

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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Fire Department Open House a Blazing Success!!!

Once again, the Winfield Fire Protection District conducted its annual Fire Prevention Week Open House on Saturday, October 11th. With well over 500 people in attendance, the beautiful weather and the help of over 37 employees and volunteers, this event was a tremendous success.

One of the top events of interest was the Air Angels helicopter which landed in the field west of the firehouse. Although they weren't giving helicopter rides, the Air Angels staff was on hand to show the helicopter and answer any questions.

The Warrenville Fire Protection District generously offered the use of their ladder truck for demonstration purposes, while the Winfield Fire Protection District offered rides in our engine.

Kids were taught how to hold a hose and aim it at a fire by using a wooden display with flames on a hinge. If the flames were hit with the stream of water, the flames would be knocked down, successfully "putting the fire out."

For the first time this year, we had Norbert Pools and Spas donate the use of a swimming pool to be used by a member of our dive team. The diver was able to demonstrate the use of the various types of dive equipment and how that equipment works under water, all while communicating with the public through an underwater microphone system.

The extrication demonstration has been done every year and always draws a big crowd. Everyone wants to see the "Jaws of Life" in action. After intentionally smashing two cars into one another, firefighters used their extrication equipment to dismantle the cars, similar to what they would need to do in the event someone was trapped inside.

Members of CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) were in attendance with a booth as well, offering information as to what they team does and how to become a member, while Central DuPage Hospital representatives provided information on health and well-being.

Not to leave anyone out, the Winfield Police Department brought one of their police cars for the public to get a closer look at while their officers answered questions.

Just when you think you had all the fun you could have, Culvers Ice Cream came with their cart and donated their frozen custard to all in attendance. If ice cream wasn't your thing, there were hotdogs, popcorn and cookies with coffee and juice available as well.

We would like to thank all of the District residents who helped make this event such a success. It is your participation and enthusiasm that brings the satisfaction of a job well done. If you missed the Open House this year, not to worry. Next October, we will be planning another one. In the meantime, if you would like a tour of the firehouse or have questions, please feel free to stop by. Our members are here to help you.

Shortly after the Open House, the Air Angels helicopter at our station was involved in a tragic accident, killing all four people on board. Our thoughts are with their families during this very difficult time.

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.

How can
we be
of
service
to you?

CPR Classes

Healthcare Provider CPR classes are held on the 4th Saturday of every month at 9:00 am. The remaining 2008 & 2009 schedule of classes:

11/22/08 4/25/09 9/26/09
12/27/08 5/23/09 10/24/09
1/24/09 6/27/09 11/28/09
2/28/09 7/25/09 12/26/09
3/28/09 8/22/09

There is a \$50.00 fee per participant, which includes the cost of the instruction manual, and you can pay by cash or check. Register at Station #1, between 8:00am and 5:00pm.

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.

- **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. Please contact Deputy Chief Bryan Lewis to schedule your visit. He will provide you with any suggestions to keep your home safe.

- **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



Dan Keck is a paid-on-call Lieutenant that has been with the Fire District for 26 years. During that time, he also held the certification of EMT.

When Lt. Keck is not

dedicating time at the fire-house, he is volunteering time with the Plan Commission of the Village of Winfield.

During the day, Dan works as the Director of Information Technology with

Healthcare Financial Management Association, where he has been for 10 years.

Dan lives in the Village of Winfield with his wife, Cindy, and their two children, Diane and Charlie.

From the Desk of the Fire Chief...

As much as we hate to admit it, the Holidays are just around the corner. Soon many of us will all be cooking, baking and decorating our homes.

While preparing your holiday meals, remember to always thaw meat in the refrigerator, not on the counter-top. Perishable foods should never be left out at room temperature for more than two hours.

When decorating for the winter holidays, only use non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Never use lighted can-

dles on a tree or near other evergreens, and keep other candles high enough to prevent their getting knocked over. Check all tree lights, even if they are new, to make sure the bulbs work and there are no frayed wires or broken sockets.

Before using lights outdoors, check to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use, and plug them into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks.

If you have a fireplace, remove all wreaths, greens, boughs, papers and

other decorations from the fireplace area prior to using, and check to see that the flue is open.

Soon the District will have a wreath hanging on the side of the building with red bulbs on it. For every decoration-related fire, one red bulb is changed to a white bulb to help citizens become aware of the potential dangers associated with holiday decorating. Please join us in our campaign to "Keep the Wreath Red" this Holiday Season.

Sincerely,
Phillip A. DiMenza

"Please join us in
Our campaign to
Keep the
Wreath Red this
Holiday Season.."

Daily Firefighting Staff:

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

What's Happening...

As you know, the residents of the District voted to have elected Trustees, rather than appointed. That election is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, April 7, 2009. If you have ever had an interest in public service or would like to be more involved with the Fire District, please consider throwing your hat in the ring. Candidate packets are generally available at the firehouse Monday-Friday, 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Petitions can be circulated as of 10/28/08, and completed packets must be returned to the firehouse during those same hours between January 19-26, 2009. Having more candidates on the ballot will most certainly give the voters a fair opportunity to elect the candidates of their choice.

On a separate note, the Winfield Fire Protection District Board of Fire Commissioners has two new members, Mr. George Kallas and Mr. Chris Levan. The members of the Board of Fire Commissioners are appointed by the Board of Trustees and are responsible for the testing process for both hiring and promotional eligibility lists as well as disciplinary procedures. Mr. Kallas recently served on the Board of Trustees and is looking forward to maintaining his relationship with the Fire District. Mr. Levan previously served as a Village Trustee and is anxious to learn more about the Fire District and to give back to his community once again. Both Mr. Kallas and Mr. Levan live in the Village of Winfield with their families.



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 "Save Abandoned Babies" campaign I've read about?
- A. The Illinois General Assembly adopted the Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act to help prevent unwanted babies from being abandoned or discarded. This Act provides that a newborn baby may be relinquished by the parent(s) to a hospital, police station and fire station within 72 hours of birth anonymously and without fear of prosecution.
- Q. Why does the fire department use their sirens on the way to a call even in the middle of the night when there is little or no traffic.
- A. Illinois State Law mandates the use of lights and sirens, within reason, when responding to an

- Emergency, particularly when going through an intersection
- Q. What do the firefighters do all day in between responding to calls?
- A. The firefighters spend the first couple of hours of their day completing their vehicle checks to make sure that the rigs and equipment are in proper working order and in its proper place. Then the shift spends the next two hours training before breaking for lunch. The afternoon can be filled with inspections, special projects, or public education. This is all assuming there are no calls. Since that scenario rarely happens, they need to fit those items in before and after whatever call activity there is.
- Q. Do the firefighters sleep at the firehouse?

- A. Since their shifts are 24 hours long, the firefighters live at the firehouse just as they would at home, including eating meals together and sleeping during the night.

Emergency Response Activity

Year-to-Date thru 9/30/08

AMBULANCE	654
AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM	133
INVESTIGATION	123
WIRES DOWN	18
OTHER	50
STRUCTURE FIRE	7
VEHICLE FIRE	4
APPLIANCE FIRE	1
BRUSH/GRASS FIRE	7
MUTUAL AID GIVEN	206
TOTAL:	1203
TOTAL MUTUAL AID RECEIVED:	141

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

From the Desk of Deputy Chief Bryan Lewis

'Tis the Season!

While heating your home may be something you don't really think about, taking these simple precautions can help you to avoid unnecessary risk of serious illness, injury or death.

- Install smoke/carbon monoxide (CO) detectors near the bedrooms and on each floor of your home, test them monthly and change the batteries twice a year as you change the clocks.
- Know the signs of CO poisoning: headache, fatigue, dizziness and shortness of breath. If you experience any of these symptoms, get fresh air right away and call 9-1-1.
- Keep portable space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can burn and never leave children in a room alone when a space heater is in use.
- If using a kerosene heater, use only the fuel recommended. Never put gasoline in a kerosene heater--it could explode. Keep a door or window open slightly to the rest of the house to prevent CO build-up.
- Have your fireplace chimney and flue inspected each year and cleaned if needed. Burn only untreated wood, never paper or pine branches, as pieces can float out the chimney and ignite your roof, a neighbor's roof, or nearby trees.
- Never use your oven or range to heat your home.

Safety Tips

Since the first few snow flakes have already been spotted, it's a good idea to prepare for the onset of the winter weather. Remembering the following tips can help insure a safe and fun winter season:

- In case of a power outage, be sure to have on hand extra blankets, flashlights with extra batteries, matches, a first aid kit, a manual can opener, snow shovel and rock salt, and other special needs items, including water and medications.
- When clearing snow, dress warmly, paying special attention to feet, hands, nose and ears, and avoid shoveling if you are out of shape unless cleared by your physician.
- If using a snow blower or thrower, make sure people and pets are out of the way before you begin, and do not leave the machine unattended. Do not put your hand in the snow blower to remove impacted snow or debris. Turn the machine off, wait a few seconds and use a stick or broom handle to remove the material.
- Before winter arrives, have your car tuned up and check your tire tread. Keep emergency gear in your car, such as cell phone, flashlight, jumper cables, sand or kitty litter for traction, ice scraper, snow brush and small shovel, blankets and flares or reflectors.
- If walking in the snow, dress in layers, wear boots with nonskid soles and wear a bright scarf or hat or reflective gear so that drivers can see you.

Winfield Fire Protection District



27W530 Highway Road
Winfield, IL 60190

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