



LAGNIAPPE

MONTHLY EMPLOYEE NEWS



Home Heating Safety By: Jeremy Olivier, Lofton Safety Services

Fall is almost here on the Gulf Coast. Although relief from the heat is still several weeks away, this time of year presents a great opportunity to prepare for cooler temperatures before they arrive. The following advice regarding home heating will help you in your preparation of this most welcomed time of year.

The time to test and prepare your heater or furnace is now. Change your HVAC filter if you haven't done so in a while. This is also a good time to ensure both the intake and return vents are clear and free of debris. Test your heater by turning it on just enough for the unit to start up. You should be able to feel the warm air issuing from the vent or register within a minute. If the unit fails to heat, have it serviced. At least once every few years, you should schedule an HVAC checkup by a licensed technician. This will guarantee your unit is ready and running efficiently before the cooler temperatures arrive. Portable and wall mounted electric heaters are common items in today's households. It is important that these be cleaned and tested prior to vigorous use. Portable heaters should be equipped with auto-shutoff features triggered by either a time interval or in the event they tip over. These features should be tested. If any of the shutoff features fail or you have an older unit that does not have them, you should consider replacement to ensure maximum prevention of a fire emergency.



Creosote builds up inside the chimney.

Many homes also have fireplaces. Before using your fireplace, it is important to make sure it is ready for duty. During normal operations, a chemical called creosote builds up inside the chimney. In sufficient quantity, it can be ignited and lead to a fire hazard. It is recommended that you have your fireplace and chimney professionally cleaned before each cold season. Some fireplaces are gas operated. It is crucial to make sure that there are no leaks in either the line or valves servicing the fireplace.

An inspection should be made to verify there is nothing obstructing the chimney. Obstructions or stuck vents and dampers could cause smoke and hazardous gases to enter the home instead of being vented to the outside. For wood burning fireplaces, burn dry hardwoods to minimize smoke produced and maximize burn time. Never use wet wood or woods containing lots of sap. These can sizzle and pop during burning and expel embers from the fireplace. Always

make sure the area surrounding the fireplace is free of combustible material and that you have a screen in place to prevent any embers from escaping. Any home that has a fireplace should also have one or more fire extinguishers on hand. This is the perfect time to verify your extinguishers are properly charged and tested for proper operation.

You've Been Caught

Shout out to **Officer Jerold Preston**, New Orleans. The client was so impressed with Jerold, he emailed the office to shout his praise. *"Jerold presents himself as a professional and I am very happy to have him be the first person people see when entering the site. Over the last 3 weeks, he has done an exceptional job with professionalism and positive demeanor."*

Way to go Jerold! It's officers like you that "Make the difference!"



October 2024

October 14
Columbus Day

October 16
Boss's Day

October 31

HALLOWEEN





Chikin Leadership

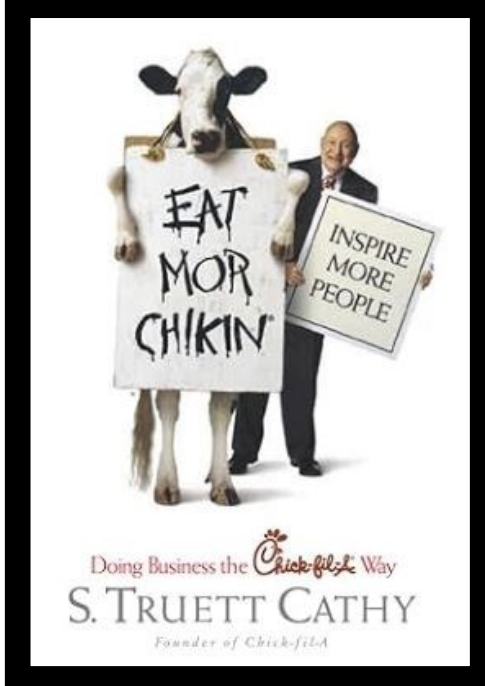
By: Glenda Lofton, Ph.D.

One of my favorite pastimes is watching football. Whether it's supporting local teams like LSU or watching national teams in the NFL... cheering on my favorite teams with family and friends is always a delight. One of the advantages of watching games at home is the commercial breaks. A good time to grab another snack, or converse with the family on plays (the good and the bad). Most of the time, the commercials are just white noise in the background, but sometimes, one or two seem to grab my attention. Chick-fil-A is one of those ads that did just that.

As I watched the commercial, I was reminded of the book *Eat Mor Chikin Inspire More People: Doing Business the Chick-fil-A Way*, by the founder S. Truett Cathy. Mr. Cathy grew up in a boarding house his mother operated. There he learned the biblical principles of hard work, fairness, honesty, loyalty, and respect. In 1967, he opened the first Chick-fil-A restaurant where he put those principles he learned as a child to work and immediately began to experience the rewards. He is known as a servant leader and his commitment to people reaches well beyond his restaurants. Over the years, he has fostered countless programs, foundations, donations, and scholarships. He challenges each of us to focus on people and principles and to build relationships worthy of

trust and commitment, knowing that success will follow.

I have had the good fortune to have a husband and two sons who believe in and model these principles at Lofton Staffing and Security Services. Tommy founded Lofton on principles that are "people focused." That people should "feel better when they leave than when they walked in, that having fun



to get the job done is not slacking off. That people who never give up, who turn problems into possibilities, and seek to do what is right and fair, hold true to their values."

Now that my grandson, Sam, is working in the Lafayette office, I know that the foundation of servant leadership will continue through the generations. That treating people with the golden rule of "treat others as you would be treated" is not just a motto, but a way of doing business.

One servant leader who had a major impact on my life was Mary Wade Edwards, Director of SPUR (the statewide school improvement project that I worked on for nine years). Mary wrote a poem that summarized her philosophy and the principles on which SPUR was based. I have taken the liberty of revising Mary's poem by changing the first line to "Lofton Staffing is successful when..." I know Mary won't mind.

*Lofton Staffing is successful...
When those around you can do what you do and do it well.
If you have knowledge, teach others.
If you have resources, share them.
If you are a worker, show them how.
If you believe, convince others to fulfill your dreams.*

Tommy has always said that we are all called to serve. To what end...well, that depends on the person. Perhaps you were called (like myself) to serve as an educator. Perhaps you were called to protect others, or called to serve your country. Maybe it's not as simply laid out as that. Perhaps you were called to be a stay-at-home mother. Every person has a purpose – to inspire – to love – to educate – to protect – to serve.

Enrollment Update

By: Mary Dixon, Benefits Coordinator

If you have elected to participate in Lofton's benefit programs during open enrollment, the effective date for **coverage starts October 1, 2024.**

Since there were no changes in the major medical coverage provided, new ID cards will only be mailed to new enrollees. Also remember that UMR medical cards as well as telemedicine and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can be accessed via the HealthJoy app.

Employees enrolled in major medical still have time to earn the 30% premium incentive by participating in the Vitality wellness program and meeting program requirements by December 31, 2024. Register or log into your account at Powerofvitality.com or scan the QR code for more information.



Spooky Urban Legends

Bloody Mary. One of the most famous urban legends is the tale of Bloody Mary. Go into a room, turn the lights out, look into the mirror then say her name 3 times. Blood Mary will then appear in the mirror! I've never done it (made it to 3), but I hear it works!

The Hook. A classic campfire tale, this urban legend tells the story of a serial killer with a hook for a hand. A couple, parked in a remote area, heard a scraping sound slowly going across the side of the car. In complete terror, they quickly drove off! When they were a safe distance away, they got out to inspect the car and found the killer's hook stuck in the door!

The Rougarou. The legend of the Rougarou is part of Cajun folklore. According to legend, the Rougarou is a human who has been cursed, transforming into a wolf-like creature with blazing red eyes and sharp fangs. The curse is said to occur when a person breaks a Lenten vow, leading to a curse that can only be lifted

after 101 days. It is also said to have the power to curse those who see it, leading to a lifetime of bad luck and misfortune. Have you seen a Rougarou?

Marie LeVeau. Marie LeVeau is a famous Creole Voodoo Queen in New Orleans. Many people still claim to see her ghost roam the streets of the French Quarter. Legend says if you place a rose on her grave at midnight on her birthday, you can levitate above her grave.

Le Feu Follet. This cajun myth originated in the swamps of Louisiana. Feu Follet, or ghost light (flame), is said to mesmerize victims into following the light deep into the swamp. The subdued follow the light until they are hopelessly lost, never to leave the swamp again. Legend says the ball of light is the spirit of a lost child while others say it's the spirit of those who lost their lives looking for Jean Lafitte's treasure. Either way, if you for some reason find yourself in the Louisiana swamp at night...don't follow the light.