

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 1, ISSUE III

SEPT/OCT/NOV 2006

## 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

## Walking you through an Emergency Call to 9-1-1

Have you ever had a medical or fire-related emergency and needed to dial 9-1-1? Do you know what happens once that call is made?

When you dial 9-1-1, your call automatically routes to DuComm, a central dispatch center located in Glendale Heights, Illinois. DuComm is an independent agency that dispatches for 27 fire and police departments throughout DuPage County.

While the dispatch operator is on the telephone with you, he or she determines which jurisdiction protects your location. The correct jurisdiction is then dispatched, along with all mutual aid companies that are due to respond, and the operator records the exact time of each vehicles' response to the call as they leave the station, their arrival time on the scene, and the time that each vehicle is cleared from the scene. In addition, if a patient needs to be transported to the hospital, the dispatcher records the time the ambulance leaves the scene and the time of arrival at the hospital. This gives an accurate, independent accounting of each vehicle as the incident progresses.

In the event of a medical emergency, you may see the fire engine respond with the ambulance. This is usually to assist with manpower and/or equipment, particularly with a vehicle accident.

If you are the unfortunate victim of a live fire in your home or if you witness an actual structure fire, you will notice that there is *always* a ladder truck staged at the front on the structure in case the ladder is needed to access the roof, and that ladder truck is from one of our neighboring towns. The Winfield Fire Protection District does not own a ladder truck because there are no funds to purchase this type of vehicle or to staff it. In addition, a vehicle of this size would not fit in the

fire station. Therefore, because of our Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, a ladder truck is automatically dispatched from West Chicago, Wheaton, Carol Stream or Warrenville, to start.

To reciprocate, there are unincorporated areas of Winfield, Wheaton, West Chicago, Warrenville and Carol Stream that are without fire hydrants. Since the Winfield Fire Protection District has a sizeable tanker engine and other departments may not, our tanker is usually automatically dispatched to structure fires reported in those unincorporated areas of the neighboring communities. In this type of incident, there may be tanker engines dispatched from multiple jurisdictions in order to set up a “tanker operation.” This would involve coordinating all tanker engines on the scene to work together while supplying water to the structure fire.

Vehicle placement at a structure fire is a key factor to a successful fire scene operation. Each vehicle has a specific purpose, and there is a method behind how each fire scene is orchestrated. Seeing another department's vehicle in the front of a structure fire within the Winfield Fire Protection District jurisdiction does not mean that they were first on the scene. It means that the Winfield Fire Protection District Incident Commander is on the scene, with their vehicle parked out of the way, and directing the location of all in-coming apparatus.

Lastly, 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 during business hours, 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.**

*Learning CPR is a fast and easy way to save a life. One Saturday out of your life can give someone else many more Saturdays in theirs!*

## CPR Classes

Healthcare Provider CPR classes are held on the 4th Saturday of every month at 9:00 am. The 2006 schedule of classes for the rest of the year is:

- September 23, 2006
- October 28, 2006
- November 25, 2006
- December 23, 2006

There is a \$35.00 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.

# Get to Know Your Firefighters



Lt. Peter P. Daly began his career as a full-time firefighter with the Winfield Fire Protection District on June 16, 1980 and was later promoted to Lieutenant in March of 1988. Pete served as the Dive Team dive master

for many years and still remains active on the dive team. In addition, he has been a member of the Technical Rescue Team, the DuPage County Fire Investigation Task Force Team, and maintains his certification as a Child Safety Seat

Technician. Pete also heads up the department's maintenance division, servicing both stations and the vehicles.

Lt. Daly and his wife, Patty, live in Winfield, and they have three children, Emily, Nicholas and Natalie.

*"It has become more and more challenging to fill...shifts and difficult to rely on many...paid-on-call members to respond..."*

### 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...

Do you remember when emergencies were dispatched via the siren located at the top of Station #1? That siren could be heard for blocks, calling every available volunteer firefighter to the station for a fire or medical emergency. Once that siren was activated, volunteer firefighters, who worked in town, left their place of employment in order to respond to the emergency.

Things have evolved quite a bit since then. Volunteer firefighters became paid-on-call firefighters, and DuComm began our dispatch service, contacting paid-on-call firefighters by way of pager. The Winfield Fire Protection District cur-

rently maintains a paid-on-call roster of approximately 27 firefighters, most of whom do not live or work within the fire district boundaries.

While these employees have proven to be an extremely valuable asset to fill part-time shifts during each 24-hour period, it has become more and more challenging to fill those shifts and difficult to rely on many of the paid-on-call members to respond back to the station in order to staff the second engine out of the station and provide manpower to the fire scene. In addition, as Winfield paid-on-call firefighters

become trained and certified, the become very attractive to other departments who are hiring full-time firefighters. Although we are proud to be part of a process which bring qualified firefighters into the fire service at any department, it puts us in a perpetual state of hiring and training new firefighters.

We are looking to alleviate this situation by hiring three more firefighter/paramedics if the referendum passes in November. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns with this District.

Sincerely,  
Phillip A. DiMenza

# Your Questions Answered

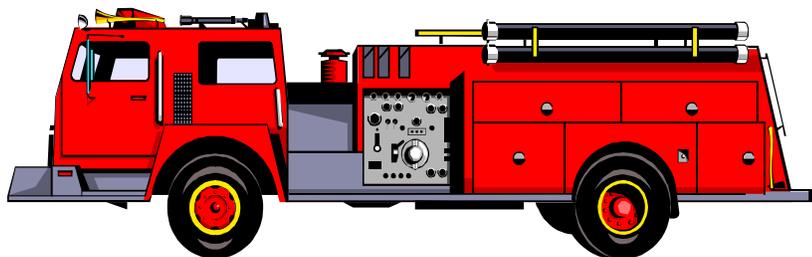
If you have questions that you would like to have answered, please contact the Fire District at (630) 653-5050.

- Q. Where can I go to have my home fire extinguisher serviced?
- A. Although the Fire District cannot recommend any one company, there are several fire extinguisher companies located in the Yellow Pages under "Fire Extinguishers."
- Q. Do you provide those stickers for the front door of homes that indicate the presence of children in the home?
- A. We no longer recommend placing those stickers on the front door of your home for several reasons. First of all, it has been found that when people sell their home, the new homeowners don't always remove stickers, even if there are no longer children in the home. Secondly, a sticker like this could be a beacon for would-be burglars, indicating that there is a vulnerable point of access in a room with a child in it. Finally, the firefighters will conduct a thorough search, if at all possible, of any building on fire where occupants are reported to still be inside.

- Q. Several of my neighbors have those red and white reflective address signs in front of their homes. How can I get one of those?
- A. The Winfield Fire Protection District sells and installs those signs for you at a cost of \$20.00 each. The signs are either mounted on your mailbox post if it is in your front yard, or a separate post is installed in your front yard with the sign attached. This tool has been extremely beneficial to rapid response, because it eliminates the need to try finding visible addresses in the dark. The reflective address signs are put in the same location in each yard so that they are easily seen in the dark. Contact the Fire Station if you would like to order one,
- Q. Why am I protected by the Winfield Fire Protection District if I have a Carol Stream address?
- A. The Winfield Fire Protection District protects a 13-square-mile jurisdiction. Not only does that encompass the Village of Winfield, in also includes unin-

corporated portions of West Chicago, Wheaton, Carol Stream and Warrenville.

- Q. If I see a fire hydrant leaking or what appears to be a water main break, do I contact the Fire Department?
- A. Although the Winfield Fire Protection District used the hydrants when needed, we do not own or maintain them or the water main system. For systems that are within the Village of Winfield, contact the Public Works Department at (630) 933-7140. For those in unincorporated areas, contact Citizen's Utilities at (630) 739-8800.
- Q. When I clean out my fireplace after each use, what is the best way to dispose of the ashes?
- A. The ashes and embers from a freshly used fireplace can retain heat for several days. They should be placed in a metal container, like a small metal garbage can, with the lid placed on top; and the can should placed at a safe distance away from the house.



## Emergency Response Activity Year-to-Date thru 9/30/06

AMBULANCE	
550	
AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM	116
INVESTIGATION	
84	
WRECKDOWN	11
OTHER	
46	
STRUCTURE FIRE	11
VEHICLE FIRE	
3	
APPLICANCE FIRE	0
WRECKDOWN FIRE	15
MUTUAL AID EVENT	
241	
TOTAL:	

## **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

*From the Desk of Deputy Chief Bryan Lewis*

### **Fire Prevention Week**

The second week of October is Fire Prevention Week, and the Winfield Fire Protection District is gearing up for their annual Open House. The Open House is scheduled for Saturday, October 14th from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Our firefighters and paramedics will be here to teach you and your families about fire and medical safety as well as answer any questions that you may have.

Sparky the Fire Dog and Freddie the Fire Truck will be there to greet your children as they enjoy hotdogs, popcorn and other refreshments while visiting the many educational stations that will be set up throughout the firehouse. An extrication demonstration will be conducted in the parking lot to show how the "Jaws of Life" and other tools are utilized, fire extinguisher lessons will be given, and rides in the fire engine will be available as well.

If you are unable to attend our Open House but would like to discuss any fire safety issues, please feel free to call me at (630) 653-5050. And remember, as you change your clock back one hour, change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

### **Safety Tips—Trick or Treat!**

As the little ghosties and ghoulies roam the streets and sidewalks of Winfield this Halloween, take some steps to make sure their holiday is a fun treat, not a nasty trick.

When you plan costumes, consider bright, reflective colors. Reflective tape is available at hardware stores that you can easily apply to costumes. Add the tape to bags and masks for extra visibility. If your child wants to swashbuckle his way through the evening, make sure that his toy sword, cane or stick isn't too sharp or too long. If he stumbles or trips, he could injure himself as well as other children. Masks can make it hard for a child to see while walking. Consider using decorative hats or face-paint instead.

Keep your home safe and welcoming for trick-or-treaters by removing clutter and objects from your porch, and be aware that a child could easily burn him or herself by bumping into a lit pumpkin.

Tampering with candy is rare, and the cases we hear about through the grapevine are usually urban legends. However, parents should still sort through and check candy before a child is allowed to eat it. That prevents the child from eating something that is an allergy risk, spoiled or suspicious.

The trick-or-treat hours for the Village of Winfield are 2:00-8:00 p.m. Although there are no set times for unincorporated areas, it is recommended that children finish trick-or-treating before dark. A parent or responsible adult should always accompany younger children. Older children should be reminded to watch out for cars, and to never enter a home of someone they don't know.

## **Winfield Fire Protection District**



27W530 Highlake Road  
Winfield, IL 60190

POSTAL PATRON