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Lana Gordon, Secretary

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Flame Engineering Inc. Honored for 16 Years with No Lost Time Accidents**

TOPEKA, Kan. - The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) Industrial Safety and Health division and Secretary Lana Gordon recognized Flame Engineering Inc. of LaCrosse for reaching 16 years with no lost time accidents. Lost time accidents implies a non-fatal accident that causes any loss of time from work. Secretary Gordon presented company officials a certificate during a special ceremony attended by management and staff members.

In the mid 1950's, Ralph C. Pivonka and his son, Mike, designed a propane torch for burning weeds and brush on their Kansas family farm. As word spread about their flaming equipment, Ralph and Mike found themselves building more and more torches to satisfy a growing local demand. The Pivonka's soon out grew their farm workshop and went into full production establishing the company known as Flame Engineering, Inc., which now has expanded into national and international markets with the popular Red Dragon product line. A safe work environment helps Flame Engineering operate more efficiently and retain dedicated employees. Mike Pivonka, his son Jason and his grandson Tyson are all working and active in the business. Tyson makes the 4<sup>th</sup> generation to be involved in the daily operation of Flame Engineering, Inc.

Flame Engineering has also been part of the Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) since October of 2000, a designation which remains in effect today.

SHARP provides incentives and support to small, high-hazard employers to work with their employees to develop, implement and continuously improve the effectiveness of their workplace safety and health programs. Companies that have qualified for SHARP can participate in the SHARP Association, a self-governing group that serves members by networking about workplace safety and mentoring one another through idea sharing.

To learn more about the SHARP program go to <http://www.dol.ks.gov/Safety/SharpProgram.aspx>.

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*The Kansas Department of Labor assists in the prevention of economic insecurity through unemployment insurance and workers compensation, by providing a fair and efficient venue to exercise employer and employee rights, and by helping employers promote a safe work environment for their employees. This facilitates compliance with labor laws while enabling advancement of the economic well-being of the citizens of Kansas.*

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