



THE OSKALOOSA Independent



Ed Morrison, KU fire and rescue training instructor, demonstrates how to make proper cuts during a grain bin engulfment.

Photos by Bridget Weishaar



KU fire and rescue

Firefighters, rescue personnel receive life-saving training

by Bridget Weishaar

Members of the District No. 11 Fire Department, Valley Falls, played host to a grain engulfment training demonstration Saturday at the fire station.

Approximately 60 people from 11 fire districts, emergency management, and the Jefferson County Emergency Medical Services were in attendance to receive firsthand training from Ed Morrison and his team of instructors with the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute at the University of Kansas.

Participants spent the first half of the day in class learning about proper rescue techniques and tools to use in case of an emergency. The afternoon was spent learning hands-on how to make proper cuts in galvanized steel with different types of saws, assemble grain rescue tubes, and rescue "victims" trapped inside grain bins.

Mike Baxter, Jefferson County emergency management director, stated the county currently owns two grain rescue tubes to assist in grain bin emergencies. The first tube was donated by Jackson Farmers Inc. in memory of Mike Miller, a Valley Falls farmer who lost his life last fall in a grain bin accident, and is housed at the Valley Falls fire station. The sec-



ond tube was purchased by Jefferson County Emergency Management and is located at the EMS office in Oskaloosa. The cost of the tubes is \$3,900.

At left: Ed Morrison and Nortonville Fire Captain Michael Wentz lower a rescue worker into the opening of a grain bin in Saturday's mock rescue demonstration.