

Winfield Fire Protection
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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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Tornado??? In Winfield??? Again???

Thursday, August 23, 2007 had all of the makings of a beautiful, sunny day, with the promise of a quiet night. Shortly after 3:00 p.m., black swirling clouds approached from the west bringing with it a promise of an entirely different nature.

Over the course of the next 27 hours, the Winfield Fire Protection District responded to 46 emergency calls. Those calls included wires down, trees down on structures and/or wires, building collapses, electrical investigations due to flooding basements, and overturned mobile homes.

While the Winfield Fire Protection District was responding to a record number of calls, members of the Winfield Emergency Management Agency provided assistance with traffic control around downed trees and power lines, as well as filling and stacking sandbags to protect a riverside home from flooding.

Unfortunately, because former Police Chief Kruger asked to move the Emergency Operating Center to Fire Station #2, the lack of a standby generator left the EOC without power during a critical time. At the time of that move, he felt that the biggest threat to the Village's Emergency Operating Center was a train derailment. Such a disaster could realistically eliminate the chiefs of the emergency services and Village figureheads if the Emergency Operating Center remained in the basement of Fire Station #1. Since the EOC equipment is owned by the Village of Winfield, the Fire District had no control over that move, other than to provide a secondary location.

Emergency preparation is not only for the emergency service workers. How prepared are you and your family in the event of a tornado? Did this incident cause you to re-visit the conversation with

the children discussing where the nearest shelter is and what they should do? If not, it should have.

The tornado warning sirens are tested at 10:00 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. However, the Fire District has found that many people do not know what to do if they hear the sirens during any other time.

When those sirens are activated at a time other than the monthly test, do not, ***I repeat***, do not waste precious minutes calling the fire department or police department to ask what the sirens mean. They are only used for two reasons, to warn of a sighted funnel cloud or tornado and in case of an air raid. Use your time to gather your loved ones and seek shelter until the storm has passed. The aftermath of the storm was no less eerie than the ominous clouds rolling in before the storm. As one drove around various neighborhoods, the only sounds heard were humming generators and busy chainsaws. Hundreds of homes were without power, some for days, and even more were faced with the job of clearing away the broken tree limbs and debris left in the wake of the storm.

Many of those who were left virtually unscathed by the storm's fury lent a hand to friends and neighbors in need. Fortunately, there no storm related injuries or deaths reported in the Winfield Fire Protection District.

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:

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.

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

Get to Know Your Firefighters



Chief Phillip DiMenza was hired with the Winfield Fire Protection District on October 31, 1999. Prior to his time with Winfield, Chief DiMenza was a Battalion Chief with the City of Wheaton Fire Department, retiring after 26 years of service.

During his time away from the firehouse, Chief DiMenza enjoys playing hockey a couple of nights per week.

Chief DiMenza and his wife Nancy currently reside on Gary's Mill Road in

Winfield. They enjoy spending time with their three horses, which they rescued from Canada and their German Shepherds.

Phil and Nancy are also very active in the German Shepherd Club of America.

From the Desk of the Fire Chief...

Recent press publications have generated a tremendous amount of interest in the fire department of this District, and I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of the residents who have taken the time to either call or stop in with their questions.

Not only has the publicity sparked a curiosity amongst some residents who had not previously had any contact with the Fire Department, but it has also allowed us to fully show and explain the needs of the Fire District and discuss how those needs

are no longer being met and why.

Many of the questions asked have validated the intelligence and concern of the District residents in that they are not so quick to believe what they read in the papers without conducting their own research.

For those who have not had the chance to visit the firehouse and meet the trustees and administration, the perfect opportunity will be available during our Open House on October 20, 2007 between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

In addition, the monthly board meeting of the District Trustees is always the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Fire Station #1. All members of the public are encouraged to attend those meetings.

In the meantime, since the opinions of the tax payers are the only ones that matter, any member of the District is invited to contact me directly with their questions and/or comments.

*Sincerely,
Phillip A. DiMenza*

"Recent press publications have generated a tremendous amount of interest in the fire Department of this District."

Daily Firefighting Staff:

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

Meet Your Fire District Trustees...

The Winfield Fire Protection District Board of Trustee is comprised of five residents of the Fire District, which is current 13 square miles. They are appointed by County Board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom based on their resident location throughout the District.

When reviewing the applications received, some members are selected to represent the unincorporated areas of the District (because that area represents the largest portion of the Fire District, and the others are residents within the Village limits. These applications are presented to the County Board and must be approved by the majority of 18 members.

The benefit of appointed Trustees is that those appointments are not based on political affiliation or campaign funds. They are ordinary people who wish to serve their community. Although many of you may know some of the Board Members on a personal level, for those of you who do not, we hope this will encourage you to make contact with them and get to know them.

Phillip Saas is an electrical contractor, who lives on Morningside Drive. He has been a resident within the Winfield Fire Protection District for 33 years. George Kallas is in internet auto sales, living on Fleming Drive with his family, and he has lived within the Fire District for 22 years. Gary Muehlfelt is part owner of Muehlfelt House movers. Gary and his family live on Woodlawn Drive, and he has been a resident of the District for 35 years. William Thar is a brokerage manager, and he and his family live on Washington Street. He has lived within the Fire District for 22 years. Our newest trustee, Mark Klage, a marketing and sales manager, lives on Lindsey Avenue with his family. He has been a Fire District resident for 13 years.



Phillip Saas



Gary Muehlfelt



George Kallas



William Thar



Mark Klage

Your Questions Answered

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

- Q. What is the Freedom of Information Act and how does it apply to the Fire District?
- A. The Freedom of Information Act allows members of the Press and public to request certain documents that are obtainable under that Act. The request needs to be made in writing and has to state specifically what document(s) are being requested. The District then has 7-14 business days to provide those documents once it is determined that they are obtainable under this Act.
- Q. Do you charge for ambulance and fire calls?
- A. Due to a restriction of the Fire Protection Act, the fire district is prohibited from charging for fire calls. We do, however,

- charge for ambulance service, based on a provision of that same Act.
- Q. Do smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors ever go "bad"?
- A. Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors do reach their "end of life." Check with the manufacturer to get their recommendation on a replacement schedule.
- Q. If I get transported to the hospital by your ambulance, will you come back to pick me up and take me home?
- A. The Fire District ambulance provides emergency transportation to the hospital only. Patients will need to make other transportation arrangements upon their discharge.

Emergency Response Activity

Year-to-Date thru 8/31/07

AMBULANCE		493
AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM	78	122
INVESTIGATION		32
WIRES DOWN		39
OTHER		
STRUCTURE FIRE	8	7
VEHICLE FIRE		
APPLIANCE FIRE	1	10
BRUSH/GRASS FIRE		260
MUTUAL AID GIVEN		
TOTAL:		1020
TOTAL MUTUAL AID RECEIVED:		167

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

From the Desk of Deputy Chief Bryan Lewis

Fire Prevention Week!!

Hey, kids, grab your parents and head on over to the Winfield Fire Station on Saturday, October 20, 2007 from 10 am to 1 pm to eat some food, have some fun and learn about fire safety. The Open House celebrates Fire Prevention Week, with this year's theme: "Practice your Escape Plan."

Sparky the Fire Dog will be there, along with Freddie the Fire Truck and all of your favorite firefighters. Enjoy free food and treats, play games related to fire safety and practice escaping fires in our fake "smoke" trailer. Climb the ladder truck, put on firefighter gear, and much, much more. There are plenty of activities for adults as well, guaranteed to bring out the "kid firefighter" in you!

The Winfield Fire Protection District wants you to know that fire can spread quickly through your home, leaving you with as little as TWO minutes to escape safely once your smoke alarm sounds. Having working smoke alarms and a home fire escape plan can make all the difference when it comes to saving your life.

For 85 years, fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

Safety Tips

The good news is: kids will have more daylight to trick-or-treat in this year thanks to the government moving the fall time change to November. But there are still plenty of hazards our children may face as they walk the streets seeking treats this Halloween.

When you plan costumes, consider bright, reflective colors. Stop by the hardware store for reflective tape, which you can easily stick to darker costumes, masks and bags. Speaking of masks, they make it hard for a child to see while walking. Consider using decorative hats or face-paint instead.

Pedestrian injuries are the single most common injuries to children on Halloween. Don't let younger children trick-or-treat alone, and remind older children that they must use sidewalks and crosswalks when moving from house to house.

To keep your home safe and welcoming for trick-or-treaters, remove garden tools, toys, bikes and lit jack-o-lanterns from your porch. A child with a long, flowing costume could easily burn him or herself by bumping into a lit pumpkin. Also, sweep up wet leaves that may pose a tripping hazard. Consider locking up your dog, as many kids are frightened by barking dogs, even if the dog is not normally aggressive.

When you carve pumpkins, make sure you keep an eye on small children. Have them draw a face with markers and you do the cutting. Battery-operated candles are safest for pumpkins, because they flicker like real candles without the fire hazard. Battery operated candles can be found at most novelty stores. If you do use real candles, never leave lit pumpkins unattended.

We hope these tips will help your child have the best Halloween ever. Happy trick-or-treating!!

Winfield Fire Protection District



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