



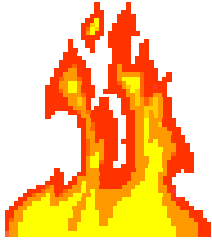
# Hot Flashes

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## *Americans React Incorrectly to Fire*

### Survey finds initial reactions to fire could place people in more danger

A survey by the Society of Fire Protection Engineers finds that Americans' first reactions to fire could place them in greater danger. When asked, "If there were a fire in your building, what would be your first action?" 39% said they would call the fire department. While this may seem to be a logical response, the correct answer is for people to first exit the building and call the fire department once they are at a safe location.

Only 28% of Americans answered that their first action would be to leave a burning building. Other responses included notifying others - 24%, fighting the fire - 4%, searching for fire - 3%, and searching for more information - 2%.

Over one-half of an at-risk population group, those over 65 years of age, stated that they would first call the fire department, compared to 30% that said they would exit the building first.

The survey also found that delays before deciding to evacuate, time spent searching for the fire, gathering belongings and trying to fight the fire are behaviors that have been observed repeatedly in real fire situations.

When comparing the results of this survey to research on how Americans react with real fires, the top three first reactions were: notifying others -15%, fighting the fire - 10%, and searching for the fire - 10%. Exiting the building was not even among the top five things people do when they know there is a fire.

Remember to develop a family escape plan with an outside meeting place. **Call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's home or cellular phone after you are out.**

**Never re-enter a burning building for any reason.**

***Survive Alive - Learn Not to Burn!***



**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**

The following firefighters were recognized with service pins on March 1st, the Fire Department's Annual Appreciation Dinner:

**One Year of Service**

Firefighter Darrell Papproth  
Associate Member Pat Griffin  
Associate Member Allison Cowden  
Associate Member Stephanie Griffin

**Ten Years of Service**

Associate Dan Upton

**25 Years of Service**

Firefighter Wayne Lindauer

**35 Years of Service**

Firefighter J. Alan Render

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



**Captain Ralph Conrath recognized as 2007 Firefighter of the Year!**

Keeping up a family tradition, Ralph Conrath has served his community as a volunteer firefighter since 1975. Ralph's father Norm served as a volunteer fire in the 60's, his wife Debbie is an Associate Member, daughter Shannon is a former volunteer firefighter, and son Ben is currently a volunteer firefighter. His youngest son Tony is a few years away, but can't wait until he can become a volunteer firefighter.

Ralph has earned certification as Firefighter II, Apparatus Engineer, Instructor II, Hazardous Material Awareness, Emergency Rescue Tech, and Arson Investigator I & II. In addition to his duties as fire captain, Ralph also serves on the Fire Association's Board of Directors.

Being recognized as a Firefighter of the Year is a very distinct honor within the Department. An individual must demonstrate a number of qualities, such as family, safety, dedication, commitment, and a willingness to serve others.

*CONGRATULATIONS Firefighter of the Year - Ralph Conrath*

**The Signal Hill Fire Department Welcomes Our Newest Members**

Active Members

**Matt Strayhorn, Josh Jacobs, Mark Bagby, Robert Abernathy**

*Improving the Quality of Life in our Community 24/7 - 365 Days a Year!*

## Volunteer Profile - Firefighter Darrell Papproth

Becoming a firefighter is something that I have always wanted to do since childhood. When given the opportunity to become part of the Signal Hill Fire Department, I was excited and anxious to get started.

Having the knowledge and ability to help our community, family and friends is not only an honor and privilege, but also an adventure. I am very proud to be a part of the Signal Hill Fire Department family, and hope to serve my community for many years to come.

Darrell is employed by Midland Waste and assists other firefighters with fire apparatus driver training.



Amy, Eilee, Addie & Darrell Papproth live in the Dorchester subdivision of the fire protection district.  
Thanks Darrell for *Volunteering!*



As part of their Firefighter II course, Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters Walter Sonnenberg, Corey Hudson, Darrell Papproth, Steve Brannan and Shelly Hudson were at the Southwestern Illinois Fire Science Training Center for a practical skills day.

On this day, the practical was for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). SCBA is just one of the skills that firefighters learn and then apply the fundamental principles with a hands-on application. The Firefighter II course at Southwestern Illinois College requires approximately 11 months to complete.

## Signal Hill Firefighters Ribs & Raffle Day Sunday - June 29th

11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Watch your mailbox in mid - June for  
ordering information



Scald injuries are painful and require prolonged treatment. They may result in life-long scarring and even death. Prevention of scalds is always preferable to treatment and can be accomplished through simple changes in behavior and the home environment. The Signal Hill Fire Department and American Burn Association are providing this information to prevent scald burns.

Although anyone can sustain a scald burn, certain people are more likely to be scalded -- infants, young children, older adults and people with disabilities. These high risk groups are also more likely to require hospitalization, suffer complications and experience a difficult recovery. Most burn injuries occur in the person's own home and the vast majority of these injuries could have easily been prevented.



Tap water scalds are often more severe than cooking-related scalds. The American Burn Association recommends the following simple safety tips to decrease the risk to yourself and those you love from tap water scalds.

- Set home water heater thermostats to deliver water at a temperature no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit. An easy method to test this is to allow hot water to run for three to five minutes, then test with a candy, meat or water thermometer. Adjust the water heater and wait a day to let the temperature drop. Re-test and re-adjust as necessary.
- Provide constant adult supervision of young children or anyone who may experience difficulty removing themselves from hot water on their own. Gather all necessary supplies before placing a child in the tub, and keep them within easy reach.
- Fill tub to desired level before getting in. Run cold water first, then add hot. Turn off the hot water first. This can prevent scalding in case someone should fall in while the tub is filling. Mix the water thoroughly and check the temperature by moving your elbow, wrist or hand with spread fingers through the water before allowing someone to get in.
- Install grab bars, shower seats or non-slip flooring in tubs or showers if the person is unsteady or weak.
- Avoid flushing toilets, running water or using the dish- or clothes washer while anyone is showering.
- Install anti-scald or tempering devices. These heat sensitive instruments stop or interrupt the flow of water when the temperature reaches a pre-determined level and prevent hot water that is too hot from coming out of the tap.

Cooking-related scalds are also easy to prevent. Some things you can do to make your home safer from cooking-related burns include:

- Establish a "kid zone" out of the traffic path between the stove and sink where children can safely play and still be supervised. Keep young children in high chairs or play yards, a safe distance from counter- or stovetops, hot liquids, hot surfaces or other cooking hazards.
- Cook on back burners when young children are present. Keep all pot handles turned back, away from the stove edge. All appliance cords should be coiled and away from the counter edge. During mealtime, place hot items in the center of the table, at least 10 inches from the table edge. Use non-slip placemats instead of tablecloths if toddlers are present. Never drink or carry hot liquids while carrying or holding a child. Quick motions may cause spilling of the liquid onto the child.

# Scalds Hurt!



## Planning that Perfect Summer Vacation? Fires Don't Just Occur in Homes

### Tips to Keep Your Family Safe While at Hotels and Motels

When traveling for a family vacation or for business purposes, it is important to become familiar with your surroundings. The Signal Hill Fire Department would like you to review the following safety tips to assist you in preparing for fire-safe traveling.

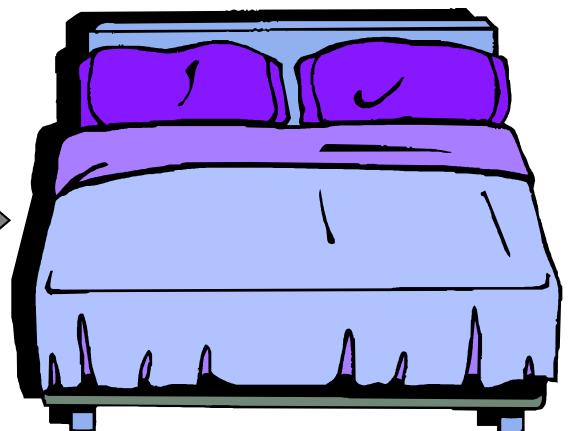
#### Plan Ahead

- When making your reservations, ask if the hotel or motel has smoke detectors and fire sprinklers.
- When traveling, take a flashlight with you.
- Read the fire evacuation plan carefully. If one is not posted in your room, request one from the front desk.
- Locate the two exits from your room.
- Count the number of doors between your room and the exits. This will assist you in case of an emergency evacuation.
- Locate the fire alarms on your floor.

#### Life Safety Steps

- If the fire is in your room, get out quickly. Close the door, sound the alarm, and notify the front desk.
- Always use a stairwell, never an elevator. The elevator could stop at the floor of the fire.
- If the fire is not in your room, leave if it is safe to do so. Be sure to take your room key with you in case fire blocks your escape and you need to re-enter your room.
- To check the hallway for fire, touch the door with the back of your hand to test the temperature. If the door is cool, get low to the floor, brace your shoulder against the door and open it slowly. Be ready to close it quickly if there are flames on the other side. Crawl low in the smoke to the nearest exit; the freshest air is near the floor.

If your room door is hot, do not open it. Instead, seal the door with wet towels or sheets. Turn off the fans and air conditioners. Call the fire department to give your location. Signal from your window.



## *What We Did in 2007!*

The Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters responded to 165 requests for emergency assistance in 2007. The number of incident responses was a slight decrease from 2006 - 175. Several notable statistics were:

Firefighters experienced an increase in the number of motor vehicle accidents and other injury related incidents in which an air medical transport (helicopter) was required.

Two residential fires, both caused by electrical system malfunctions, accounted for most of the fire loss recorded. One intentionally set (arson) fire was referred for further investigation by the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal. In spite of the damages caused by fire, quick and effective actions by firefighters saved 83% of all property value.

Volunteer firefighters collectively attended over 2500 hours of education courses and training drills. A house slated for demolition gave firefighters an opportunity to conduct additional "hands-on" drills.

October 31, 2007 - an alert citizen observed light smoke and heard a smoke detector sounding at his neighbor's home. An electrical fire burned the flooring, floor joists and wall surface. Firefighters worked quickly and contained the fire near its origin.

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False Alarms.....	37
Mutual Aid (given).....	44
HazMat.....	10
Other Hazardous.....	22
Other Responses.....	21

53% of all responses are to residential occupancies.

25% of all responses are fire Incidents.

25% of all responses are for false alarms or false calls.

19% of all responses occurred on a Wednesday.

14% of all responses occurred in July.

During the December 2006 ice storm, telephone lines to the "outside" world became jammed. Even cellular telephones (which rely upon hardwire circuits) experienced connectivity issues.

In 2007, the Signal Hill Fire Department became one of the first fire departments in southern Illinois to have an EM Net satellite-based computer system installed. This system, a grant from the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, links Signal Hill fire officials directly with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Emergency Operations Center, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Public Health, St. Clair County EOC, and other critical agencies, such as AmerenIP. Signal Hill is now better prepared to serve our residents in the event of a natural or man-made disaster and to directly communicate with emergency management officials at the federal, state, and regional levels.

# 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*

This edition of Hot Flashes was edited and prepared for mailing by Mary N. and Michelle B.

### Yard & Garage Fire Safety

- Yards should be cleared of leaves debris and combustible rubbish.
- Mulch should be at least a foot away from the house with a non-combustible barrier between, such as rock.
- Gasoline for use in a power mower or other powered lawn equipment should be stored in a strong, metal safety-can with self closing caps on the openings.
- Garages attached to the house should be separated by a tight fitting door which is kept closed.
- Open burning of trash, debris, construction materials and other household waste is prohibited by Illinois EPA regulations and St. Clair County ordinances.

## Signal Hill Firefighters Ribs & Raffle Day



**Sunday - June 24th**  
**New Time**  
**11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Watch your mailbox in mid - June for  
ordering information