



Hot Flashes



Volume 15 Issue 1

www. SHFD.net

October 2008

Published for the Residents of the Signal Hill Fire Protection District

It's Fire Prevention Week

PREVENT HOME FIRES

October 5-11, 2008
firepreventionweek.org



United States Fire Facts

- ◆ The leading causes of fires in the home are cooking (which leads to the most fires and injuries), heating equipment and electrical devices. Fire caused by smoking materials and heating equipment are the leading cause of home fire deaths.
- ◆ 65% of the reported home fire deaths occurred in homes with either *no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.*
- ◆ In 2006, United States fire departments responded to almost 400,000 home structure fires - one fire every 80 seconds.
- ◆ On the average , 7 people are killed every day in home fires - one person dies in a fire every 2.75 hours.

Signal Hill Fire Facts

- ◆ An analysis of Signal Hill's responses for the past 10 years reflects national statistics.
- ◆ Nearly 60% of all Signal Hill's responses are to residential properties.

See pages 4 & 5 on how to protect your family.

Preparing Makes Sense!

Get a Kit, Make a Plan,
Be Informed

www.ready.gov
www.citizenscorps.gov
www.redcrossstl.org

Emergency Dial 9-1-1

- ◆ Remain Calm.
- ◆ Give location, name and type of emergency clearly.
- ◆ Always let the telecommunicator hang up first.



Non-Emergency.....277-3500
Administrative.....397-1995

Does Fire Prevention Work?

The short answer is **YES!** Fire Prevention Does Work! It is difficult to quantify how many fires are prevented because citizens practice fire safe behaviors. The ultimate goal of any fire department should be to reduce or even eliminate fires. While this may not be realistic, for a variety of factors, the incidences of fires across the United States have been declining. More importantly, the number of fire-related deaths and injuries are also decreasing. According to the United States Fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association, there is a direct correlation between public education (fire prevention behaviors) and the incidences of fire. No surprise here.

While fire suppression is only one part of , it is certainly the most visible, and the one type of incident that you can participate in to prevent death, injuries and destruction. Through August 31st, the Signal Hill Fire Department had responded to 85 emergency incidents in 2008. This number of responses is a noticeable decrease from preceding years.

Here is how you can help to make the remainder of 2008 safe:

1. Practice fire prevention measures and develop fire safety habits.
2. Install and maintain smoke detectors.
3. Have your fire alarm system checked and serviced annually.
4. Maintain your home and property in a fire safe manner.

***Remember Fire Prevention is more cost effective than Fire Suppression.
Help Us to Help You!***



Signal Hill Firefighters work at the scene of a head-on accident September 6th in the 9500 block of State Route 15. Three victims required extrication from the vehicles. Firefighters used the *Jaws-of-Life* to free the victims. In addition, firefighters secured the vehicles by disconnecting electrical systems.

One victim was transported via ARCH air medical to a St. Louis trauma center. The other two victims were also transported to St. Louis by paramedics.

Once the victims were transported, firefighters contained engine and transmission fluids and assisted with scene clean-up. Firefighters were on-scene for 1.5 hours.

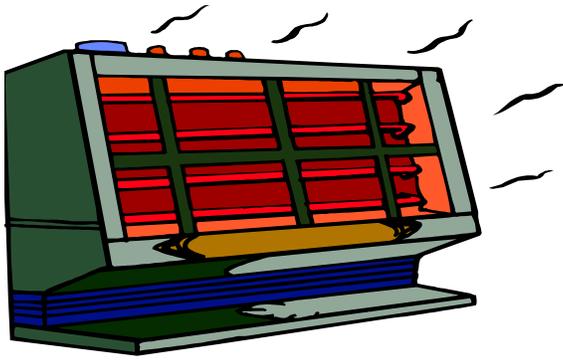
The Signal Hill Fire Department Welcomes Our Newest Members

Active—Judy Daniels
Associate—Barb Brannan

Your name goes here!

Improving the Quality of Life in Our Community 24/7—365 Days a Year





Almost half of home heating equipment fires were reported during the months of December, January, and February

Heating Safety Tips

- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet from people and from anything that can burn, such as curtains and bedding.
- Turn space heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Have heating equipment professionally inspected and serviced every year.
- Have your chimneys cleaned and inspected before each heating season.





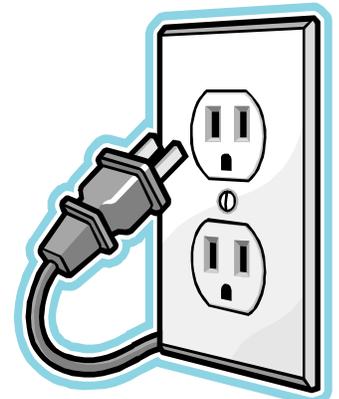
Remember that carbon monoxide alarms are required in all homes in Illinois

Electrical

On the average, 330 deaths occur annually as a result of over 21,500 home structure fires caused by electrical distribution and lighting equipment. Electrical distribution and lighting equipment includes fixed wiring, transformers, meter or meter bases, power switch gear, switches, receptacles and outlets, cords and plugs, and lighting devices.

Electrical Safety Tips

- Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.
- Avoid overloading receptacles.
- Plug in only one high-wattage appliance at a time into a receptacle outlet.
- Install arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to protect electrical outlets. AFCIS protect against fire by continuously monitoring the electrical current in a circuit and shutting off the circuit when unintended arcing occurs.
- Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) electrical outlets in kitchens, bathrooms, outdoor areas, basements, and garages. GFCIs greatly reduce the risk of shock by shutting off an electric circuit which could be a shock hazard.





Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and injuries!

Cooking Safety Tips

- Pay attention to your cooking. Stay in the kitchen when you are **frying, grilling, or broiling** food.
- If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are **simmering, boiling, baking, or roasting** food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible.
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting or short sleeves.
- Allow food cooked in the microwave oven to cool for one minute or more before you remove it from the oven; remember to use an oven mitt.
- Open micro-waved food slowly. Hot steam escaping from the container can cause painful burns.

Smoking is the leading cause of fire deaths.



Smoking materials (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, matches, lighters, etc.) are a leading cause of fire deaths in the United States, with roughly 700-900 deaths per year. The most common items in home smoking fire deaths are upholstered furniture and mattresses or bedding.

Smoking Safety Tips

- Designate a smoking area outside the home.
- Provide smokers with deep sturdy ashtrays.
- Keep smoking materials from anything that can burn, like mattresses, bedding, and upholstered furniture.
- Choose fire-safe cigarettes.
- Never smoke in bed or when overly tired.



Hometown Ace Hardware
Allard's Shoe Repair
Bel-Air Bowl
Belleville Health and Sports Center
Commerce Bank
Fun Spot Skating Center
Gateway Grizzlies
Chief Greg Render
Hollywood Tan
Jiffy Lube
Landshire Sandwiches, Inc.
Laser Rock at the Edge
Maxwell's Restaurant
Memorial Hospital
Nonna's Family Restaurant
Ridemakerz
Firefighter Shelly Hudson
Shenanigan's Restaurant & Sports Bar
Shop-N-Save
Shrine Restaurant
Six Flags Over St. Louis
Spring-a-Lings (www.springalings.com)
Splash City Waterpark
St. Louis Bread Company
St. Louis Cardinals
St. Louis Rams Community Outreach
Target Stores
The Abbey
The Gary Bainter Family
Towers Fire Apparatus Co., Inc.
United Parcel Service
Yorktown Golf Course

The Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters recognize the following individuals, companies or organizations for their very generous and continued support of *Ribs & Raffle Day*.

Thanks also to all of our great residents who support their Fire Department!

Save the Date for the 21st *Ribs & Raffle Day*,
June 28, 2009.



Often, the public only gets to see volunteer firefighters when they are responding to emergency calls, at community activities, or training. Very rarely does the public ever get to see the people who operate “behind the scenes.” The Signal Hill Fire Department is fortunate to have *Associate* members who provide logistical and administrative support in order to keep the lights on and the wheels turning. In this issue of *Hot Flashes* we highlight four of the Fire Department’s *Associate* members.

Curtis Williams is a retired engineer from Southwestern Bell and is the owner/operator of a horse stable. Using his electronics background and being an avid amateur radio operator, Curtis is responsible for the Department’s radios, pagers, cell phones, and all equipment that uses rechargeable batteries. He assists with emergency communications and maintains 120V lighting mounted on the fire apparatus. Curtis helps with the Fire Department’s website, **SHFD.net**, and monitors severe weather conditions when firefighters are operating at emergencies.

Joe “J.J.” Walker (right in the photo) is a retired local delivery driver and serves as the Fire Department’s Logistics Coordinator. Joe’s duties include transporting various fire equipment to testing labs in the greater St. Louis region. (Fire equipment testing is necessary to ensure proper operation and certification.) Joe also drives the fire engines to shops for major repairs, servicing and testing. In addition, Joe picks up and delivers Fire Department documents or materials that are time sensitive.

Roger Wilmann (left in the photo) served as a volunteer firefighter for many years and is a retired heavy-duty truck mechanic. Roger assists with maintaining and servicing the fire engines and gasoline-powered equipment such as chainsaws, blowers, hydraulic rescue power units and generators. He also conducts monthly drive train checks and updates maintenance records on all apparatus and equipment. Roger serves on the Fire Department’s Board.

Gayle Schmisser is one of Signal Hill’s most tenured members, having served as a volunteer since he was 21 years old. (That was a long time.) Gayle has become the go-to-guy if something needs to be fixed. A retired employee of Boeing Aircraft, Gayle has an extensive knowledge of mechanics and is known to have an extensive variety of tools. Need a “widget” clamp? How about a do-thingy? or even a what-cha-ma-call-it reverse-thread wrench? Gayle most likely has one or two and knows how to use it. Gayle served as the Fire Chief from 1977 -1992. Like Roger, Gayle also serves on the Fire Department Board

Having *Associate* members allows Signal Hill’s volunteer firefighters to focus on their core activities of preventing fires, responding to requests for emergency assistance and protecting property. Furthermore, Associates help to reduce overall operational costs of the Department. The Fire Department currently has 19 *Associates* who contribute several thousand hours annually to improve the quality of life in our community. There is always room for one more! *How about you?*

This job is hot.

**Think you can
stand the heat?**

Join the Signal Hill Fire Department

Signal Hill

Fire Department

329 Hazel Avenue
Belleville, Illinois 62223

NONPROFIT ORG.
CARRIER ROUTE
PRESORT

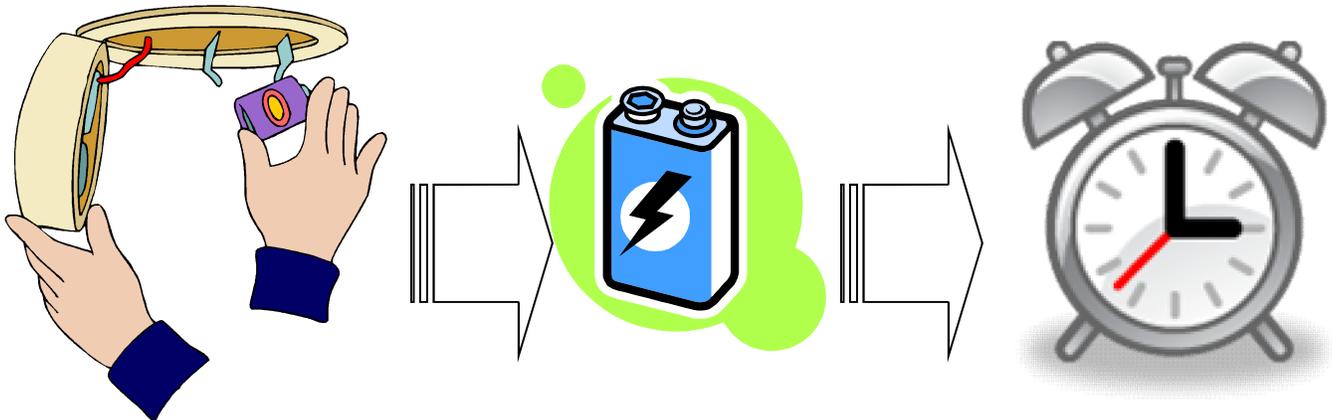
PAID

Belleville, Illinois
PERMIT NO. 880



To Report a Fire Dial 9-1-1

This edition of Hot Flashes was edited and prepared for mailing by Mary N. and Patricia G.



Remember on November 8th
Change Your Clock - Change Your Battery