



# Hot Flashes



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*Published for the Residents of the Signal Hill Fire Protection District*



## Fire Safety 101

## Inside this Issue:

- ◆ Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and one on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
  - ◆ For the best protection, use both photoelectric and ionization technology. You can use individual ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or combination units that contain both technologies in the same unit.
  - ◆ Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
  - ◆ Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
  - ◆ Make sure that everyone can hear the sound of the smoke alarms.
  - ◆ Have a home escape plan. Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible, and a meeting place outside. Practice your escape plan twice a year.
  - ◆ When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.
  - ◆ If you are remodeling your home, consider a home fire sprinkler system.
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- ◆ In addition to smoke alarms, Illinois law requires carbon monoxide detectors be installed in every home.

- ◆ Unattended cooking leading cause of structure fires in Signal Hill.
- ◆ Signal Hill has the Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year in Illinois
- ◆ Volunteering - It is a Family thing!
- ◆ Ribs & Raffle Day - Another Success
- ◆ Electrical Safety in your Home
- ◆ E.D.I.T.H.
- ◆ *Lipstik?*
- ◆ Grass & Brush Fires - Not Good

### Emergency *Dial 9-1-1*

- ◆ Remain Calm.
- ◆ Give location, name and type of emergency clearly.
- ◆ Always let the telecommunicator hang up first.



**Non-Emergency**.....277-3500  
**Administrative**.....397-1995

See pages 4 & 5 for more Fire Safety 101

Thanks to everyone who supported Ribs & Raffle Day on June 28th. The weather was great, the ribs were great, and a grand day was had by all.

More importantly, all the funds raised are being reinvested to help protect our community from fire and other catastrophic events.

Thanks to our sponsors for their generous support.

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Schnucks Supermarket  
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Splash City Waterpark  
St. Clair / Bel Air Bowl  
Steak & Shake  
Target Stores  
Towers Fire Apparatus  
Yorktown Golf Course  
Michelle & Gary Bainter  
Michelle Hudson  
Chief Greg L. Render  
Mitzi & Alan Render



Signal Hill firefighters pose for a photo for the July/August issue of *Lipstik*, a publication of the Belleville News-Democrat. The women were interviewed for an article, "Women Behind the Badge" that focused on what it is like to be a female firefighter, EMT or police officer..

(l-r): Shelly Hudson, Stephanie Simonson, Judy Daniels, Sandra Jones. On the truck (l-r): Ann Perdue and Jennifer Anderson – Orsinger.

*Thanks to each of you for serving as volunteer firefighters!*



**Have a Home Escape Plan** - Family members should discuss what to do in case of a fire. An organized step-by-step plan is essential to ensure a safe escape.

**Know Two Ways Out** - Discuss and diagram two ways out of every room, especially the bedrooms. Doors are the primary ways; and windows are the secondary ways of exit. Make sure everyone knows how to unlock all locks, and quickly open all windows and doors.

**Choose a Meeting Place** - Have a place outdoors for everyone to meet for roll call. Make sure someone is assigned to call **9-1-1** from a neighbor's house, pay phone or cell phone.

**Get Out Fast** - Exit as quickly as possible. If it is smoky, get down low. Crawl as quickly as possible. Once outside, go to the family meeting place.

**If You Are Trapped** - Put closed doors between people and smoke. Stuff cracks and cover vents to keep smoke out. Wait at the window and wave a flashlight or sheet.

**Upstairs** - If a dwelling has more than one level above ground, purchase a portable escape ladder for emergency evacuation. If you do not have a portable escape ladder, hang a sheet, shirt or some other type of "flag" out the window to attract the attention of rescuers. Do not jump unless there is an immediate danger of being burned or overcome by smoke.

**Do Not Go Back Inside** - Make sure that everyone in the family understands the importance of not going back inside a burning building for any reason. Most often, people returning to a burning structure become victims.



**Practice the Plan E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drills in the Home)** in your home or apartment. Appoint someone to sound the alarm and time the drill, making sure that everyone uses the secondary escape route, gets low and goes. Most fatal fires occur at night when everyone is sleeping, so everyone should start the drill from his/her bedroom.



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## Electrical Safety Prevents Fires

- Keep lamps, light fixtures and light bulbs away from anything that can burn, such as lamp shades, bedding, curtains and clothing.
- Replace cracked and damaged electrical cords.
- Use extension cords for temporary wiring only. Consider having additional outlets or receptacles added by a qualified electrician.
- If you have young children in your home, have tamper-resistant electrical receptacles.
- Call a qualified electrician or landlord if you have reoccurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers, discolored or warm wall outlets, flickering lights or a burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance.
- Ground Fault Interruption devices should be installed for any receptacle located near a water source or outside.





An 18-year analysis of the causes of fire within the Signal Hill Fire Protection District parallels national statistics. Inattention or unattended cooking is the leading cause of structure fires.

- Pay attention to what you are cooking. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food.
- When you are simmering, boiling, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home and use a timer to remind you.
- If you must leave the kitchen even for a short time, turn the stove off.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible.
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting or short sleeves.
- Allow food cooked in a microwave oven to cool for a few minutes before you take it out.

While structure fires get the most attention, and is how most Americans die in fires, grass/brush fires are also very dangerous. Again, the multi-year study into fire origins reveals that Signal Hill responds to almost twice as many grass/brush fires as it does to structure fires. There is, however, a causal relationship between the two types of fires. Both ignition scenarios (structure fires and grass/brush fires) indicate that inattention is the cause. Apathy and complacency with fire seems to be a re-occurring theme.

- The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency does allow the burning of landscape waste. Landscape waste is defined as leaves, grass, tree limbs, shrubbery cuttings, and other materials accumulated as the result of the care of lawns, shrubbery, vines, and trees. The landscape waste must have been generated on-site.
- Burning should only occur during daylight hours. Never leave an outdoor fire unattended. Always have a shovel, charged garden hose or other fire suppression tools on hand any time when burning outside.
- Never underestimate the speed at which a ground cover fire can spread. Never burn on windy days or leave fire unattended.
- Parents should emphasize to their children the dangers of playing with fire.
- Homeowners who barbeque should keep a 10 - foot spacing between the grill and structures, brush and shrubbery.
- Don't throw cigarette or cigar butts on the ground. Dispose of them properly and make sure they are completely extinguished.



*Smoke Detectors Save Lives!*

## Volunteer Firefighter Profile Steve Brannan

I had admired firefighters for a long time, especially since September 11th, and I wanted to see if I had what it takes to measure up to the standard. When we moved here in 2005, I asked about joining Signal Hill Fire Department.

I served in the military for 24 years, and the fire service gave me another way to test myself and to serve my community. In the past, with the military, we have moved to a new assignment every few years. Volunteering at the fire department gives me a closer connection to the neighborhood and lets me give something back.

Signal Hill Fire Department was very welcoming. The leadership, equipment, training programs, and facilities are superb, and contribute to the professionalism of the department. If you put in the work to show up for training and the fire calls, then everything works out. You have to earn the respect and trust of the other firefighters. When you are new, everyone has more experience than you. I knew that coming in, so I listened and asked a lot of questions. There is a lot more to fire science than you would think. I am still studying and learning.

But, as I found out, people often have hidden talents that they can contribute. People gave me the chance to prove myself.

In addition to my role as a firefighter, I have edited and re-written standard operating procedures for the department, written fire act grant proposals, led the detail for the 4th of July Fireworks Display, given fire safety presentations to schools and birthday parties, and I serve as a member of the new firefighter interview team.

My wife Barb has also joined as an associate member. She has helped with the Children's Christmas party, the annual Ribs and Raffle fundraiser, and developed a filing system for former firefighter personnel and training records.



Sam, Riley, Olivia, Jack, Barb & Steve Brannan

### *The Signal Hill Fire Department Welcomes Our Newest Active Members Derek Trower & Sandra Jones*

*Improving the Quality of Life in Our Community 24/7—365 Days a Year*



The U.S. Center for Disease Control is warning that this year could be the worst flu season the nation has seen in years. Both the Center for Disease Control & St. Clair County Public Health officials are encouraging everyone to prepare for a possible H1N1 (swine flu) pandemic. This is not a drill and the threat is real. It is important to note that the H1N1 virus is spread by person to person contact. To help protect you and your family, please logon to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/>, [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) or [www.ready.illinois.gov](http://www.ready.illinois.gov)

## Signal Hill Fire Chief named Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year in Illinois

On May 19th, the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association named Signal Hill Fire Chief Greg L. Render Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year. He started as a volunteer firefighter with Signal Hill in September 1971. From 1976 to 1992 he served as the Assistant Fire Chief from 1976 until being named Signal Hill's Administrator and Fire Chief since 1992.

Chief Render earned holds a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Leadership from Greenville College, and two associate degrees from Southwestern Illinois College. He has also earned Executive Fire Officer status from the National Fire Academy. In addition, he holds numerous certifications from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal and other state and national agencies.

The residents and businesses in the Signal Hill Fire Protection District have benefited from Render's leadership over the years. Signal Hill was the first volunteer fire department in southwestern Illinois to have earned an Insurance Services Officer Class 3 classification in July of 2000. In addition, Signal Hill serves as a benchmark for other fire departments.

Render has served as the President of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (1998) and has represented the interest of volunteer fire departments at regional, state, and national levels. He currently serves as the Vice-Co-Chair for the St. Louis Regional Response System Advisory Committee — which oversees emergency response funding by the Department of Homeland Security in the greater St. Louis metropolitan area. In addition he has assisted with the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System and was instrumental in development of the first formal mutual aid agreement between Illinois and Missouri fire departments.

Ten years ago, Render was tapped by the Volunteer & Combination Officers Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs to serve as a lead instructor for its leadership course. "Instructing at fire departments in other parts of the country has allowed me to look at the best practices utilized by others and bring them back home. It as served has a great opportunity, make Signal Hill a better organization," said Render.

In August, Chief Render was named to chair the National Fire Protection Association Committee for Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments. This is a national standard that volunteer fire departments can follow to assure that they are providing the highest levels of fire protection services.

"We are fortunate to have a community that supports its volunteer fire department. There is a noteworthy collaboration between our residents and businesses and the fire department is their practicing firesafe habits and fire prevention activities — thus keeping the incidences of fire low," said Render.

Render added, "I am very proud of the loyalty and steadfastness the volunteer firefighters to associate members have given during my tenure and provide me with this opportunity. These women and men have given so generously of their time to protect others, which makes my job much easier."



*Congratulations to Chief Render!*

*This job is hot.*

**Think you can  
stand the heat?**



**Join the Signal Hill Fire Department**

# Signal Hill

## Fire Department

329 Hazel Avenue  
Belleville, Illinois 62223

NONPROFIT ORG.  
CARRIER ROUTE  
PRESORT

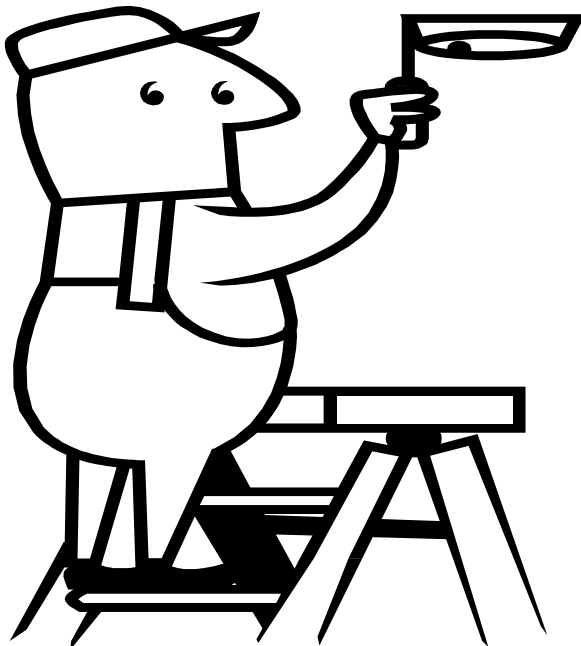
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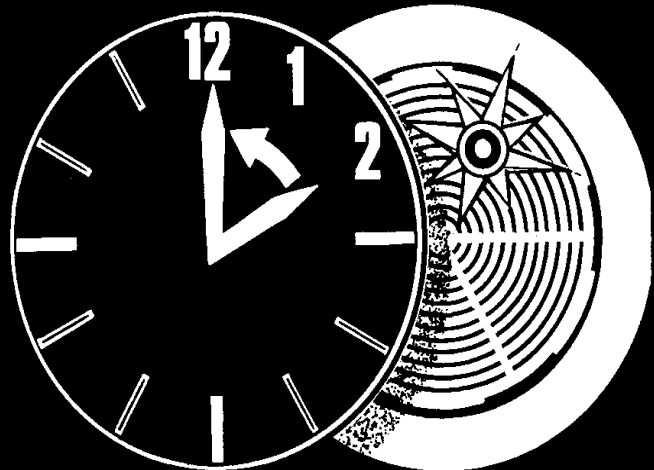
*To Report a Fire Dial 9-1-1*

This edition of Hot Flashes was edited  
and prepared for mailing by  
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## November 1st 7th

**CHANGE YOUR CLOCK**



**CHANGE YOUR BATTERY**