



Hot Flashes



Volume 25 Issue 1

Published for the Residents of the Signal Hill Fire Protection District

October 2020

Did you know cooking is the No. 1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries?

Fire Prevention Week™ is Oct. 4-10. Learn more at fpw.org.

— SERVE UP —
Fire Safety
— IN THE KITCHEN! —

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Almost half (44%) of reported home fires started in the kitchen, and two-thirds (66%) of home cooking fires start with the ignition of food or other cooking materials. Most all cooking fires can be prevented by making sure someone is in the kitchen at all times while food is cooking. Working smoke detectors can also help notify you of a problem in the kitchen before things get out of hand. If you have a small fire on the stove, cover the pan with a lid, move the pan from the burner, and turn off the burner. Take the time now to ensure for the safety of your family.

www.kidney4shelly.com

A great news update for Shelley!

On August 18th, Shelley received a kidney transplant. Hannah Bainter, daughter of Signal Hill Assistant Chief Gary Bainter was the donor. Both Hannah and Shelley are doing well recuperating. Shelley is grateful for the donation that will allow her to live here life again without dialysis. A special thanks to a special person in Hannah Bainter for stepping forward and donating a kidney.

Emergency
Dial 9-1-1

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

Non-Emergency (Dispatch).....234-2233
Administrative (Firehouse).....397-1995

www.SHFD.net





A Message from the Chief



SIGNAL HILL Fire Department

329 Hazel Avenue, Belleville, Illinois 62223
ADMINISTRATION (618) 397-1995 • FACSIMILE (618) 397-7747
www.shfd.net

October 2020

A lot of 2020 has really looked different from past years for a lot of people due to the Corona Virus. For the fire department, the same is holding true. Signal Hill Firefighters have done what they have needed to do to stay safe. We are sanitizing trucks when we come back from calls, wearing masks when needed, and we even discontinued training for a bit earlier this year. There is one more thing that will be notably different for us now, and that is Fire Prevention Week.

Any other year, firefighters would be getting ready to visit with school children and talk about fire safety. We would be letting them tour the firehouse, sit in the fire truck, and try on some gear. They would be getting a safety message and visual aids to work on to reinforce how to be safe. Very little if any of that will happen this year. With schools doing remote learning, kids are not going to the school building for us to meet with. They cannot go on a field trip to the firehouse as some do. So they will not get the fire safety message in the fashion that they normally would. That will not stop us from getting the message out!

I would ask each of you with children to take just a few minutes and talk about fire safety with them. There are tips in this edition of Hot Flashes and more information can be found on the Fire Departments' website. Take the time now to talk about the importance of smoke detectors, Stop Drop & Roll, having an escape plan, and 911. Use this edition of hot flashes to highlight the responsibilities that everyone has while cooking is going on in the home and knowing what to do if something should happen.

With everyone helping to get the fire safety message out, together we can make a difference in keeping our community safe from fire. Please do your part!

Tom Elliff
Fire Chief

EMERGENCY – DIAL 911

***SOME PEOPLE RUN FROM PROBLEMS
OTHERS RUN TO THEM
SUPPORT YOUR SIGNAL HILL
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS***

From the very beginning, Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters have requested and received the community's support in order to equip and maintain a modern and up-to-date fire department.

Here is how you can help today! Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters would like to respectfully request that you make a donation to assist them in helping to continue to provide first-rate fire protection.

Your donation will be used right here, in your neighborhood. **100%** of all donations received will be reinvested for the safety and security of your family and to further ensure the quality of life in our community.

Included in this issue of *Hot Flashes* is a self-addressed envelope for your convenience. Your donation will help the Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters keep their promise to you and your family.



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.

***ANOTHER WAY TO HELP IS TO
BECOME A FIREFIGHTER TODAY!***

Signal Hill Firefighters work all year around to help keep our community safe. We respond to more than just fires and accidents. We respond to the needs of our community.

If you think you have an interest in becoming a member of the fire department, let us know. You might just be surprised at how joining the fire department can change your life, or the life of someone you don't even yet know.

Call today - (618)397-1995 or visit our website at www.shfd.net.

What does
it Cost?

\$175.00



\$750.00



\$55.00



\$230.00



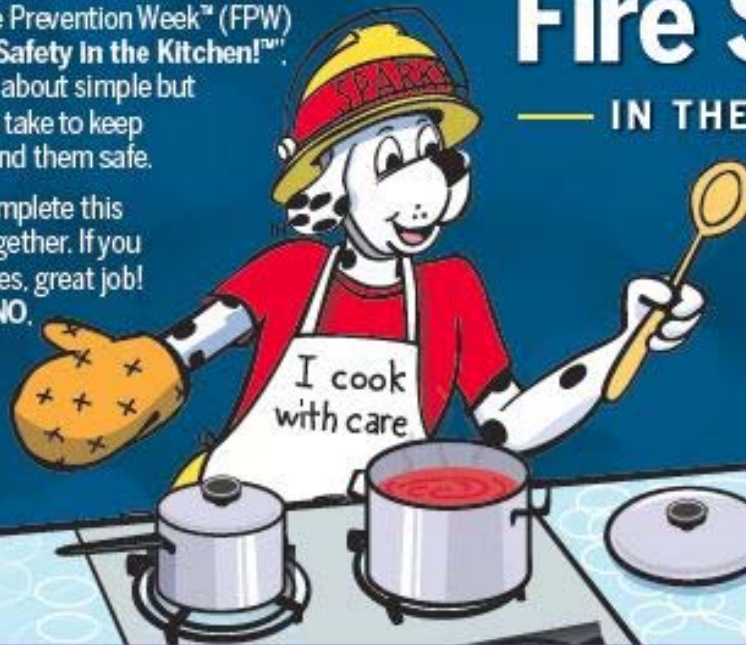
Fire Prevention activities this year like so many other things are taking on a different look. Fire Departments are not able to visit with schools and spend the time we normally would educating kids on fire safety due to the Corona Virus. We will still be pushing the fire safety message! This year, we ask everyone to help share the message. Share the safety tips below with your kids. Have them visit a fire safety website and learn more about fire safety. The Signal Hill Fire Department has a section on our website dedicated to information and activities for kids. You can visit us at www.shfd.net and click on the Kidzone page. A lot of people have had to step up to teach our youth. Please help us now by teaching your kids how to keep themselves and your family fire safe.



Parents and Caregivers,

Cooking is the No. 1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. This year's Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW) campaign, "Serve Up Fire Safety In the Kitchen!™", works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

FPW is a perfect time to complete this cooking safety checklist together. If you checked YES on all the boxes, great job! If some boxes are checked NO, work together as a family to turn them into a YES.



— SERVE UP — Fire Safety — IN THE KITCHEN! —

The _____ Family's **Cooking Safety Checklist**

- YES NO Does a grown-up always pay attention to things that are cooking?
- YES NO Does a grown-up watch the stovetop when he or she is frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food?
- YES NO If a grown-up must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, does he or she turn off the burner?
- YES NO Are things that can burn, such as dish towels, curtains, or paper, away from the stovetop?
- YES NO Are the stovetop, burners, and oven clean — no spilled food, grease, paper or bags?
- YES NO Are pot handles turned toward the back of the stove when a grown-up is cooking?
- YES NO Do children and pets stay out of the kid-free zone (3 feet or 1 meter from the stove) when a grown-up is cooking?
- YES NO Are containers opened slowly when removing from the microwave? Hot steam can escape from containers and cause burns.
- YES NO Does your family have working smoke alarms on every level of the home, outside all sleeping areas, and in each bedroom?
- YES NO Does your family have a home fire escape plan?
- YES NO Do you practice the plan?



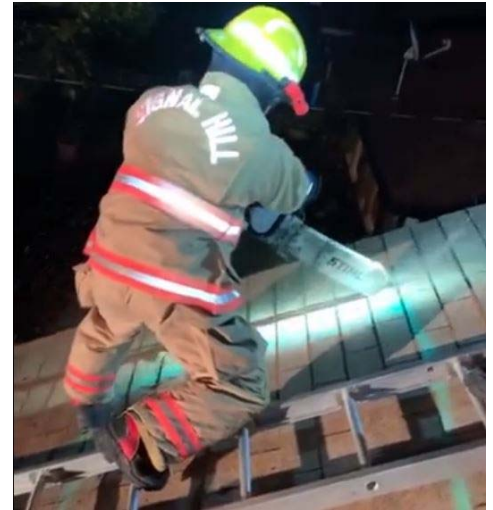
**FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK™**

For more tips, visit firepreventionweek.org and sparky.org
Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA. ©2020 National Fire Protection Association®



What have your firefighters been doing?

Signal Hill Firefighters were given the opportunity to work with a structure in the Fire District that was scheduled to be demolished. Structures like this are invaluable for our training program because they provide a more realistic environment for firefighters to work in. During the late summer, firefighters worked inside the house in a smoke filled atmosphere to search the building and find mannequins used to simulate victims. Firefighters also worked to breach the walls to simulate that they were trapped in the building and needed to find a way out. In the picture below, firefighters are working to open the ceiling to check for fire extension. This is done to make sure that the fire has not extended into an area that is hidden. And personnel were also able to cut holes in the roof to simulate ventilating on a real structure. While we can use props to simulate some aspects of ventilation, being able to work on an actual structure again allows more realistic conditions for firefighters to practice for when these skills are needed during a real fire. Our thanks go to the Morris and Griffin families for the use of the structure.



A firefighter uses a chainsaw while working on a ladder to cut open the roof.



Firefighters enter a smoke filled environment to search for victims and the fire.



Firefighters Jeremy Miller and Scott Bierma practice pulling ceilings down to check for fire extension in the ceiling.

Working with fire in the fall and winter season



If you use a fireplace or wood burning stove to help heat your house in the winter, now is the time to make sure things are clean and working properly before you start with the daily fires.

- Have your chimney cleaned regularly
- Only use seasoned wood
- Do not burn paper or cardboard
- Clean out ashes regularly
- Have a fire extinguisher available

Having a bonfire and making smores is an enjoyable way to spend an evening. Make sure you take the precautions to keep your family safe while you enjoy.

- Keep fires in a firepit or fire ring. The area should be at least 10 feet away from any structures.
- Use seasoned wood
- Supervise children at all times around the fire.
- Make sure the fire is out before you leave



If you are planning on having any outdoor fire, there are some rules you need to be aware of.

- 1) You can only burn items naturally generated in the yard. Any type of construction debris, milled wood, railroad ties, or any type of trash cannot be burned.
- 2) It is illegal to burn on the street. Find a place on your property away from any structures to have your fire.
- 3) Never leave a fire unattended. Always have a garden hose ready in case the fire gets to large.
- 4) Make sure the fire is fully extinguished before you leave

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

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