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Local Resident Authors Children's Fire Safety Book

Firefighter Dayna Hilton of Clarksville will be releasing her first children's book, *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog* in April 2008. Hilton, a member of several national fire service committees, has authored articles for numerous fire service publications. A leading public fire and life safety education expert, Hilton has appeared on *PBS KIDS Sprout* and *FOX and Friends*.

Sparkles the Dalmatian, the inspiration for Hilton's book, was adopted in 2003 by Hilton, her husband, Robert, and son, Michael, from the Dalmatian Assistance League of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Since that time, Sparkles has been an invaluable member of Johnson County RFD #1's Fire Safety Team. Sparkles, along with her friend, Spanner, have assisted the department's firefighters with hundreds of fire safety programs locally, statewide, and nationally.

As children learn of the adventures of Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog, they will also learn valuable fire safety tips enabling them and their families to keep fire safe. These tips include knowing the sound and purpose of a smoke alarm, learning how to crawl low under smoke, and understanding the importance of practicing a home fire drill using an escape map.

Meri-K Appy, President of the Home Safety Council said of the book, "Young children will love Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog...a spotted dog, friendly firefighters, and safety lessons designed just for them! The book is a great tool to help kids learn – without scaring them -- how to be safe from fire, a leading cause of accidental death at home."

Jenni Glenn, Director of Public Relations for *PBS KIDS Sprout*, said, "Educating children about fire safety is so important... and Firefighter Dayna and her incredible canine companion Sparkles have found a way to make it both fun and easy. With this book, Dayna has taken a very serious and potentially frightening topic and transformed it into a simple, enjoyable concept for parents to discuss with their kids. Two paws up and a tail wag for *Sparkles the Fire Safety Dog!*"

Hilton, Sparkles and Spanner will make their Midwest book tour in April. The International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) will be hosting a book signing event at the Fire Department Instructor's Conference (booth 2450) on April 11th, the book's release date, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Children and their caregivers, firefighters and other attendees will have the opportunity to meet Hilton and her Dalmatians, have their books signed and get their photos taken with the dogs.

For more information on the upcoming book and release, visit Firehouse Dog Publishing's website at www.firehousedogpublishing.com.

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