



Hot Flashes



Volume 17 Issue 2

www. SHFD.net

March 2011

Published for the Residents of the Signal Hill Fire Protection District

Unattended cooking damaged this kitchen on January 9th. The four occupants were in another room when the grease ignited. The home had no working smoke detectors.

When the fire was discovered, an occupant carried the pan over to the sink. This actually spread the fire.



- ◆ Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the United States.
- ◆ Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food.
- ◆ Grease fires - Always keep a pot holder, oven mitt, and lid handy. If a pan of food catches fire, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Prevent flare-ups by leaving the pan covered until it is completely cool.
- ◆ Smoke detectors should be installed on every level of your home.
- ◆ Report all fires by dialing 9-1-1, even if you think you've put them out.
- ◆ Keeping a fire extinguisher near the kitchen is also highly recommended.

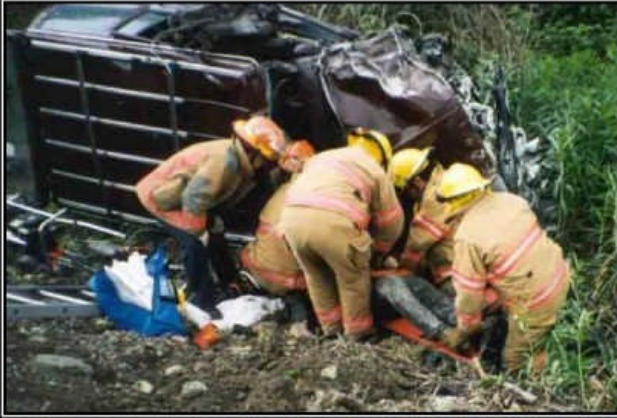
Emergency

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



TEXT MESSAGING
lol no im nt bsy im only drving

The United States Department of Transportation reports that texting and using cell phones while driving is just as deadly as drivers under the influence of alcohol.

In Illinois, a person may not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device to compose, send, or read an electronic message.

It is also illegal in Illinois to use cell phones while driving near accidents or incident scenes where emergency responders are operating.

What did you accomplish in 2010?

This is what the Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters accomplished.

- ◆ Collectively, attended nearly 2400 hours of firefighter education and training activities.
- ◆ Responded to 155 requests for emergency services which required a total of 1671 staff hours.
- ◆ Spent over 150 hours conducting public education activities, fire prevention talks, attending community events and promoting personal safety awareness.



The 155 emergency responses were categorized as follows:

- ◆ Fires.....20%
- ◆ Good Intent.....25%
- ◆ Hazardous Conditions.....13%
- ◆ Overpressure/explosion....2%
- ◆ Rescue.....6%
- ◆ Service Call.....10%
- ◆ Weather Related.....1%
- ◆ False Alarm or Call.....24%

Property damage occurred at five fires in 2010 - three structure fires and two vehicle fires.

Remember, most fires and “accidents” are preventable with just a little common sense.

The photo below shows the smoke damage that can be caused by a “room & contents” fire. The fire occurred at the opposite end of the house, in a bedroom. Despite the lack of direct flame contact, the entire upper level was stripped down to the studs and new drywall installed. Fortunately, a smoke detector sounded and alerted the occupant.





Over 50 Raffle Prizes will be given away on June 26th at the conclusion of Ribs & Raffle.

This year's prizes include a DVD player, and MP3 players, and "other" electronics. Gift certificates, sporting events gift baskets, dining certificates and dozens of other prizes will be awarded.

A full list of businesses and individuals who help support **Ribs & Raffle '11** will be listed in the October issue of ***HOT FLASHES***

Remember, you can't win unless to return your raffle tickets

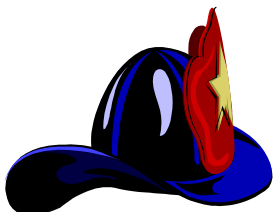


March 18th. Signal Hill Firefighters assisted the Northwest Fire on kitchen fire that resulted a fatality. The fire was caused by unattended cooking. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the U.S.



On March 26 & 27, the Signal Hill Firefighters responded to 4 traffic accidents in a 13-hour period. A total of 7 victims were transported to hospitals. Two victims were in critical condition and transferred to a St. Louis trauma center.

The Signal Hill Firefighters thank the Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate for printing the Ribs & Raffle Day Hot Flashes and raffle tickets.



The Signal Hill Fire Department Welcomes Our Newest Active Member - Matt Frerker

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



Yard Fires - faster than you think! Spring means residents wanting to clean up their yards of fall leaves and winter residue. Often times, people mistakenly believe that the open burning of landscape waste is not dangerous. Fires spreading across a dry yard are so quick, you cannot react fast enough.

Photo left, this fire spread to underneath the siding on the house and charred the studs. Photo right, fire spread and burnt the siding on the back of a garage.

Consider a safer alternative to burning by recycling landscape waste. If you are adamant about burning your landscape waste always have a charged garden hose at hand.

NEVER leave an open fire unattended.



Spring is also the time for plant flower gardens, trees, shrubberies and other landscaping. Prior to putting that shovel in the ground, did you remember to call JULIE?

JULIE, Inc. (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) is a not-for-profit corporation that provides homeowners and professional excavators with one place to call for safe digging. JULIE locates underground utilities to prevent homeowners and others from digging related accidents. Illinois state law requires the person doing the digging to notify JULIE 48 hours prior to beginning the excavation.

Striking buried utilities can cause personal injury, property & environmental damage and utility outages. In some case fires have resulted from damaged natural gas pipes or electrical cables.

Contact JULIE by dialing 8-1-1 or at www.illinois1call.com for additional information.

Safe digging is no accident.



The December 31st tornado that struck south St. Louis County serves as a reminder that severe weather can impact our region at any time of the year.

Knowing how to prepare and react when severe thunderstorms or tornadoes strike can literally make the difference between life and death for you and your family. Investing in a WEATHER RADIO (available at most electronic stores) or having your cell phone enabled to receive weather alerts can keep you up to date regarding warnings or watches that have been issued by the National Weather Service.

Tornado WATCHES indicate that the weather elements are developing that may result in the formation of a tornado. Listen to radio or watch television broadcasts to track storms in or near St. Clair County. Doppler radar links via the internet, on smart phones or home computers can also be used to follow a storm's path. Be prepared to move quickly.

Tornado WARNINGS mean a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. *Immediate actions* should be taken - move to a safe refuge. Take a portable radio, flashlight and your home family safety supplies with you.

Outdoor Warning Sirens are activated by the St. Clair County Emergency Management Agency based upon **WARNINGS** issued by the National Weather Service. Sirens will sound for 3 minutes.

The Signal Hill Fire Department owns and maintains three outdoor warning sirens within the Fire Protection District. Sirens are scheduled to be tested on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Spring is the time for Fire Safety!

Clear your basement, attics and garages of old papers, clothes, rags, mattresses, broken furniture and other combustible odds & ends.

Dispose of old paints, varnishes, gasoline, and other flammable liquids in an environmentally approved manner.

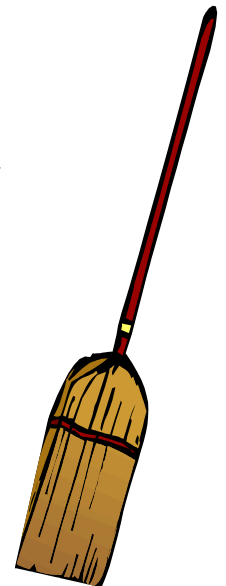
Have powered lawn equipment, mowers, tractors, and trimmers professionally serviced. Ensure for a fresh fuel supply. Remember to store fuel in sealed and approved containers.

Install fire extinguishers in your garage, kitchen, and utility room. If you already have fire extinguishers, make sure that they are serviced annually by a qualified technician.

Clean out the clothes dryer vent, refrigerator coils, and other areas where dust can collect.

Check and clean your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Have a licensed electrician check your home's service panel, appliances, ground fault interrupter receptacles, and arc fault circuits. Inspect extension cords before use indoors or outdoors.



Volunteer Profile Firefighter Jeff Fournie

Hi, my name is Jeff Fournie. I joined the Signal Hill Fire Department in the summer of 1985. I met my beautiful wife Heidi through a friend of the Fire Department. We married in 1989 and have been blessed with our two sons, Jackson, age 11 and Holden, age 6.

In 1985, I didn't know much about our local fire department. But assumed they would respond when called, After joining, I quickly discovered the dedication and commitment of the men and women who volunteer their time to keep the community safe.



Heidi, Jackson, Holden and Jeff Fournie

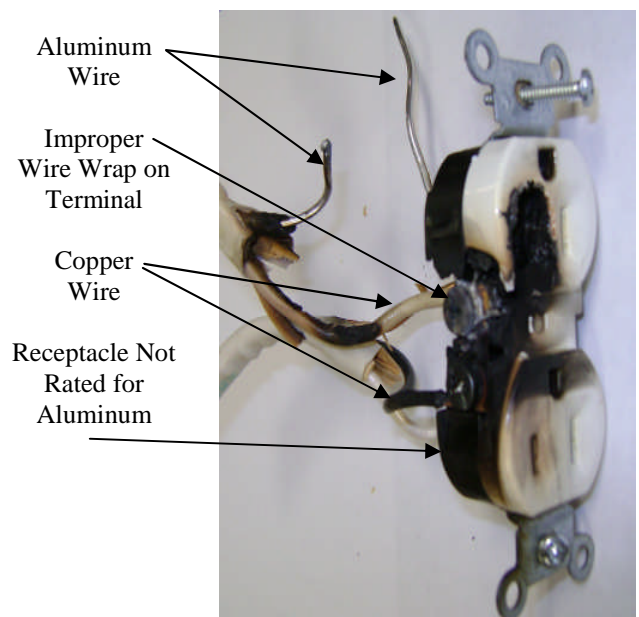
Over the years, I have seen many changes at the Signal Hill Fire Department. The fire trucks and equipment are modern. The firehouse has been updated and expanded. The training opportunities for firefighters have increased. Also education of the public, both in schools and within the community have become a priority.

I have enjoyed the time I have been a member of the Signal Hill Fire Department and look forward to continuing into the future. If you are interested in learning more about your Fire Department, please stop by for a visit.

January 30th -- This photo is a classic example of the improper electric connection of aluminum and a wall receptacle that is not rated for aluminum wire. The homeowner plugged in an electric space heater. Because of the high current draw of the heater, the aluminum wiring melted and shorted out the electrical circuit.

If you even suspect that your home has aluminum wiring, you should have your home's electric service inspected by a licensed electrician.

In the past several years, Signal Hill Firefighters have responded to several residential fires caused by aluminum wire. ***Play it safe - get it inspected.***



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



To Report a Fire Dial 9-1-1



Since 1989 the Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters have been hosting their *RIBS & RAFFLE DAY*. This is the Volunteer Firefighters only annual fundraising event.

By supporting *Ribs & Raffle Day*, *you are* helping the women and men who are your *first* responders. On call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, your volunteer firefighters are work-

ing hard to educate and inform you about the perils of a hostile fire. In addition to public education, your volunteer firefighters train to respond to a variety of incidents. Regardless of the type of emergency, your volunteer firefighters will be there for you!

Please help to make the 2011 *RIBS & RAFFLE DAY* the best one ever.