

# FIREFAX

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ISSUE 1



**Becky Nelson**  
SECRETARY/TREASURER  
FIREFAX EDITOR



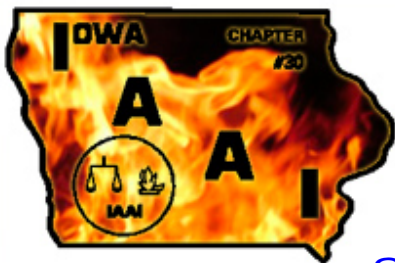
enjoys the opportunity to take home a little something extra.

The Chapter is financially stable as well as our membership; we ended 2007 with 263 members. I once again ask each of you to contact myself, or another officer to let us know how we can better serve you or to inform us of training you may be hosting in your area so it can be posted on the Chapter's website [www.iowaiaai.chapter.org](http://www.iowaiaai.chapter.org)

I would like to take an opportunity to say a most sincere thank you to each and every one of you who sent well wishes, calls, cards and flowers to me while I was out on medical leave, with a special thanks to Chaplain Hartzler for his call on the day when I needed it most. I would also like to give a big thanks to the Board for covering my responsibilities to the Chapter while I was gone. I appreciate the patience and understanding each of you showed and I am happy to say that I am back and more than looking forward to resuming my full duties as Secretary/Treasurer. I hope to see each of you at the seminar, until then "be safe".

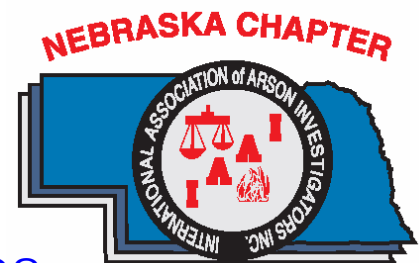
I hope this edition of Firefax finds each of you doing well and looking forward to the thawing of spring. I am anxiously looking towards our next seminar, which we are Co-Sponsoring with the Nebraska Chapter. The Riverside Fire and Arson Investigation Conference is set for September 21-25, 2008 at the Ameristar Casino in Council Bluffs, Iowa. If you know of a business who may potentially be interested in sponsoring a coffee break or any part of the seminar please contact me. As always the Chapter is accepting items for door prize giveaways, as each of us

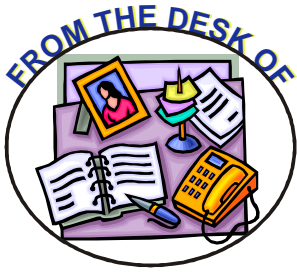
## *See Highlights Inside:*



**2008**  
**IOWA/NEBRASKA IAAI**  
**RIVERSIDE FIRE AND**  
**ARSON CONFERENCE**

September 21-25, 2008





**Jeff Hutcheson**  
**PRESIDENT**



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Happy Spring everyone!

It has been a long, cold and miserable winter for all of us and I'm sure you are all as happy as I am to see the grass starting to green up and the spring flowers poke through the permafrost.

First, I'll give you an update of the upcoming Dual-State Annual General Meeting and Seminar. As you know the dates have been set for September 21-25, 2008. The location is the Ameristar Hotel and Casino in Council Bluffs, Iowa. For hotel accommodations you will have two choices, both attached to the conference site. The two hotels are the Holiday Inn and Suites or the Hampton Inn and both are located at Ameristar. Conference brochures will be going out by mid-April. Seminar topics are Evidence Preservation, Fire Dynamics, a review of the Station Night Club fire and the Keokuk fire, a full-day mock trial, an update of the changes in NFPA 921 and burn cells. Check your calendars now and block out that week!

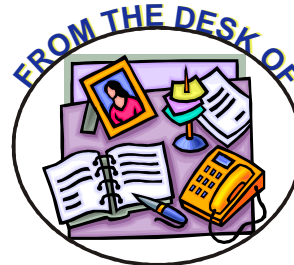
As we approach the end of the school year, I'd like to remind all of our members of the two scholarship opportunities available to graduating seniors. Please encourage any college-bound students you know to apply for those scholarships. The can go to our website at [www.iowaiaaichapter.org](http://www.iowaiaaichapter.org) for complete details.

We will be starting the process to select a site for the 2009 AGM in the very near future. Based upon the results of the poll at the 2007 AGM we will be looking at the Des Moines area again. If you are interested in serving on the Site Selection Committee, please send me an e-mail at [jhutcheson@councilbluffs-ia.gov](mailto:jhutcheson@councilbluffs-ia.gov).

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a huge Thank You to Davenport Fire Marshal and long-time Chapter member Mike Hayman for

making the IAAI's Appliance Fire Investigation class in Davenport such a success. Many of you know that we were approached by the International last year and asked if we would support a regional training seminar. We agreed to co-sponsor the event and midway through the process of setting the class up the contact person at the IAAI office left the organization. Mike willingly stepped up to the plate and hit a home-run to pull off a very successful class. We had over eighty fire investigators from all across the United States and Canada come to Iowa in the dead of winter to learn about appliance fires. So please, when you see Mike, offer him a congratulatory handshake for working so hard to make Iowa home to those folks for a few days. Without his help, the class would not have been possible.

That's all for now, see you in September!



**Todd Hartzler**  
**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

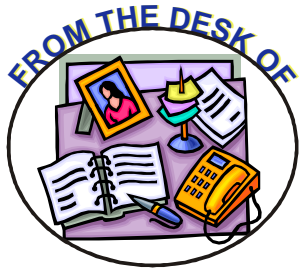


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The Iowa Chapter would like to introduce you to your Chapter Chaplain, Todd Hartzler. Todd is the Vice President of Independent Forensic Investigations Corporation (IFIC) and has been involved in forensic electrical engineering since 1996. Todd has earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Master of Science in Engineering. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer in Iowa and Minnesota. Experienced with investigations of residential and commercial wiring, vehicles, HVAC, consumer electronics and industrial process controls, Todd draws from a diversified knowledge base. Todd helps teach electrical investigation techniques and basic electrical concepts at the Arson Investigators School, part of the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau.

Chaplain Hartzler's profession does have time constraints, but he is glad to assist members in time of crisis if his job permits.

Chaplain - A person designated to minister to the sick and housebound or to those in schools, hospitals, prisons, etc. [www.holyfamilybordeaux.org/glossary.html](http://www.holyfamilybordeaux.org/glossary.html)



**John C. Kraemer**  
**DIRECTOR OF**  
**INVESTIGATIONS**



Greetings Everyone! I hope all of you are having an enjoyable spring and are taking advantage of the mild weather we are currently experiencing.

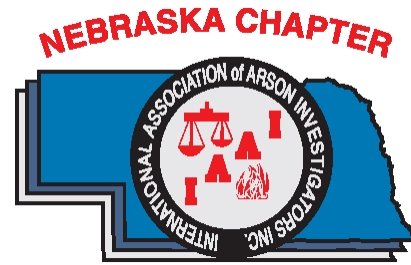
I would like to begin by introducing myself. I am John Kraemer and I have been elected to serve as the Director of the Investigations Section for the Iowa Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators. I am privileged and honored to have been chosen to serve in this role and to have the opportunity to represent you. My background is quite varied and in order for you to know more about me I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you a little about myself.

I began my fire service career in October of 2000 with the West Des Moines Fire Department as a Paid-On-Call Firefighter. Over the next few years, I gained valuable experience and education within this Department. My interest in fire investigations was fostered by a select few full-time firefighters and investigators on the West Des Moines Fire Department such as Fire Marshal Kent Eubank (retired), Deputy Fire Marshal Mark Adams (retired), Deputy Chief Greg Jones, Lieutenant Brandon Hufford, and Firefighter/Fire Investigator Doug Rex. These individuals provided me with the encouragement and opportunity to advance in the fire service and to gain valuable experience in conducting origin and cause fire investigations. I am deeply thankful that I have these individuals as mentors and as friends. It was through this Department and attending fire investigation training seminars that I met others across the state that have an interest in performing fire investigations and were so willing to share their knowledge and expertise with me. I also soon became a member of the Des Moines Metro Area Fire Investigator Task Force (MAFIT) and yet made more friends and developed an ever increasing knowledge base and investigative resource.

In November of 2005, I moved north of the Des Moines metro area and joined the Johnston Fire Department. With Johnston, I was hired as a Paid-On-Call Firefighter / EMT and Fire Investigator. In February of 2007, I was elected President of the Des Moines Metro Area Fire Investigators Task Force and in July of the same year, I was promoted to rank of Lieutenant and am experiencing all of the fun and excitement (not to mention the stress) associated with such advancement. I continue to perform most of the fire investigations for Johnston and love doing so. In August of 2007 and amidst all of the excitement and activity in my life, a little bundle of joy was born to my wife and me. Her name is Meadow and already she has me wrapped around her little fingers. My baby girl has taught me much and continues to help me establish priorities and allows me to now see things more through the eyes of a child.

When I am not working for the Fire Department, you will find me working my full-time job at the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. As some of you already aware, or have had the experience of working with me on a fire fatality, I am the Director of Forensics for the office and have been since 2000. Working in the fire service has helped me tremendously in my full-time career and I believe that this job also helps me be a better fire investigator each and every day. I am lucky to be able to come to work and be able to assist or work along side you in some of the most interesting and complex death investigations across the state, especially those involving fire or explosions. And to just make sure that every ounce of my free time is used up, I was elected in February of 2008 as the Vice President of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators. Finally, my office just recently achieved national accreditation through the National Association of Medical Examiners. Seeking accreditation had been a long-standing goal of ours in the ME's office and we are all very proud to have achieved this distinction.

Whether you work in law enforcement, fire service, or in the private sector, I hope that I can be of service to you and assist in your investigations whether in my capacity as the Director of Forensics for the State ME Office or as your Director of Investigations for the Iowa Chapter of the IAAI. I hope that this article has helped you to get to know me better. I look forward to the opportunity to get to know all of you and to provide any needed service or assistance as one of your Chapter liaisons.



# 2008

## IOWA/NEBRASKA IAAI RIVERSIDE FIRE AND ARSON CONFERENCE



### **Ameristar Casino Council Bluffs, Iowa**

This years Iowa Chapter Seminar will be a dual conference with Nebraska. The dates set for the conference are Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> through Thursday morning, September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Seminar activities begin on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> with registration and a hospitality time for everyone to visit those friends they haven't seen for a while and to network with new acquaintances. There may also be a golf outing in the afternoon, so please check the website for updated information.

Monday's classes begin at 8:00 AM with opening ceremonies and are followed by a class on Evidence Preservation. Evidence preservation begins when the investigator first arrives on scene, working through the documentation of the scene, collection of the evidence and continues through maintaining the chain of custody for the evidence. The morning concludes with a wonderful lunch, which is provided with your registration fee.



**Daniel Madrzykowski**

*National Institute of Standards and Technology, (NIST),  
“Fire Dynamics, Station Night Club Fire and the Keokuk Fire”.*

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Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning are sure to keep even the most seasoned investigator on the edge of their chair as we are privileged to have Daniel Madrzykowski from the National Institute of Standards and Technology, (NIST), presenting “Fire Dynamics, Station Night Club Fire and the Keokuk Fire”.

Mr. Madrzykowski is a registered professional engineer, a member of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and serves on their technical committees for automatic sprinklers, water mist system, safety to life, means of egress, mercantile and business occupancies, and forest and rural fire protection. He is Chairman of the NFPA Residential Sprinkler Systems Committee. He is a member of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, chairs the Engineering Task Group on Computer Model Evaluation and serves on their publications committee.

Tuesday afternoon and evening will require everyone to have their ball caps and sun block as we will be enjoying the wonderful weather of Council Bluffs as the Iowa/Nebraska Chapters hold live burn cells and end the day with a wonderful outdoor barbeque.

Wednesday’s agenda is a “Mock Trial”. The basis for this case goes back to July 5, 2007, when the Iowa/Nebraska Chapters were hosted by the Blair Fire Department, Blair, Nebraska, who provided a house for the live burn scenario, which is used for this day’s case. The Honorable Kathleen Kilnoski will be presiding, with Sean O’Brien, Esquire and David May, Esquire providing co-counsel for the Prosecution and William Gast, Esquire, will be providing counsel for the defense. Wednesday’s festivities will conclude with the annual banquet.

Thursday morning is begun with changes in NFPA 921 and we are privileged to have as our presenter Charles R. Watson, C.F.E.I., Senior Fire Investigator and Regional Manager of the St. Louis, Missouri and Houston, Texas SEA Limited offices. Mr. Watson began his affiliation with the National Fire Protection Association’s Technical Committee on Fire Investigation in 1991. From 2002 until January 2008 he served as the committee Secretary and he currently serves as the committee Chairman.

The seminar will end with the test at 11:00 AM, followed by committee meetings.



**Mark Your Calendar**

**Plan to Attend!**

**September 21-25, 2008**

## THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE 2008 EDITION OF NFPA 921

Information below taken directly from [NFPA Website](#):

- Substantial changes in **Chapter 5: Basic Fire Science** reflect new research and developments in ignition and combustion principles, along with added technical details and clarified language.
- Rewritten **Chapter 6: Fire Patterns** clarifies the process investigators should use to identify and recognize fire effects and fire patterns.
- Revised **Chapter 25: Motor Vehicle Fires** addresses trends in vehicles. For example, this is the first edition of *NFPA 921* to discuss electric/hybrid automobiles and their potential for high voltage hazards impacting investigators.
- Rewritten **Chapter 27: Management of Complex Investigations** (formerly Management of Major Investigations) offers a comprehensive, systems approach for dealing with complex incidents, such as those involving fatalities or injuries...fires in high-rises or building complexes...and fires or explosions in industrial plants or commercial properties.
- A new **Chapter 28: Marine Fire Investigations** provides first-time coverage of fire and explosion investigations involving recreational boats, including safety issues due to environmental contaminants, and protocols for investigators on boats afloat or underwater.

## RECALLS

The information on recalls was taken directly from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's website.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

**Name of Product:** Indirect Gas-Fired Furnaces.

**Units:** About 1,500

**Manufacturer:** Greenheck Fan Corp., of Schofield, Wis.

**Hazard:** The ignition control module can fail preventing the unit from shutting down in high temperature conditions. This poses a risk of fire, as well as hazardous fumes being released from burning/melting insulation.

**Incidents/Injuries:** No incidents or injuries have been reported.

**Description:** The recall involves Greenheck Fan Indirect Gas-Fired Furnaces models PVF, PVFH, IGX, IG, ERH and ERCH. The model name is located on the control center door or the furnace door. The furnace is either natural gas or LP gas (propane) fueled. Only units with ignition control module model number 35-615922-125 are included in the recall.

**Sold through:** Greenheck sales representatives to mechanical contractors nationwide from November 2006 through October 2007 for between \$2,000 and \$100,000.

**Manufactured in:** United States

**Remedy:** Property managers or job sites who have not been contacted by Greenheck Fan should contact the firm to arrange for a free repair.

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

**Name of Product:** Polaris All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

**Units:** About 95,000 (45,000 units recalled in June 2005)

**Manufacturer:** Polaris Industries Inc., of Medina, Minn.

**Hazard:** The ATVs can have defective Electronic Control Modules (ECM) that overheat, posing a fire and burn hazard to riders.

**Incidents/Injuries:** Since the original recall announced in June 2005, Polaris has received 372 additional reports of smoking and/or melted ECMs on the recalled ATVs, and 20 reports of fires, nine of which involved property damage beyond the ATV. No injuries have been reported.

**Description:** This recall involves select 2005 through 2006 model Polaris Sportsman and Scrambler 500 ATVs. The model and serial numbers are printed on a decal attached to the front side of the radiator (Sportsman) or the top of the front cab cover (Scrambler 500). Serial numbers are permanently stamped into the left frame rail behind the left front wheel. The recalled models are listed on the chart below.

**Polaris All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) – Continued**

Model Year	Market Name	Model Number
2004	SPRTSMN 500	A04CH50AO
2004	SPRTSMN 500	A04CH50AR
2004	SPRTSMN 500	A04CH50AS
2005	INT 500 HO	A05MH50FB
2005	SCRMBLR 500 4X4	A05BG50AA
2005	SPRTSMN 400	A05MH42AB
2005	SPRTSMN 400	A05MH42AG
2005	SPRTSMN 400	A05MH42AH
2005	SPRTSMN 500	A05MH50AB
2005	SPRTSMN 500	A05MH50AC
2005	SPRTSMN 500	A05MH50AG
2005	SPRTSMN 500	A05MH50AH
2005	SPRTSMN 500	A05MH50AL
2005	SPRTSMN 500	A05MH50AT
2005	SPRTSMN 600	A05MH59AK
2005	SPRTSMN 600	A05MH59AN
2005	SPRTSMN 6X6	A05CL50AA
2005	SPRTSMN 6X6 MIL	A05CL50MA
2005	SPRTSMN 700	A05MH68AD
2005	SPRTSMN 700	A05MH68AK
2005	SPRTSMN 700	A05MH68AN
2005	SPRTSMN 700 MIL	A05MH68MB
2005	SPRTSMN MV7	A05MH68AP
2005	SPRTSMN MV7	A05MH68CA
2005	SPRTSMN MV7	A05MH68MA
2006	INT SPTSMAN 500	A06MH50FB
2006	SCRMBLR 500 4X4	A06BG50AA
2006	SPRTSMN 450	A06MH46AA
2006	SPRTSMN 450	A06MH46AC
2006	SPRTSMN 450	A06MH46AD
2006	SPRTSMN 450	A06MH46AF
2006	SPRTSMN 450	A06MH46AT
2006	SPRTSMN 500	A06MH50AA
2006	SPRTSMN 500	A06MH50AB
2006	SPRTSMN 500	A06MH50AD
2006	SPRTSMN 500	A06MH50AF
2006	SPRTSMN 6X6	A06CL50AA
2006	SPRTSMN 700	A06MH68AA
2006	SPRTSMN 700	A06MH68AD
2006	SPRTSMN 700	A06MH68AF

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

**Name of Product:** Portable Electric Heaters

**Units:** About 152,000

**Importer/Distributor:** Aloha Housewares Inc., of Arlington, Texas

**Hazard:** The portable electric heater can overheat and melt plastic parts, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

**Incidents/Injuries:** Aloha Housewares has received 29 reports of the heaters melting, smoking or catching fire, including 18 reports of property damage. One consumer reported minor burns to the hands and feet.

**Description:** This recall involves electric oscillating tower heaters with the name “Aloha Breeze” printed on the top. The white heaters have model number 02044 and dates codes 06/06, 06/07, 06/08 or 06/09. Model numbers and date codes are printed on the silver label located on the back of the heater, near the bottom.

**Sold at:** Wal-mart and small retail chain stores nationwide from August 2006 through November 2007 for between \$35 and \$45.

**Manufactured in:** China

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled heaters and contact Aloha Housewares to receive a replacement product.

**Consumer Contact:** For additional information, contact Aloha Housewares at (800) 295-4448 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. CT Monday through Friday

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

**Name of Product:** Remote-Controlled Helicopter Toys

**Units:** About 30,000

**Importer:** Soft Air USA Inc., of Grapevine, Texas

**Hazard:** The rechargeable battery contained inside the helicopter can catch fire during charging, igniting the helicopter and nearby combustible materials. This poses a burn or fire hazard to consumers.

**Incidents/Injuries:** Soft Air USA has received six reports of helicopters igniting, including one minor injury.

**Description:** This recall involves the remote-controlled helicopter toy “Fun2Fly Microcopter” with item number 91001. The helicopter comes with a transmitter that controls and recharges the helicopter. The helicopter is made of foam and plastic and measures about 6 ½ inches by 2 ½ inches. The transmitter measures about 4 1/2 inches by 5 inches. “Fun2Fly” and “Microcopter” are printed on the packaging. The item number is printed above the UPC label.

**Sold at:** Sporting goods stores and other retailers nationwide from May 2007 through December 2007 for about \$30.

**Manufactured in:** China

**Remedy:** Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled toy helicopter and return it to the retailer where it was purchased for a full refund.

**Consumer Contact:** For additional information, call Soft Air USA collect at (817) 210-4181 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or e-mail the company at [Bhook@softairusa.com](mailto:Bhook@softairusa.com)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

**Name of Product:** Electric Toasters

**Units:** About 12,000

**Distributor:** Salton Inc., of Lake Forest, Ill.

**Hazard:** The toaster can turn on without bread in the slots and ignite items placed on top of it, posing a fire hazard.

**Incidents/Injuries:** None.

**Description:** This recall involves the chrome two-slice electric toasters sold under the following brands: Farberware (model # FCT200 or FCT100), Hoffritz (model # HZT2 and HZT2M), and Russell Hobbs (model #RH2MT). The brand name and model number are printed on a plate located on the underside of the toaster.

**Sold by:** Online and retail liquidators nationwide from January 2000 through December 2007 for between \$40 and \$50.

**Manufactured in:** China

**Remedy:** Consumers should stop using the toaster immediately, unplug it, and cut off the power cord where it enters the body of the toaster. Consumers who return the power cord in the prepaid envelope that will be provided will receive a full refund.

**Consumer Contact:** Contact Salton at (800) 233-9054 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site at [www.esalton.com](http://www.esalton.com)

**Note:** About 13,000 toasters of similar model were recalled by QVC in December 2007.

The following product safety recall was voluntarily conducted by the firm in cooperation with the CPSC. Consumers should stop using the product immediately unless otherwise instructed.

**Name of Product:** Comfortplus Under Area Rug Warmers

**Units:** About 200

**Retailer:** WarmlyYours, of Long Grove, Ill.

**Hazard:** The rug warmer's cord can come loose from the plug and cause sparks or flames, posing a fire hazard to consumers.

**Incidents/Injuries:** WarmlyYours has received two reports of incidents involving the rug warmer. One involved electrical sparks coming from the cord when it was pulled out. In the other incident, the cord caught fire and left burn marks on the area rug and floor. No injuries have been reported.

**Description:** The rug warmers are cream-colored with a non-slip pad, a tan nylon edging and a black electrical cord. They were sold in three sizes, small 3 ½ ft. x 4 ½ ft., medium 4 ¾ ft. x 7 ¾ ft., and large 7 ¾ ft. x 9 ¾ ft. Model numbers UAH-3646-120, UAH-4979-120, and UAH-7999-120 are printed on a label located on the underside of the rug warmer.

**Sold by:** WarmlyYours retail stores, and flooring stores nationwide, Warmly Yours.com, [www.heatedcarpetsnthings.com](http://www.heatedcarpetsnthings.com), [www.builderdepot.com](http://www.builderdepot.com), [www.kitchen source.com](http://www.kitchen source.com), [www.atrendyhome.com](http://www.atrendyhome.com), and [www.zearth.com](http://www.zearth.com) for between \$200 and \$600.

**Manufactured in:** China and Canada

**Remedy:** Consumers should stop using the rug warmers immediately, unplug it, and return the cord to WarmlyYours using the pre-paid shipping labels that the firm will provide for a full refund or a replacement product. WarmlyYours is directly contacting purchasers of the warming rugs.

**Consumer Contact:** For additional information, contact WarmlyYours toll-free at (866) 369-0805 between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.WarmlyYours.com](http://www.WarmlyYours.com)

*The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the IAAI or the Iowa Chapter IAAI.*

*Please, if you have any suggestions for improvements or changes to the newsletter send me an e-mail at: [bnelson@gmrc.com](mailto:bnelson@gmrc.com).*

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