

Winfield Fire Protection
District
27W530 Highlake Road
Winfield, IL 60190
(630) 653-5050—Phone
(630) 653-6474—Fax
www.winfieldfpd.org
admin@winfieldfpd.org

“Fire Line”

VOLUME I, ISSUE IV

DEC / JAN / FEB 2007

DISTRICT COVERS:

- 30,000 Residents
- 13 Square Miles
- More than 30 bodies of water
- 2 major hospitals
- 7 churches
- 4 educational facilities
- 4 long term health facilities
- Over 300 commercial occupancies

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CPR Classes	2
Services Offered	2
Get to Know Your Firefighters	2
From the Desk of the Fire Chief	2
Your Questions Answered	3
Tidbits	3
Fire Prevention Bureau	4
Safety First	4

The Great Flood of 2006 . . .

Where were you during the Great Flood of 2006? Okay, so the flood of October 2, 2006 wasn't so great, but we certainly did get a lot of water!! Here's an idea of what kept us busy.

From approximately 9:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. the Winfield Fire Protection District responded to 28 emergency responses, all related to the storm. Although these emergencies shared a common cause, they were various in nature, including electrical investigations, carbon monoxide investigations, EMS/rescue responses, and a structure fire.

One of the rescue calls involved cars that were submerged under rapidly rising water at Schaffner and Mack Roads with people trapped inside. Since all of our emergency vehicles were committed to other emergencies, Chief DiMenza was first to arrive on the scene and begin rescue efforts. He quickly discovered that not only was the water rapidly rising, it was also flowing at such a fast pace, it knocked him off his feet and pulled him under. Once he regained his footing, he was able to resume rescue efforts with the help of a Wheaton truck company and a Winfield ambulance.

In the meantime, the ambulance was responding to emergency medical calls, while the fire engines responded to the other emergency calls. Even though the Winfield Fire Protection District had three fire engines responding, one with full time employees, and two with paid-on-call employees, it was obvious that they could not be at all emergency locations at the same time. In addition, all surrounding jurisdictions were equally overwhelmed, so mutual aid was unavailable to us. This became an even bigger concern when a citizen's attached shed was struck by lightning and subsequently caught fire. Because the fire engines were committed to other emergencies, it took several minutes for one of

them to clear their call before they were able to respond to the structure fire. Ultimately, the only damage was a lost shed, and attached house was fine.

The most memorable emergency call that evening was for a flooded basement with electrical appliances in use and a person still inside the house. Since Chief DiMenza was clear from the flooded vehicle rescue, he responded directly to this call. He arrived at the home at the same time as an engine company. Upon arrival, it was confirmed that there was a teenage boy in the home, and the basement was flooded with electrical equipment in use under water. When Chief DiMenza approached the front door of this bi-level home, he could see that the water was up to one step below the landing. Because the water had not yet reached the landing, he was confident that he could still enter the house without exposing himself to unnecessary harm.

However, once he stepped onto the landing, he received an electrical shock that traveled from his feet all throughout the rest of his body. The members of the engine company immediately pulled him from the house, where he collapsed on the lawn, unable to stand for several minutes. It also took a few minutes for him to be able to answer questions correctly. Fortunately, a trip to the emergency room revealed no permanent damage, and he was released back to duty a couple of days later.

As a reminder, these newsletters are intended to be informational in nature in order to allow the residents of the Winfield Fire Protection District to learn more about the men and women who provide their fire and emergency medical services. Any error or omission of information is unintentional on our part. If you have any questions, please contact the fire district administration office, Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm at (630) 653-5050.

When you call 9-1-1, we move as quickly as possible to respond to your emergency. But if we can't find your house, precious minutes can be lost. Take a few minutes this weekend to check the numbers on your house and mailbox. If they are missing, incorrect or faded, it may be time for a quick trip to the hardware store. In addition, the Winfield Fire Protection District sells reflective address signs which are installed for you at a cost of \$20.00 each. Contact (630) 653-5050 for details.

CPR Classes

Healthcare Provider CPR classes are held on the 4th Saturday of every month at 9:00 am. The 2007 schedule of classes for the rest of the year is:

1/27/07 2/24/07
 3/24/07 4/28/07
 5/26/07 6/23/07
 7/28/07 8/25/07
 9/22/07 10/27/07
 11/24/07 12/22/07

There is a \$50.00 fee per participant, which includes the cost of the instruction manual. Register at Fire Station #1, between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Services Offered:

- **Car Safety Seat Inspections**

Child safety seat checks are available daily by appointment to be sure that a technician is available when you need your safety seat checked. In addition, a Child Safety Seat Checkpoint are conducted the 1st Saturday of every month at Fire Station #1 between 10:00am and 1:00pm.

- **Blood Pressure Checks**

The Winfield Fire District on-duty paramedics are available to check your blood pressure at no charge to you.

- **Home Safety Inspections**

Our Fire Prevention Bureau is available to assist you in making your home as fire safe as possible.

- **Block Party Attendance**

If you are planning a block party, contact the Fire District to arrange a visit from our crew.

- **Tours**

Individual and group tours are available upon request.

Home safety inspections are an excellent way to keep your home fire safe . . . At no cost to you!



Get to Know Your Firefighters

FF Tim Roman was hired as a full-time firefighter in October of 2005. He began his interest in the fire service as a high school intern, donating his time to learn more about the fire service, then joined the Explorer Post. Once he turned 18 years old, Tim was hired as

a paid-on-call firefighter and then tested for a full-time career position when a vacancy was created. Tim was excited to begin his firefighting career where his roots began. Although his career is just beginning, Tim has already obtained his Paramedic Li-

cense, his Car Safety Seat Technician certification and he is a member of the Dive Team.

In October of 2006, Tim and his new wife Amy were married, and they currently reside in West Chicago with their dogs, Harley and Jake.

“A reduction of equipment would seriously jeopardize our ability to maintain an ISO class 4 fire rating...”

Daily Firefighting Staff:

- 1 Full-Time Lieutenant
- 1 Full-Time Firefighter
- 1 Part-Time Firefighter
- 2 Contract Paramedics

From the Desk of the Fire Chief...

The Members of the Winfield Fire Protection District would like to take a moment to thank you for coming out to vote on November 7th. Based on the loss of only 292 votes, It was obvious to all of us here that many of the residents of the Winfield Fire Protection District have taken the time to educate themselves on the needs of the Fire District so that they could make an informed decision at the polls.

Although the referendum did not pass in November, the Winfield Fire District Board of Trustees has discussed placing the question on

the ballot again in April.

Many of you have asked what will happen if the referendum continues to fail. Unfortunately, the next step will most likely be the elimination of equipment first before evaluating the elimination of personnel.

In that event, a reduction of equipment would seriously jeopardize our ability to maintain an ISO class 4 fire rating, which will negatively affect your homeowner's insurance. Those of you in the Village could increase back to a class 6 and those in the unincorporated areas could

increase to a 9.

In addition, a reduction of equipment and/or personnel would prevent us from reciprocating in the Mutual Aid agreement, which would eliminate our ability to benefit from such agreement.

Please take some time to stop in at the firehouse or call Deputy Chief Lewis or myself at (630) 653-5050 to find out more information about your fire department.

Sincerely,

Phillip A. DiMenza

Your Questions Answered

If you have questions that you would like to have answered, please contact the Fire District at (630) 653-5050.

Q. How many people are on duty at the firehouse each day?

A. On any given day you will have five firefighter/paramedics on duty. The Fire District employs three full-time Lieutenants, three full-time Firefighters and a compliment of part-time firefighters. Each shift is comprised of one full-time Lieutenant, one full-time Firefighter, one part-time firefighter and two contract paramedics. The full-time Lieutenants and Firefighters, as well as the contract paramedics, work a schedule of 24 hours on duty, 48 hours off duty. The 24-hour part-time firefighter position each day is general split up between two or more part-time firefighters.

In addition, there is a full-time Fire Chief, full-time Deputy Chief, full-time Administrative Assistant and a part-time secretary.

Q. How many smoke detectors should I have in my home?

A. There should be at least one smoke detector on every level of your home and one smoke detector per bedroom.

Q. What is the new law regarding carbon monoxide detectors?

A. Legislation was recently passed requiring that each homeowner maintain a carbon monoxide detector within 15 feet of any sleeping area.

Q. What does the slogan "Keep the Wreath Red" mean to fire departments?

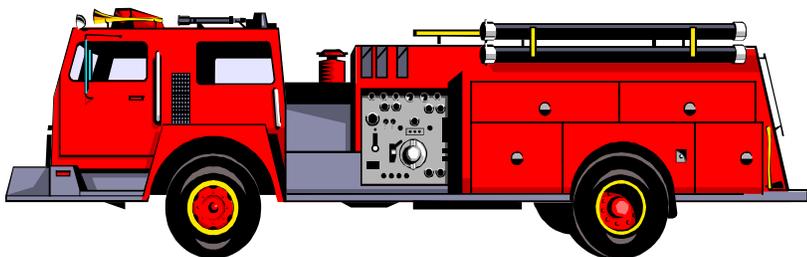
A. Each year, fire departments around the country display a wreath on their station with red bulbs on it. If that department experiences a fire related to Christmas decorations, one red bulb is changed to a white bulb. The purpose of this campaign was to bring public awareness to some of the potential hazards during the Holiday season, like leaving your tree lit while you are away from the home or hanging natural garland from your fireplace mantle and then lighting a fire in the fireplace, etc.

Q. Where can I dispose of my household hazardous waste, like old paint cans and other chemicals?

A. The Naperville Fire Department maintains a hazardous waste disposal site at their Station #4, Route 59 and Brookdale Roads in Naperville. The hours of operation are Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Q. What is one of the most important things I can teach my children about fire safety?

A. "Get out and Stay Out" is a good idea for children to learn. If there is a fire in your home, your children need to understand that it is not okay to go back into the house for their favorite stuffed bear or even their family pet. They should wait outside at a pre-designated meeting place until the fire department arrives. Each family should also conduct an annual fire drill so the family knows what to do and where to meet in case of a fire.



Emergency Response Activity

Year-to-Date thru 12/31/06

AMBULANCE		727
AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM	139	
INVESTIGATION		130
WIRES DOWN		13
OTHER		62
STRUCTURE FIRE	17	
VEHICLE FIRE		3
APPLIANCE FIRE	0	
BRUSH/GRASS FIRE		19
MUTUAL AID GIVEN		300

TOTAL: 1421

TOTAL MUTUAL AID RECEIVED: 401

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

From the Desk of Deputy Chief Bryan Lewis

Keeping Your Home Warm!

Did you know that heating equipment is the leading cause of home fires during the months of January and February? The National Fire Protection Association says space heaters, furnaces, fireplaces, chimneys and other kinds of heating equipment were involved in more than 45,000 home fires in the U.S. last year. Keep your home warm in the winter, without risking the lives of your family, by following these tips:

- Have qualified technicians install and check permanent space heaters.
- Keep at least a yard between space heaters and anything that can burn (curtains, bedding, papers, etc).
- Have wood stoves, coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys and other solid-fueled heating equipment inspected yearly by a professional.
- Use wood that is properly seasoned to prevent creosote build-up. Green wood has too much moisture and leads to more creosote.
- Make sure your fireplace has a screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room
- Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool completely before disposing in a metal container.
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms monthly.

Safety Tips—Outdoor Warmth

Here are some ideas of keeping your family safe when they venture outside. Here are some tips to remember:

- Dress children warmly for outdoor activities. Several thin layers work better than one or two thick layers.
- Don't overdress babies and young children or they may overheat. A good rule of thumb: put them in one more layer of clothing than an adult would wear under the same conditions.

Hypothermia and frostbite are two serious cold weather concerns:

- In hypothermia, a person's body temperature falls below normal. A hypothermic child or adult may become sleepy and have slurred speech.
- With frostbite, the skin becomes frozen. It's more common on the fingers, toes, ears and nose. They may look pale or gray and blistered. They may also feel numb.
- If you suspect someone has hypothermia, call 9-1-1 immediately. Until our paramedics arrive, remove wet clothing and wrap the person in blankets.
- For frostbite, the American Academy of Pediatrics suggests that you place the frostbitten part in warm (not hot) water, or apply a warm washcloth to the area. Don't rub. Call your doctor for further instructions.

The Winfield Fire Protection District has more than 30 bodies of water. It's inevitable that children will want to skate or slide on those lakes and ponds. Only allow your children to skate on approved surfaces. Our dive team can tell many horror stories of children who thought that a pond or lake was frozen solid, only to find that tragedy lurked just under the ice.

Winfield Fire Protection District



27W530 Highlake Road
Winfield, IL 60190

PRE-SORT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AURORA, IL
PERMIT #270

POSTAL PATRON