

## Dayna Hilton Bio



Dayna Hilton joined the fire service in August 2000 and currently serves as Johnson County RFD #1's Public Fire and Life Safety Educator in Clarksville, Arkansas. She is the owner of Firehouse Dog Publishing, LLC and the author of the children's fire safety book and audio book, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* and the upcoming release, *Sparkles Goes to Boston*.

Firefighter Hilton was appointed by former Governor Mike Huckabee in 2005 and Governor Mike Beebe in 2008 to serve on the Arkansas Fire Prevention Commission. She serves as a Deputy Fire Marshal for the State of Arkansas and is a Professional Member of the Technical Committee of National Fire Protection Association where she serves on the 1035-Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Committee. She also serves on the International Fire Service Training Association Validation Committee for the Public Fire and Life Safety Educator manual. Firefighter Hilton is an International Fire Service Accreditation Congress certified Public Fire and Life Safety Educator II and Firefighter II. She is an adjunct instructor for the Arkansas Fire Academy, a contract instructor for the National Fire Academy and a member of the Fire Corps Speakers Bureau. She is the State Public Educator Network contact for the National Fire Protection Association for the state of Arkansas and a member of the Home Safety Council's Expert Network.

Under her guidance, Johnson County RFD #1 firefighters and Fire Corps members were honored with the Arkansas Fire Prevention Commission's *Carnahan Award* in 2005 and 2006. The award is given annually by the Commission to an Arkansas Fire Department for recognition of excellence and achievement in the field of Fire and Life Safety and Fire Prevention. Other awards received by the department and its Fire Corps include the *National Volunteer Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program Appreciation Award*, the Gold 2006 and 2007 *President's Volunteer Service Award*, the *Best Program Extreme Makeover Award* at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire, Burn and Life Safety Conference, and the *Daily Point of Light Award* as the Nation's Volunteers of the Day on June 8, 2006 by the Points of Light Foundation. Hilton was awarded the *2006 National Volunteer Fire Council's Fire Prevention Award*. The award is bestowed to a "volunteer who exemplifies the philosophy of fire prevention through their contributions to the field". She was recognized as a *Dunkin' Brands Community Foundation Hero* in July of 2007.

In 2008, Hilton was selected to participate in Vision 20/20, the gathering of over 170 experts from across the country to meet in Washington, DC, to develop a national strategy for fire loss. That same year, Hilton and her canine companion, Sparkles, were invited by the Home Safety Council to participate in a safety event at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky to visit families and celebrate Home Safety Month.

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In 2007, Hilton was selected by the Home Safety Council as a resource to the Home Safety Literacy Project program. That same year, she was selected to participate in the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation's National Prevention Mini-Summit in Washington, DC. She was selected to present at the general session of the Home Safety Council's All-Ways Safe at Home Conference in Washington, DC in January 2007. Hilton has made presentations at the National Fire Protection Association's World Safety Conference and Fire Rescue International as well as numerous other presentations on the national level.

Hilton's department and Fire Corps members have been featured in *FireRescue*, *Volunteer Leadership*, *Front Porch*, *Fire Engineering* and *Rural Roads* magazines as well as the *Journal of Association Leadership*. The group has also been featured in several issues of the National Volunteer Fire Council's *Dispatch*, on the cover of a *Department of Homeland Security Fire Corps Brochure* and several national websites. The group has been featured in the following: the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation and to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Hilton, along with several of her RFD #1 Fire Corps members, are featured in the Fire Emergency Training Network's *Achieve More with Fire Corps* and *Citizens Helping Fire and EMS* videos for citizen advocates and fire departments. Her department was one of three chosen across the country to participate in this project and the videos are available nationwide

She has authored articles for *Fire Engineering Magazine*, the *National Fire Protection Association Journal*, *Firehouse.com* and was interviewed for podcasts for *Firehouse.com* and *First Alert*. Hilton's photo appeared in the United States Fire Administration's 2008 Arson Awareness Week campaign materials. Two of Hilton's fire safety photos were chosen to appear in the International Fire Service Training Association's calendar in 2006. Hilton is the host of *Safety Talk* on Blog Talk Radio. Fire Departments and organizations showcase and share their fire and life safety efforts on *Safety Talk* with educators from across the nation.

During 2006 Fire Prevention Week, Hilton hosted "Fire Safety Tips" on *PBS KIDS Sprout*, the first and only 24-hour preschool destination available on television. Assisting Comcast in the fire safety content of the *PBS KIDS Sprout* webpage, her efforts reached children online ages 2-5 and their parents and caregivers. These fire safety tips continue to appear on *Sprout On Demand* on Comcast. In September 2006, she appeared live on *FOX and Friends* in New York City promoting fire safety, reaching almost one million viewers. In 2008, she and her dog, Sparkles, appeared on television on the following stations: *WXIN* and *WTHR* in Indianapolis and *WLS* in Chicago, and in the following newspapers: the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Lisle Sun* and others, and the following websites: the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Baltimore Sun*, and numerous other websites.

In 2007, after a national "Star Search" of Public Fire Educators by the Research Division of Fire Protection Publications at Oklahoma State University, Hilton was chosen to play the female lead in the educational video, *Presenting Fire Safety Messages to Young Children*. This educational video will be a multifaceted educational tool and companion piece to an extensive fire safety educational curriculum for young children 4 and 5 years old. The video includes instructional material for teachers, young children and firefighters.

## **Dayna Hilton Bio continued....**

In 2002, Hilton was selected to play her bagpipes in the honor guard at the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial service for 911 victims in Washington, DC, and played her pipes in the video for first responders, "We Respond." This video received a Communicator Award in 2003.

An advocate for promoting fire safety, Hilton finds it her life's passion to keep everyone fire safe.



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