

FIRE DANGER

Hal Ames



“Hurry! We don’t have much time. We have to get those people out of there,” Captain Jordan yelled out. “Get the equipment up here now!” he ordered his men to move into position.

His men came up behind him and brought the rescue equipment they needed to get the family out of the burning building.

“We have to move quickly. Frank, find the shut off for the gas line. Bill, turn off the electricity. The rest of you come with me,” Captain Jordan gave out directions.

As the men moved closer to the house, they put on their gear. The heat from the fire burning out of the windows on the second floor made entering the house very dangerous, but this is what they had been trained to do. There were at least two people in the house, but no one knew exactly where they were.

Ron and Steve put on their special equipment. This included heavy coveralls that would provide protection from the heat of the fire. They had breathing tanks attached to their backs and special masks on their helmets that not only protected their faces, but also helped them see better in the smoke. They had flashlights on the sides of the helmet.

Both men knew that once they entered the house they would be risking their lives, but they also knew that the people inside didn’t have a chance without them.

After getting all of the equipment on, they were hosed down with water. They entered the house. Steve was leading the way.

The house was full of smoke. They went into the living room yelling, "Is anyone here?"

They felt their way through the room checking every corner. They moved into the dining room and followed the same procedure. They came to the kitchen. They heard a noise. It was at the rear of the kitchen close to the door.

Steve followed by Ron, crawled to the sound. There was a dog trying to get out of the door.

Ron covered the dog with a blanket. They knew that if they opened the door, the extra oxygen would help the fire burn even stronger. Ron called on his radio about the dog to let the others know that it would be coming out soon.

"We need to move faster!" Ron said to Steve

"OK, I'll try," Steve responded.

They checked the laundry room and found nothing. When they got to the stairs, Ron released the dog and it ran out of the house. They started up the stairs. The heat was getting more intense.

At the top of the stairs was the first bedroom. The door was opened. Steve went in and searched the room while Ron stayed in the hall in case he needed to pull Steve out.

"All clear," Steve said, as he moved to the next room.

Again, Steve went in. Ron waited at the door.

"I found someone. They are breathing, but not conscious," Steve radioed.

He carried the young woman out of the room while on his knees.

"We need someone to get in here and get her out," Ron radioed the firefighters outside the house.

Another firefighter rushed into the house, picked up the young woman, and carried her to a waiting ambulance.

Steve went back into the same room. He didn't find anyone else.

"One more room to go," Steve said to Ron.

The last door was closed. Steve put his hand on the door. It was hot.

“This must be where the fire is,” Steve said as he looked back at Ron.

The most dangerous part of the job is where the fire is burning. So far, only one person had been removed. They were told that there might be one more somewhere in the house. Steve gently pushed the door open, fully expecting the fire to flash into the hallway. The fire did exactly as they expected. Ron and Steve lay close to the floor waiting for the flash to go down.

Steve then crawled into the room. There was a young boy lying on the floor under the bed; no one else was there.

Steve took the blanket off the bed and covered the boy. He wasn't breathing so Steve gave him oxygen as he gently dragged the boy out from under the bed.

“Let's get out of here!” Ron yelled. “I think the ceiling is about to collapse.”

Steve moved as fast as he could, pulling the young boy toward the door.

When Steve got the boy to the door, Ron picked him up and ran down the stairs and out the door. Steve was close behind. Just as the two firefighters left the house, the roof fell in. The house went up in a ball of red and yellow flames.

Steve and Ron fell to the ground while Ron cuddled the young boy against his chest.

The paramedics rushed up and took the young boy to the ambulance where they began to give him treatment.

About three minutes later, the boy opened his eyes and looked around.

“Where is my sister? Is she OK?” he asked while trying to get up.

Just then, a young woman climbed into the ambulance and hugged her brother.

The firefighters looked on. They had done what they were trained to do.

VOCABULARY (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. rescue _____ | a. processes, ways |
| 2. coveralls _____ | b. powerful, strong |
| 3. dangerous _____ | c. save, recover |
| 4. procedures _____ | d. warm covering |
| 5. laundry room _____ | e. transport to hospital |
| 6. intense _____ | f. sound |
| 7. flash _____ | g. place to clean clothes |
| 8. noise _____ | h. long pants with straps |
| 9. blanket _____ | i. blaze, bright |
| 10. ambulance _____ | j. unsafe, risky |

TRUE / FALSE

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Steve and Ron are firefighters. | T / F |
| 2. They found a cat in the kitchen. | T / F |
| 3. Ron opened the back door. | T / F |
| 4. They found the young women asleep in her bed. | T / F |
| 5. The dog ran out of the house. | T / F |
| 6. The kitchen was full of smoke. | T / F |
| 7. Steve and Ron were hosed down with water. | T / F |
| 8. The boy was found under a bed. | T / F |
| 9. The boy was taken to the hospital. | T / F |

10. When the boy woke up he asked about his sister.

T / F

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What did Luka catch to take to the king? _____
 - a) rabbit
 - b) chicken
 - c) turkey
 - d) cow

2. Who thought that the young man was handsome? _____
 - a) the queen
 - b) the princess
 - c) the king
 - d) Luka

3. What did Luka do with the mouse? _____
 - a) kept it as a pet
 - b) fed it to the turkey
 - c) killed it
 - d) turned it into an ogre

4. What did the ogre turn into? _____
 - a) tiger and mouse
 - b) turkey and rabbit
 - c) lion and gorilla
 - d) giant and dwarf

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. Who died in the beginning of the story?

2. What did Luka ask for from the young man?

3. What did Luka pretend to do before he caught the turkey?

4. What name did he give to the young man to impress the king?

5. What happened to the young man along the river?

6. Whom did Luka meet in the castle?

7. What was the ogre doing when Luka entered the castle?

8. What kind of animals did the ogre turn into?

9. Whom did the men on the road tell the king the land belonged to?

10. Who got married at the end of the story?
