poem, but this week my friend since ninth grade, the maid of honor at my wedding, and now president of my Sunday School class at Parkview, Pat Williams, sent me an article by Greg Laurie elaborating on the background of the poem, that motivated me to read more about his life and share it with you.

Verses one and two of the carol, like my early experiences with Christmas, are sentimental and reassuring:

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day,
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.
I thought how as the day had come,
The befriended of all Christendom*

*Had rolled along the unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

In verse three, however, Longfellow unexpectedly shifts the tone of the poem from one of hope to one of despair:

*And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said.
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."*

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
(WALTHAM, L. M.)

HENRY W. LONGFELLOW, 1863 J. BAPTISTE CALKIN, 1872

1. I heard the bells on Christ-mas day Their old fa - mil - iar car - ols play.
2. I thought how, as the day had come, The bel - fies of all Chris - ten - dom
3. And in de - spair I bowed my head: 'There is no peace on earth,' I said,
4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: 'God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
5. Till, ring - ing, sing - ing on its way, The world revolved from night to day,

And wild and sweet the words re-peat Of peace on earth, good-will to men.
Had rolled a-long the unbro-ken song Of peace on earth, good-will to men.
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good-will to men.'
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth, good-will to men.'
A voice, a chime, a chant sub-lime, Of peace on earth, good-will to men! A-MEN.

Why the shift? According to Laurie, "In 1860 Longfellow was at the peak of his success as a poet. Abraham Lincoln had just been elected President, giving hope to many in the nation. But things soon turned dark for America and for Longfellow, personally. The Civil War began the following year, and Longfellow's wife died of severe burns after her dress caught fire. Longfellow sustained severe burns on his hands and face from trying to save his wife. He was so badly burned that he could not even attend her funeral. In his

diary for Christmas Day 1861, he wrote, 'How inexpressibly sad are the holidays.'

In 1862, the Civil War escalated and the death toll from the war began to mount...In 1863, Longfellow's son, who had run away to join the Union Army, was severely wounded and returned home in December...For Christmas Day that year Longfellow wanted to pull himself out of his despair, so he decided to

try to capture the joy of Christmas. (But) as Longfellow came to the stanza (above) he was stopped by the thought of the condition of his beloved country. The Battle of Gettysburg was not long past. Days looked dark, and he probably asked himself the question, 'How can I write about peace on earth, goodwill to men in this war-torn country, where brother fights against brother and father against son?' But he kept writing...Catching an eternal perspective and the real message of Christmas and Christ Himself, he wrote:

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
The wrong shall fail the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men.'*

As we approach Christmas 2017, we too face tragedies and threats at home and abroad, but may the "bells of Christmas" and the Saviour they proclaim, drive away our despair, and fill our lives with the hope, peace and love which the world cannot give...

*Till, ringing singing on its way,
The world revolve(s) from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

Year End W-2

It's almost that time of year again - W-2's! It's important to review your paystubs this month to make sure the following are correct:

- ▶ your address
- ▶ state and federal withholdings
- ▶ your social security number

If you worked for more than one department, i.e. Security, Clerical, Industrial, Energy or Medical, you will receive a W-2 for each. If you need to make any changes (address, etc.), you can log into your account through the employee login on the Lofton website, or contact your local payroll department **immediately**. Changes must be called into the payroll department by January 15th. W-2(s) will be mailed no later than the last day in January. W-2's can also be printed from your Lofton online account (employee paystubs link) in mid February.



Officer Kudos

A new Lofton Officer prevented a breach of security at a local Baton Rouge client site, when **Officer Nekederia Jones** noticed that the Workforce (work release) transport van was returning at an unauthorized time. Officer Jones denied the van entry, and contacted both the facility staff and Lofton Security. Even when the van driver became impatient with her and declined to give his name or the name of the person he was there to pick up, Officer Jones maintained her professionalism. The driver left the site before the client got to the gate. Officer Jones was able to give information about the driver and the van to the client so it could be reported to the Workforce management. Excellent catch, Officer Jones! It's the keen eye for details that makes all the difference in security. Great job!

Another outstanding show of professionalism by **Cpt. Paul Climax**. Cpt. Climax assisted our client with a suspected individual with a handgun. Cpt. Climax was asked to search the individual's vehicle for any weapons or contraband. Upon inspection of the vehicle, it was discovered a synthetic urine bottle with a hand warming packet attached with a rubber band. There were no weapons found at the time of the search. Cpt. Climax then conducted a search of the individual's lunch bag. There were no weapons, or contraband or weapons discovered during the inspection.

"We truly appreciate how professional Captain Climax was. His working experience and knowledge on how he handled the incident was superior. We are very pleased with our security services in reference to this incident."

Congratulations Cpt. Climax for your professionalism and knowledge of proper search procedures. Keep up the outstanding work!