

Timeline History of the “Michael 4 Safety” Program

The following is a timeline of events and activities encapsulating the essence of the Michael 4 Safety organization. We have listed children and youth who have died or been injured around oil/gas equipment; however, it is not intended to be an all-inclusive list. We know there must be more, but with limited resources and time to research, we have listed what we know. If you have a family member or friend who should be listed, please contact Ellen Jenkins via email at: ejen531482@sbcglobal.net

1992

October 20th

13 yr old boy died. He fell from pumping unit and was struck by the unit in Shawnee, OK

1993

April 27th

Michael Jenkins’ accident. Michael was a 12 year old boy stuck his head inside a storage tank and was asphyxiated.- Guthrie, OK

November

Michael’s parents, Bill & Ellen Jenkins, wrote to Representative Frank Davis asking for help to see if there might be a safety law passed.

They wrote to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission for the same reason.

1994

January

Michael’s parents met with Rep. Frank Davis at the Capitol to discuss what they were hoping to see for safety. He took them to also meet with Helen Cole in the Senate to see if she would author a similar bill in the senate; she agreed.

Bill and Ellen Jenkins then went to the Rules Committee at the Capitol and Michael’s father, Bill spoke to them about the dangers of oil and gas equipment to children and the need for a safety law.

Michael’s parents began lobbying for House Bill #2571, going to as many representatives as possible, encouraging them to vote for House Bill #2571.

February

Michael’s parents went to a meeting with Frank Davis, Senator Penny Williams, representatives from the Corporation Commission, some men from the Oil industry and attorneys to discuss implications of the proposed House Bill.

March-April

Michael’s folks worked diligently, lobbying for House Bill 2571.

May

Michael’s dad, Bill, had surgery to remove a cancerous kidney. Two weeks after surgery, Bill and Michael’s mom went to the capitol to lobby again.

They went to the capitol one more time to lobby in May. It was the day in which there would be a vote; House Bill #2571 passed! (The bill was set to become effective January 1995)

Michael's folks, Bill and Ellen went back to the Capitol for the signing of the Bill. Governor David Walter, Representative Frank Davis, Senator Helen Cole were all present.

July

Michael's parents, Bill and Ellen, went to Plainview, Texas for a Farm Safety 4 Just Kids seminar. The coordinators of the program wanted Michael's parents to start a similar program in Oklahoma.

1995

January

Oklahoma House Bill 2571 became effective requiring owner/operators of crude oil storage tanks to utilize one of three safety options.

February

Michael's parents sent letters to over 100 top Oil Companies, encouraging them to install a lock or crossbar on storage tanks which would stop another child from putting their head into the tank. They felt this would be safer than a danger sign that children might ignore.

April

Three 13-year-old-boys were killed in an explosion of a storage tank in Duncan, OK

August

A 13-year-old boy was killed on a pumping unit in Moore, OK.

Bill and Ellen wrote to Ed Apple with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB) to see if they would produce a safety video with input from parents. They agreed.

1996

August

Michael's parents, Bill and Ellen, were invited to a preview of the safety video developed by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and the OERB. A father of one of the three boys who died in the Duncan accident also came. Also present were people from Koch Oil, Martha Collar from the Oklahoma Safe Kids Coalition, Ed Apple from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, and representatives from OERB.

Bill and Ellen began spending time at libraries doing research on how many children and young people died around oilfield equipment.

A 17-year-old boy and a 17-year-old girl were killed in a pipeline explosion in Lively, Texas.

1997

June

A 13-year-old boy and a 15-year-old boy were killed in an explosion of a storage unit in Konawa, OK.

Upon learning of the deaths of the two additional children in Konawa, Michael's parents wrote a letter to Oklahoma Governor, Frank Keating asking him to encourage more safety around oil and gas equipment.

November

Wrote a letter to Executive Director of the Oklahoma State Firefighters Association asking for assistance in spreading the safety message; since firefighters are the first responders to oil/gas accidents, Michael's parents thought they may be able to assist in the educational effort. From that letter, Bill and Ellen were invited to the State Firefighters Association annual meeting to talk about their desire to educate children regarding the dangers of oil and gas equipment. From that meeting, Michael's parents were invited to participate as instructors in the annual Farm Safety Day Camps in Enid.

December

Started building displays for farm safety camps.

Michael's father, Bill, was awarded the Civilian of the Year from the 72nd Air Base Wing, Tinker Air Force Base for his efforts in educating children, as well as adults regarding the dangers of playing around gas and oil field equipment.

1998

January

Bill and Ellen met a committee of various representatives in Enid, comprised of insurance companies, fire departments, electrical companies, and others to convince them of the need for Michael 4 Safety in their area.

May

Mr. Phil Blackburn with Texaco came from Colorado to present Bill and Ellen a working miniature pumping unit for our safety programs. Mr. Blackburn also sent a TV/VCR combo for our presentations.

Taught 14 classes in Enid, OK, eight Classes in Fairview, OK and began developing a "Michael 4 Safety" Coloring Book.

June

Two teenagers (16 yrs old and 18 yrs old) were killed when oil tanks exploded in Logan, Ohio.

October

Bill and Ellen were invited to participate in a TV program in Enid called “For Your Own Safety” hosted by Bill Presley with the Fire Department and Linda Chambers with the Safe Kids program.

1999

May

Displayed the “Michael 4 Safety” exhibit at the Moore Community Fair.

Taught 14 Classes in Enid.

June

Taught a safety class for 120 Students in an assembly in Tulsa, OK

Two 10-year-old boys and a 18 year-old-boy were killed in a pipeline explosion in the state of Washington.

September

Wrote a letter to Martha Collar, Executive Director of the Safe Kids Coalition asking for assistance in notifying schools in Oklahoma about a safety video produced and distributed by the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB). There were 1800 letters sent with a 33% response rate.

October

Wrote to Denise Bode with the Corporation Commission to see if there was anything they could do to promote more safety.

December

Bill and Ellen had a meeting with Denise Bode in which she committed to encourage additional safety in regard to oil/gas equipment.

2000

April

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Moore Community Fair.

May

Taught 8 Classes in Fairview, OK and 14 Classes in Enid, OK, reaching 375 students.

Commissioner Denise Bode developed the “Michael Jenkins Award” within the Oklahoma Corporation to heighten awareness and recognize the effort of individuals who advocate safety; Bill and Ellen were the first recipients.

2001

March

We approached Martha Collar with the Safe Kids Coalition again to send letters out to the schools in Oklahoma to promote the OERB safety video. This time there was 1100 sent out, with more than 300 schools responding to get the video.

2001

April

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Moore Community Fair.

Taught two safety camps in assembly-fashion to a total of 300 students at Hillsdale School in Hillsdale, Oklahoma.

Taught two safety camps in assembly-fashion to a total of 150 students at Emanuel Christian School in Enid, Oklahoma.

May

Taught two assemblies in the Cordell, Oklahoma school to a total of 250 students.

Taught 15 Classes in Enid, Oklahoma, reaching 200 students

June

Taught a safety class to the Vacation Bible School of Woodcrest Baptist Church in Guthrie, OK

A 9-old boy was injured in pumping unit accident in Enos, OK.

2002

April

Taught 14 Classes in Enid, OK

Taught 8 Classes at Madison School in Oklahoma City.

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Moore Community Fair.

May

Exhibited the Michael 4 Safety program at the Safe Kids Summit in OKC.

Taught 8 Classes in Fairview, OK

June

Exhibited Michael 4 Safety at the Xerox Plant in OKC during their safety awareness program.

Began reconstructing and improving the education value of the Michael 4 Safety coloring book.

2003

April

A 14-year-old boy, a 14-year-old girl, a 15-year-old boy, and a 15-year-old girl were killed and a 15-year-old boy was injured in a storage tank explosion in Long Lake, Texas.

Taught 12 Classes in Enid, OK

Exhibited at the Moore Community Fair.

May

Taught 6 Classes in Alva.

July

Michael 4 Safety Activity and Coloring book was put on the Oklahoma Safe Kids web site to be accessible to children and teachers alike seeking safety material.

September

Ellen became a member of the board of directors for the Oklahoma Safe Kids Coalition. Displayed Michael 4 Safety at the NeuroScience & Rehabilitation Conference in Oklahoma City, OK.

Michael's mom began volunteering for Oklahoma Safe Kids Coalition to display at various safety events in Oklahoma, displaying material for both Safe Kids and Michael 4 Safety.

October

The Michael 4 Safety Activity and Coloring book was placed on both the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and the Farm Safety 4 Just Kids web sites.

2004

January

The Michael 4 Safety Activity and Coloring book was put on the Oklahoma Energy Resource Board web site.

February

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at Northwest Christian School in Oklahoma City and the University of Oklahoma in Edmond, OK.

March

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at Rose State College in Midwest City, OK

April

Taught 14 Farm Safety classes in Enid, OK (approximately 225 children)

Taught 8 Farm Safety classes in Fairview, OK

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at Hertz Reservations Center in Oklahoma City, OK

May

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Moore Community Fair, Moore, OK.

Participated in the Safe Kids Summit group session and also did a presentation on Michael 4 Safety "Oil Field Equipment Safety for Children".

Taught 8 Farm Safety classes in Alva, OK

September

Bill and Ellen Jenkins applied for and were granted a 501c3, Non Profit status for the Michael 4 Safety program.

July

Ellen Jenkins was awarded the Volunteer Member of the Year by the Oklahoma Safe Kids Coalition.

2005

January

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Guthrie First Baptist Church, Guthrie, OK.

February

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety in the following Oklahoma Schools:

Myers School in Yukon; Cotteral School in Guthrie; Bodine School in Oklahoma City

March

Bill and Ellen went to Crandell, Texas to the Smalley Foundation to discuss the Michael 4 Safety Program, since both organizations are focused on safety around oil/gas equipment. The organizations decided to list each other through links on their web sites. Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Toys R Us at Quail Springs in Oklahoma City, OK

April

A 12-year-old girl was killed while playing on a pumping unit in Farmington, New Mexico.

Conducted 12 Farm Safety Day Camps in Enid, OK

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Moore Community Safety Fair in Moore, OK

May

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Oklahoma State Capitol

Taught 8 classes at the Alva Farm Safety Day Camp.

May 16th the Oklahoma State Senate declared that enrolled House Bill #2571 now be known as The Michael Allen Jenkins Law.

June

Taught classes at the Farm Safety Day Camp in Stillwater, OK

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at Mount St. Mary's High School in Oklahoma City and at the Carney Safety Day in Carney, OK

July

Participated in the Safe Kids Golf Tournament in Edmond, OK

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Indian Clinic Safety Fair in Oklahoma City and at the University of Central Oklahoma Safety Fair in Edmond, OK

August

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Safety Fair at the Oklahoma State Department of Health's Safety Fair in Oklahoma City and at the Avery Church in Oklahoma City, OK

September

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Stilwell, OK Safety Fair and the New Convent Church in Oklahoma City, OK

October

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Wal Mart in Edmond, OK

November

Delivered materials for the presentation of Michael 4 Safety done by the Red Cross; Michael's mother observed and answered questions.

2006

January

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the following locations in Oklahoma:
Oklahoma Home and Garden show at the Oklahoma City Fair Grounds
Jet Elementary School in Jet, OK

February

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, OK

March

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Chickasaw Nation Health Fair in Duncan, OK

April

Taught 8 Farm Safety Day Camps in Taloga, OK and 10 classes in Enid, OK
Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Moore Safety Fair in Moore, OK

May

Taught 8 Farm Safety Day Camps in Alva, OK and 8 Fairview, OK

June

Taught 8 Farm Safety Day Camps in Kellyville, OK

August

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Moore Healthy Lifestyle Fair in Moore, OK and the Blue Cross & Blue Shield Health Fair in Oklahoma City, OK

September

Taught 8 classes at the Stilwell Safety Camp in Stilwell, OK and displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Oklahoma County Immunization Fair at the Metro Technology Center in Oklahoma City, OK

October

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the OG&E Health & Safety Fair in Oklahoma City, OK

November

Michael's mother displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the University of Central Oklahoma Teacher & Principal Seminar in Edmond, OK

December

One 14-year-old boy was killed and a 15-year-old boy was injured in storage tank explosion in Springtown, Texas

2007

March

A 15-year-old boy was severely burned in an explosion of a storage tank in Oklahoma City, OK

Taught 10 classes at the Farm Safety Day Camp in Enid, OK

April

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the YMCA in Oklahoma City, OK

May

Two 15-year-old boys and one 16-year-old boy were killed in a storage tank explosion in Mercedes, Texas

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Moore Health Fair in Moore, OK

Taught 7 classes at a Safety Camp in Oklahoma City; 8 classes in Alva, OK and 8 classes at the Farm Safety Camp in Maud, OK

June

One 17-yr-old boy and one 19-yr-old boy were killed and one teenaged boy was injured in a tank explosion in Steamboat Springs, Colorado

Taught 8 classes at the Farm Safety Day Camp in Stillwater, OK

July

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Francis Tuttle Health Fair in Oklahoma City, OK

September

Taught 8 classes at the Safety Day in Stilwell, OK

October

Taught 8 classes at the "Safety Day" in Blanchard, OK

2008

April

Taught 12 classes at the Farm Safety Day Camp in Enid, OK

Taught 5 classes at a Safety event for Oklahoma Christian Bible School in Enid, OK

May

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at a Safety Day in Moore, OK

Taught 8 classes at the Farm Safety Day Camp in Alva, OK and 8 classes at the Farm Safety Camp in Fairview, OK

June

Taught 8 classes at the Farm Safety Day Camp in Kellyville, OK

August

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at Francis Tuttle Vocational Technical School in Oklahoma City, OK

2009

January

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit and taught safety lessons at Shedeck Elementary School in Yukon, OK

February

17 yr old boy was injured after trying to ride on a pumping unit in Oklahoma City, OK. Oklahoma City Fire Deputy Chief Clay said when they arrived on the scene they realized A “field amputation” was necessary because the 17 yr old arm had been pinned and crushed. He was expected to survive.

April

Taught the Michael 4 Safety program for 8 classes at the Oklahoma Christian Bible School in Enid, OK; and 8 classes at a Safety Fair at Hillsdale Elementary School in Hillsdale, OK.

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety Program at a Safety Fair at the YMCA in Oklahoma City, OK

May

Displayed the Michael 4 Safety exhibit at the Safety Fair in Moore, OK;
Taught 8 Farm Safety Day Camps at Alva, OK; 10 classes at a Farm Safety Camp in Enid, OK and 8 classes at Farm Safety Day Camps in Fairview, OK

June

Taught a Farm Safety Day Camp in Stillwater, OK

October

One 18-year-old and one 16-year-old were killed October 31, 2009, when an oil tank, located in a clearing in the woods near the home of one of the boys in the rural town of Carnes, Mississippi suddenly exploded. Video “[No place to hang out](#)”

December

Instructed the Michael 4 Safety program at a safety training seminar in Watonga, OK in a “train-the-trainer” fashion.

2010

April

Oil Field explosion in New London, Texas, 1 Dead, 1 injured in Oil field explosion. One 24 yr old girl found near the oil well tank batteries was pronounced dead on the scene. The 24 yr old young man was found but was in critical condition. He was just yards away from the explosion site. Sources said it was likely a cigarette lighter that ignited the fumes.