

Winfield Fire Protection
District
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“Fire Line”

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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

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Tragedy in Winfield . . .

What started off as an average Friday afternoon quickly turned into a tragedy that ultimately affected many people in the community.

On May 11, 2007 at 3:45 p.m., the Winfield Fire Protection District was dispatched for an accident with injuries at Winfield Road and Swan Lake Drive. Upon arrival at the scene, Winfield paramedics quickly determined that there were two critical patients, both requiring extrication from their vehicles.

Due to the extensive nature of the injuries and the number of patients involved, mutual aid ambulances and two heavy rescue squads were dispatched to the scene as well. The first patient was extricated from her vehicle in a relatively short period of time due to specialized equipment, commonly referred to as the “Jaws of Life.” Once she was safely removed from the wreckage, she was transported to Central DuPage Hospital, where she was listed in critical but stable condition.

The injuries to the second patient were so severe, she required air medical transport by Air Angels. Unfortunately, despite near heroic efforts by all of the firefighters and paramedics on the scene, the second patient was a fatality.

Although the remaining two patients were shaken up by the events that occurred, both individuals refused treatment for any injuries.

As many of you know by now, the fatality of that accident was a well-liked and well-respected DuPage County Assistant State’s Attorney, and the impact of that loss has been felt county-wide.

What most people do not know is that when the Winfield ambulance arrived on the scene, one of our paramedics approached the first heavily-

damaged vehicle only to discover that his sister-in-law was the occupant. His initial fear was that she was a fatality. Fortunately, however, that was not the case.

Many people assume that the men and women of the fire service respond to emergencies, do the best job they can to mitigate the situation and go home unaffected by their experiences. Nothing could be further from the truth. In this particular instance, not only did this paramedic have personal concern for a family member, but he acted outside of that personal concern to insure that all of the patients received the best care possible. It wasn’t until much later that evening that he was able to tend to the needs of his wife and family during a very stressful and emotionally exhausting time. Although the patient is out of the hospital, her recovery will be extremely long and difficult, and it may never be complete.

Thankfully, incidents such as this one do not occur every day. However, traumatic emergencies in general, whether they be fire or medical in nature, happen with enough frequency in this district that each and every one of our members has been affected to some degree at one time or another. Coping with these tragedies is when the members of the fire service are reminded that they are an integral part of a wonderful family, a family of support, compassion, laughter and tears. This truly is the best job in the world.

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:

6/23/07 7/28/07
8/25/07 10/27/07
9/22/07 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.

It's getting to be that time of year!! Have you called to schedule your block party yet?!



Get to Know Your Firefighters

LT Steve Evans was hired as a full-time firefighter in September of 1993. Before starting with Winfield, Steve had never even been in a fire truck before.

Since that time, he has achieved his EMT-B, Certi-

fied Firefighter III, Certified Fire Officer II, Hazardous Materials Technician and Fire Investigator, just to name a few. Steve is also one of our car safety seat technicians.

Prior to joining the fire service, Steve's career

involved deep sea diving, giving him a tremendous amount of experience to offer to our Dive Team as well.

Steve currently resides in West Chicago with his wife Barb and their 6-year-old daughter Sydney.

"... fire stations, police stations and hospitals are baby drop-off points ... without fear of prosecution."

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...

What's with the "Station Closed" sign at Winfield Station #2???

There were many reasons over the last several months that led to the closing of Station #2, beginning with the dwindling paid-on-call firefighter response. Because of this low response, we have been forced to pool our resources and combine both stations.

In addition, there are many times people would stop by that station during the week to sign up for CPR

class, have a car seat installed, etc. It is not until they call from their cell phone to ask someone to open the door that they realize they are at the wrong station.

More importantly, however, is the fact that recent legislation has provided that fire stations, police stations and hospitals are baby "drop-off" points, meaning that a new mother can drop an infant less than 72 hours old at any one of these locations without fear of prosecution.

The purpose of this

legislation was to reduce the number of abandoned and discarded infants who would otherwise perish if left exposed to the elements without care.

If someone were to drop off an infant at that station, there would be no one there to find the child and get it to the proper authorities.

If you have any questions about what the Fire District is doing and why, please contact Deputy Chief Lewis or myself at (630) 653-5050.

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. Does the Fire Department offer its tanker engine to fill up swimming pools?**
- A. The Fire Department will not, under any circumstances, offer its equipment or services to fill up swimming pools. This type of activity would not only be an abuse of tax payers' money, it would also tie up equipment that could very well be needed for a genuine emergency.
- Q. How do I get a permit to conduct an open burn?**
- A. Permits for burning are obtained through the Village of Winfield for Village Residents and DuPage County for those in our unincorporated areas. The telephone number for the Village of Winfield is (630) 933-7100 and DuPage County's is (630) 407-6500.
- Q. How often should I change my smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector batteries?**
- A. The easiest way to remember when to change your batteries is "Change your

Clocks, Change your Batteries." So whenever there is a time change, there should also be a battery change.

- Q. Will the Fire District be seeking another tax increase referendum?**
- A. Yes, the referendum will be placed on the ballot in February of 2008.
- Q. What should I do if my carbon monoxide detector continues to alarm?**
- A. When your carbon monoxide detector alarms and you are sure it is not the signal to change the battery, exit the home, call 9-1-1 and keep all doors and windows closed. It is important not to ventilate the home before the fire department arrives so that an accurate reading can be obtained of carbon monoxide in the air.
- Q. Why do I need to dial 9-1-1 to have the fire department respond? Why can't I just call the fire department's headquarters number and give them the information?**

- A. The Fire Department will not respond to your emergency unless it is dispatched through our central dispatch center. This procedure allows the emergency to be monitored from the beginning of the call until the end, including response times and communication between personnel and other agencies. In addition, in the event that there is a need for additional help, the commanding officer informs the dispatch center, and the dispatch center takes responsibility for securing extra manpower or equipment, allowing the commanding officer to concentrate on the emergency at hand.
- Q. When I recently called for an ambulance, why did West Chicago's ambulance arrive at my home?**
- A. If the Winfield Fire District has simultaneous medical calls dispatched, because we only have one ambulance crew, we must rely on mutual aid from neighboring jurisdictions to provide assistance.

Thank you, Fireman's Fund Insurance Company!!!

In July of 1998, the Winfield Fire Protection District purchased a used 1987 "Snap-On Tool" truck for \$10,000, which was converted to a dive/technical rescue vehicle. Although the vehicle had over 200,000 miles on the odometer, it provided our dive and technical rescue teams a vehicle to house their equipment and change into their gear while in route to an emergency.

Over the past few years, however, the reliability of this vehicle has been extremely limited, at best. On more than one occasion, the vehicle has broken down on the way to an emergency, requiring that it be towed to a repair facility.

On March 16, 2007, however, Fireman's Fund Insurance Company presented a grant check to the Winfield Fire Protection District in the amount of \$45,000 to purchase a new dive/technical rescue vehicle. In addition, Senator Peter Roskam was present at the ceremony to show his support of such a worthy cause.

Over the next couple of weeks, the Winfield Fire Protection District will take delivery of a 2007 Ford E-450 Econoline to serve as the new dive/technical rescue vehicle. Feel free to stop by and take a peek when it arrives.



Emergency Response Activity Year-to-Date thru 5/31/07

AMBULANCE		286
AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM	43	
INVESTIGATION		59
WIRES DOWN		5
OTHER		23
STRUCTURE FIRE	6	
VEHICLE FIRE		3
APPLIANCE FIRE	0	
BRUSH/GRASS FIRE		7
MUTUAL AID GIVEN		123
TOTAL:		564
TOTAL MUTUAL AID RECEIVED:		132

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

From the Desk of Deputy Chief Bryan Lewis

Summer Has Arrived!!

Yes, Summer is finally here, and with it are some basic tips to keep you cool and safe during this much-awaited season.

Before using your air conditioner for the season, you should always have it checked by a professional to be sure that it is fully charged and operating at maximum efficiency. In addition, keep your compressor free from plants, weeds or other debris which may prevent the air conditioner from operating efficiently.

Be aware that spring and summer also bring storm weather. During an electrical storm, do not use your telephone or other electrical appliances, and do not use water, as the pipes with water provide a perfect electrical ground.

Every family should have a designated place within the home where they will go in the event of a tornado. That place should be in a basement, if possible, and away from any outside doors or windows or miscellaneous debris that could become lethal during a tornado. You should have a battery-operated radio and flashlights in your designated area so that if the power goes out, you can still monitor the weather and find your way around in the dark.

Safety Tips—Be Cool!

Being cool means more than just getting the approval of your teenagers in front of their friends! As summer approaches, being cool and staying that way is key to enjoyment. Here are some tips to help summer be a time for fun.

- Drink plenty of fluids before spending any length of time in the sun. If you wait until you are thirsty before drinking any fluids, dehydration has already set in. Coffee, soda and other caffeinated beverages are not hydrating. Although they may quench your thirst temporarily, the caffeine acts as a diuretic.
- Dress in lightly-colored, loose-fitting clothing. Dark colors tend to absorb more heat, and if your clothing is too restrictive, there will not be enough room for air to circulate to keep you cooled down.
- If you are going to be outdoors for any length of time, find a shaded spot to open a lawn chair and take it easy. Too much activity in the sun and heat can over tax the body and cause sun or heat stroke and other related ailments.
- On extremely hot or humid days avoid being outdoors when the sun is at its peak. Before 10:00 a.m. and after 2:00 p.m. are the best times to enjoy the great outdoors without unnecessary exposure to the intensity of the UV rays from the sun. If you are unable to avoid being in the sun during these times, a strong sun screen will help protect your exposed skin from burning.

We all look forward to summer arriving when we are in the middle of January and February. Taking these simple precautions will help you to get the most enjoyment out of the season.

Winfield Fire Protection District



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Winfield, IL 60190

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