



# Hot Flashes



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Published for the Residents of the Signal Hill Fire Protection District

October 2016

**Don't Wait**  
**CHECK** the date!

**REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS EVERY 10 YEARS**

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**  
OCTOBER 9-15, 2016

[firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org)

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- Smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years
- Make sure you know how old all smoke detectors are in your home
- To determine the age of your smoke detector, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the detector; the detector should be replaced 10 years from that date

For more information, see page 5

## Longtime Signal Hill Fire Chief set to step down

Greg Render has served as Chief of the Signal Hill Fire Department since being elected in 1992. Earlier this year, Chief Render finalized his decision to begin winding down his fire service career which began in 1971, by announcing that he would be stepping down as Chief of the Department at the end of 2016. Greg will remain as a volunteer member of the department and continue to share his wealth of knowledge with other members that he has gained over his distinguished career.



A detail of Chief Render's career and accomplishments can be found on Page 3.

## Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters need your support

### See Page 5

**EMERGENCY**  
DIAL **911** FIRE POLICE MEDICAL

**Remain calm.**  
**Give location, name and type of emergency clearly.** Always let the telecommunicator hang up first.

[www.SHFD.net](http://www.SHFD.net)





## A Message from the Chief



October 2016

*“I have no ambition in this world but one, and that is to be a fireman.” ~ Fire Chief Edward F. Croker, FDNY circa 1910*

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, I will have completed 24 years as your Fire Chief. This seems to me to be an appropriate juncture to start another adventure in my life and start checking off the “bucket list.” With a few more long-distance motorcycle rides to complete, a bunch of places to visit or revisit, and experiences to be had - it is time to get started.

I am extremely grateful for the dedicated women and men who have served as volunteer firefighters and associate members during my tenure. These individuals have graciously contributed their time and skills to serve others. Collectively, they have and will continue to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

I am thankful for the residents and business community within the Fire Protection District that support the Fire Department on two fronts:

By being a community partner and practicing fire safe behaviors and maintaining homes and property in a manner that has limited the number and severity of fires and other emergency responses.

Continuing to provide the financial resources needed to equip and operate a highly ranked fire department.

I will be departing knowing that Signal Hill’s new Administrator / Fire Chief Tom Elliff is well prepared. Tom has earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Fire Protection Administration. Along with his studies at Southwestern Illinois College in the fire science program and institutional knowledge, Tom will continue to serve the Fire Protection District’s stakeholders for many years.

I would also like to acknowledge my family and future wife (aka - significant other) Shelley for their patience and understanding for allowing me the opportunity of a lifetime.

Thanks again for everything, stay safe and I will see you down the road.

*Greg*

Greg L. Render, E.F.O.  
Administrator / Chief of the Department

## GREG RENDER SET TO RETIRE



If you know the Signal Hill Fire Department, there is a good chance you know the man who has been at the helm of the department for many years. Greg Render has been a member of the department for over four decades now. Earlier this year, Greg announced that he will begin winding down his career by stepping down as the department's Fire Chief at the end of 2016.

Greg began his fire service career when he joined the Signal Hill Fire Department on September 17, 1971. Throughout the years, he has served in several capacities involving leadership within the department. While most notably serving as Chief since 1992, Greg also served as a Lieutenant after being promoted in 1974, and as Assistant Chief from 1977 to 1991.

Throughout the years he has responded to a multitude of calls both in the fire district and with other departments who requested Signal Hill's assistance. Since the start of computerized record keeping in 1995, records indicate Greg responded to over 2,800 calls and has spent in excess of 2800 hours furthering his education and training. Certifications Greg earned over the years are:

- **National Fire Academy - Executive Fire Officer**
- **Associate Degree - Fire Science**
- **Certified Officer I**
- **Certified Firefighter II & III**
- **Certified Fire Apparatus Engineer**
- **Certified Instructor I**
- **Hazardous Materials Operations**
- **Hazardous Materials Incident Command**
- **CPR/AED Provider**
- **Technical Rescue Awareness**
- **A.P.C.O. Instructor**

Outside of the department, Greg became known as a leader of the fire service not only in the St. Clair County area, but also throughout the State of Illinois, across the United States, and even into Canada. Among his most notable accomplishments are:

- **President—Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (1998)**
- **Chairman of the Board—Gateway Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Network, Inc.**
- **Chairman—National Fire Protection Association - 1720 Committee**

During his career, Chief Render was noted for having a stellar relationship with the news media. Numerous articles appeared in local papers during his tenure where he provided information about incidents that had occurred, or promoting the efforts of the fire service.

Chief Render enjoys being noticed, but is somewhat reserved when it comes to official recognitions presented to him. During the course of his career, he received the following recognitions and awards:

- **Leadership Award - Gateway Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Network, Inc. (1989)**
- **Board of Directors Award—Signal Hill Fire Protection Association (2000)**
- **Certificate of Recognition—Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (2003)**
- **Distinguished Service Award—St. Clair County Fire Chiefs Association (2002)**
- **Distinguished Service Award—St. Clair County Fire Chiefs Association & MABAS Div. 32 (2006)**
- **2009 Illinois Fire Chief of the Year—Combination/Volunteer Section**



The Signal Hill Fire District is a better place today thanks to the dedication of Greg Render. His goal has been to make this department a first class fire department and he has done exactly that.

Join us in wishing Greg a happy retirement. Greg has indicated that he will be continuing to volunteer his time as a firefighter with the department, for which we are grateful. A lot of his time, however, will probably be spent putting miles on his motorcycle, continuing to check "places to see" off his bucket list.

# Don't Wait — Check the Date!

## Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years



**Fire Prevention Week**  
**Oct. 9-15, 2016**

Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.  
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

# 1

Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.



# 2

Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

# 3

Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



# 4

Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov) and [firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org).

U.S. Fire Administration



FEMA



## SIGNAL HILL VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Since 1946, residents of the Signal Hill Fire Protection District have supported the efforts of the fire department and the men and women who have stepped up to keep our community safe. Throughout the years there have been a number of fundraising events held to support the mission of the fire department.

Included in these efforts have been:

- Selling of certificates to start the fire department
- Annual Picnic
- Ribs & Raffle
- Fund drive for a Thermal Image Camera
- Direct fund drive

All of these efforts have been successful and all funds received from these events have been invested into supporting your firefighters with equipment and training, and supporting the community with fire prevention programs.



### ***YOU CAN HELP NOW!***

Your help is once again needed to support your firefighters. Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters would respectfully request that you assist with their efforts by making a donation to help keep the Signal Hill Fire Department a premier department.

Cost to Outfit a Firefighter	
Helmet	\$350.00
Nomex Hood	\$35.00
Turnout Coat	\$800.00
Personal Flashlight	\$100.00
Gloves	\$50.00
Rescue Harness	\$140.00
Pager	\$350.00
Turnout Pants	\$800.00
Leather Steel-Tip Boots	\$250.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2875.00</b>
SCBA	\$4000.00
SCBA Facepiece	\$150.00
SCBA Facepiece Corrective Lens	\$200.00
Portable Radio	\$1000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5350.00</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$8225.00</b>



Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope that you can use to make a donation to the department. Please take a moment and consider helping with a donation. 100% of the money received will remain with the Signal Hill Fire Department and will be used *by your fire department, for your fire department.*

*The Signal Hill Fire Protection Association, Inc. (d/b/a) Signal Hill Fire Department is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3. As such, your donation may be considered a charitable donation. Please check with your financial advisor regarding all donations.*



### NEW TRUCK SCHEDULED FOR LATE FALL DELIVERY

The new truck that was ordered by the department in December 2015 is scheduled to be completed and delivered to the department in late fall. In June, members of the department performed an inspection of the cab and chassis to ensure all the department specifications about the truck were met.

Once delivered and placed in service, this truck will replace a truck that has served the department for over 30 years. Watch for the Spring 2017 Hot Flashes for more information about the new apparatus.

### FIRE PREVENTION SAFETY TIP

Never install light bulbs with higher wattage than what the fixture calls for. Below is a picture of a light fixture where it is believed that the bulb was of higher wattage than the 60 watts the fixture called for. The heat from the bulb melted the wiring in the fixture allowing the wiring to arc against the metal of the fixture. The light bulb and glass dome exploded inside the bathroom of a residence when the light was turned on. All light bulbs create heat. Ensure the correct bulbs are used in fixtures throughout your house!



### Can we find you ?

In an emergency, seconds can make a difference. Sometimes those precious few seconds are used by responders trying to locate a house number to ensure they are at the correct address.



St. Clair County Ordinance Chapter 30 Section 30-4-2 ( E ) states: *Numerals indicating the official numbers for each principal building or each front entrance to such building shall be posted in a manner as to be legible and distinguishable from the street on which the property is located, with letters painted or applied, of a contrasting color to the background, of not less than three (3) inches in height. If a building or dwelling is situated in such a way that the numbers cannot be easily seen from the roadway in front of said structure then a sign or number post must be used in front of the structure and placed in such a way that it can be easily seen from the roadway.*

**Next time you come home, take a minute to look and see if you can see your house number from the street. If you cannot see it, we cannot see it!**



Change your **CLOCKS...**



Change your **BATTERIES!**

Mark your calendar now

**Sunday  
November 6,  
2016**

Scan the QR Code to add a reminder to your smartphone



Signal Hill Fire Department is looking for motivated individuals to become volunteer firefighters. Interested persons can find additional information on the fire department's website at [www.shfd.net/faqs](http://www.shfd.net/faqs). Scan the QR code to link to the faq page.



No previous experience is needed to become a firefighter. The knowledge you will gain, the friends you will make, and the experiences you will take part in will make a difference not only in your life but especially in the lives of those who we serve.



(Picture Above: Firefighter Michelle Hudson "Working the hydrant" during a recent filming of a Public Service Announcement for the recruitment of firefighters.)

*Don't wait, inquire today!*

**VOLUNTEER NOW!**

**www.SHFD.net or 397-1995**

**Have you signed up for**

**CODE RED**

Residents of the Signal Hill Fire Protection District who reside in Stookey Township (south of Foley Drive) are now able to sign up for **Code Red** service.

The **Code Red** service allows you to receive emergency alert messages from your fire department, emergency management, and other public officials. These alerts include severe weather, hazardous spills, gas and chemical leaks, missing persons in your neighborhood, water boil orders or similar alerts.

Alerts can be sent to your landline phone, cell phone or by text or email. **YOU MUST SIGN UP.** go to [SHFD.net](http://SHFD.net) and click on the **Code Red** tab.

The service is free to Stookey Township residents through an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Belleville. Stookey Township residents with questions or problems signing up for **Code Red** may call Stookey Township Trustee Curtis Williams, 618-806-3415.

***Stay Alert - Stay Informed - Stay Safe***

Thanks to the Stookey Township Board for making this service available.

# Signal Hill Fire Department

329 Hazel Avenue  
Belleville, Illinois 62223

NONPROFIT ORG.  
CARRIER ROUTE  
PRESORT  
**PAID**  
Belleville, Illinois  
PERMIT NO. 880



*To Report a Fire Dial 9-1-1*

**Sunday, November 6, 2016**

*"Dedicated To Life Safety"*

**Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery**

**SMOKE ALARMS  
SAVE LIVES**  
*Working*



**Hot Flashes**