



Hot Flashes



Volume 17 Issue 1

www. SHFD.net

October 2010

Published for the Residents of the Signal Hill Fire Protection District



Fire Prevention Week • October 2010

Smoke Alarms:

A sound you can live with



The first commercial smoke detectors came to the market in 1969. Today, smoke detector are installed in 93% of US homes. However it is estimated that at any given time over 30% of these alarms don't work, as users remover batteries or forgot to replace them.

While smoke detectors *do not* prevent fires, they are your family's first line if defense in the event of a fire. Statistics compiled by the United States fire Administration and the National Fire Protection Association indicate that since wide-spread installation of smoke alarms began, the number of fire deaths has dropped to below 3500 per year in the U.S.. Since 84% of fire fatalities occur in residences, it is paramount that your home have smoke detectors installed and maintained. See pages 4 & 5 of this issue of *Hot Flashes* to learn more about how smoke alarms protect your family.

Remember that practicing proven fire safe habits in and around your home will prevent fires. Many fires start because people fail to understand the potential risk to themselves and their family. Fire prevention is in reality, just plain old common sense. It is the things we have been warned about all of our life.

- ◆ Never leave cooking unattended.
- ◆ Never smoke in bed.
- ◆ Do not overload electric outlets or extension cords.
- ◆ Have your home's heating and electric systems checked and serviced annually.
- ◆ Keep combustibles away from furnaces, water heaters, clothes dryers/washers, space heaters, etc.
- ◆ Do not place candles near combustible curtains, linens, floral pieces or decorations.
- ◆ Keep matches, lighters and smoking materials away and secured from children.

The Signal Hill Fire Department encourages everyone to conduct regular home fire inspections.



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

Two long-serving volunteers remembered



The Signal Hill Fire Department family was saddened recently when two of its long-serving members passed away.

Roger Wilmann Jr. joined as a volunteer firefighter in February 1976. During his 34 + years of serving his community, Roger served as a volunteer firefighter for many years and as a retired heavy-duty truck mechanic. Roger assisted with maintaining and servicing the fire apparatus, gasoline-powered equipment such as chainsaws, blowers, hydraulic rescue power units and generators. He also conducted monthly drive train checks on all apparatus and equipment along with maintenance records. Roger served on the Fire Department's Board.

Roland "Rolly" Keller began serving as the Treasurer for the Signal Hill Fire Protection Association, Inc. (the legal name of the Signal Hill Fire Department) in September 1976.

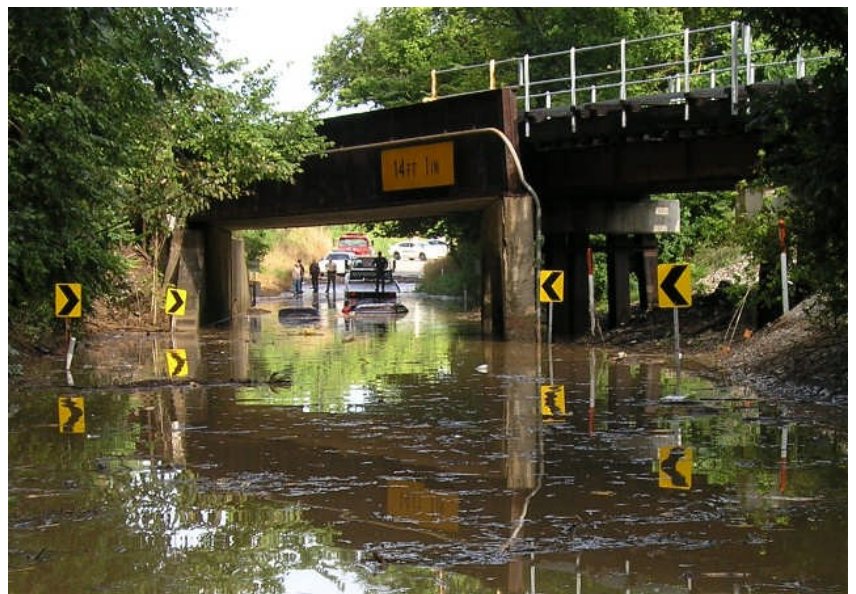
No one can ever recall Rolly riding in a fire truck, donning self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), or even holding a fire hose. Yet, as the Association's treasurer, he was responsible for the Department's fiscal management and made certain that funds were available to acquire and maintain firefighting apparatus, equipment and facilities. It was his responsibility to be the critical thinker and say NO, if a project was not within the budget.



Roger and Rolly will both be missed.

August 14th - A pre-dawn thunderstorm caused a viaduct on Illinois Route 13 to flood. Two autos were completely submersed in over 8 feet of water. Two others stalled out when their engine compartments flooded. Fortunately, the drivers and passengers were able to make it to safety.

- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and pick-ups.
- If the roadway is flooded, even a little, don't attempt to drive through the water. Turn around and take an alternate route.



This photo was taken at 9:30 a.m., approximately 5 hours after Signal Hill Firefighters were first dispatched to the scene. The water had receded to expose the two vehicles that had been submersed in over 8 feet of water.

July 30 - Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters extricated a victim from a single-vehicle accident on Illinois State Route 15. The vehicle struck the concrete lane divider on the driver's side. Firefighters used the "Jaws of Life" to remove a door and "B" post to allow paramedic access to remove the victim. A rain slick road may have contributed to the accident.

Remember that Illinois State law requires drivers to reduce speed and move away from incident scenes where first responders are operating. Too many times first responders are struck by inattentive drivers gawking at an emergency incident scene.



On September 1st, Assistant Chief Tom Elliff began serving as the Deputy Administrator for the Signal Hill Fire Protection District. Tom will be assisting with the overall administrative functions of the Fire District and the daily operations of the Fire Department. Tom began serving as a volunteer firefighter in 1985 and was named Assistant Chief in 1992.

Appointing a Deputy Administrator is part of the Fire District's succession plan to ensure for an orderly transition of organizational leadership with the eventual retirement of long-serving Administrator/Chief, Greg L. Render, E.F.O.

"I am happy to begin a new career with the Signal Hill Fire Protection District. I have dedicated 25 years to the safety of the residents of the Fire District as a volunteer. I am looking forward to many more years working for the District to help ensure for a fire safe community." said Elliff.

In August, the Signal Hill Fire Department acquired a new 2010 Ford pickup truck. The new 3/4 ton truck replaces a 1991 pickup that was beginning to experience engine/mechanical problems.

The vehicle serves several functions -- as a utility/tow vehicle and an off-road brush fire truck. A snow plow will be added for clearing the Department's parking lots and apparatus aprons.



Smoke Detector 101

Why Should My Home Have Smoke Alarms?

In the event of a fire, a smoke alarm can save your life and those of your loved ones. They are a very important means of preventing house and apartment fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal -- so you and your family can escape. Smoke alarms are one of the best safety devices you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family, and your home.

What Types of Smoke Alarms Are Available?

There are many different brands of smoke alarms available on the market but they fall under two basic types: ionization and photoelectric.

Ionization alarms sound more quickly when a flaming, fast moving fire occurs. **Photoelectric alarms** are quicker at sensing smoldering, smoky fires. There are also combination smoke alarms that combine ionization and photoelectric into one unit, called **dual sensor smoke alarms**.

Because both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms are better at detecting distinctly different, yet potentially fatal fires, and because homeowners cannot predict what type of fire might start in a home, the USFA recommends the installation of both ionization and photoelectric or dual sensor smoke alarms.

In addition to the basic types of alarms, there are alarms made to meet the needs of people with hearing disabilities. These alarms may use strobe lights that flash and/or vibrate to assist in alerting those who are unable to hear standard smoke alarms when they sound.

Okay, Where Do I Put Them?

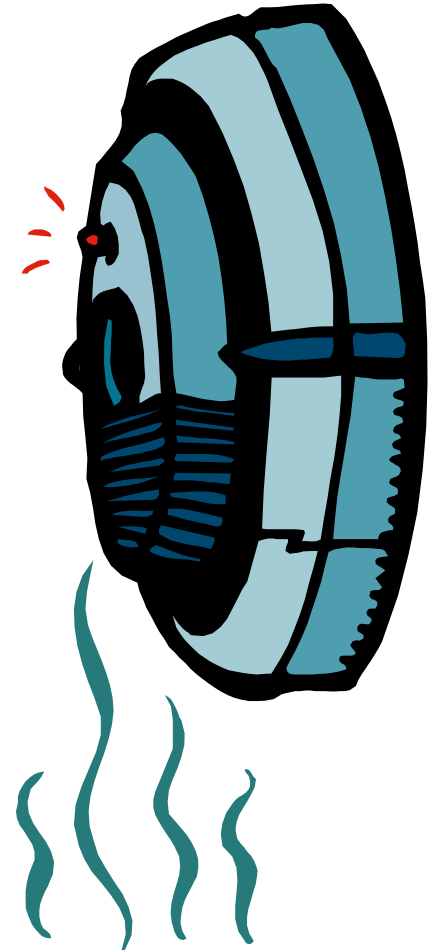
Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning. For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside sleeping areas. Since smoke and many deadly gases rise, installing your smoke alarms at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible. Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Where Would I Get Smoke Alarms?

Many hardware, home supply, or general merchandise stores carry smoke alarms.

Are Smoke Alarms Hard to Install?

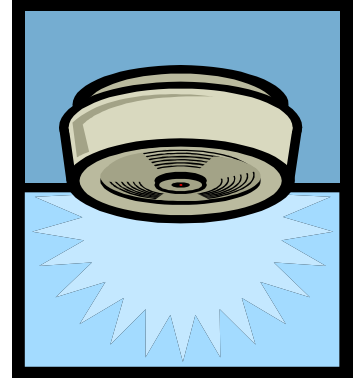
If your smoke alarms are hard-wired, that is wired into the electrical system, you will need to have a qualified electrician do the initial installation or install replacements. For battery-powered smoke alarms, all you will need for installation is a screw driver. Some brands are self-adhesive and will easily stick to the wall or ceiling where they are placed. For all smoke alarm installations, be sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions because there are differences between the various brands. If you are uncomfortable standing on a ladder, ask a relative or friend for help.



How Do I Keep My Smoke Alarm Working?

If you have a smoke alarm with batteries:

1. Smoke Alarms powered by long-lasting batteries are designed to replace the entire unit according to manufacturer's instructions.
2. In standard type battery-powered smoke alarms, the batteries need to be replaced at least once per year and the whole unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.
3. In hard-wired, battery back-up smoke alarms, the batteries need to be checked monthly, and replaced at least once per year. The entire unit should be replaced every 8-10 years.



What if the Alarm Goes Off While I'm Cooking?

Then it's doing its job. Do not disable your smoke alarm if it alarms due to cooking or other non-fire causes. You may not remember to put the batteries back in the alarm after cooking. Instead, clear the air by waving a towel near the alarm, leaving the batteries in place. The alarm may need to be moved to a new location. Some of the newer models have a "hush" button that silences nuisance alarms.

How Long will my Smoke Alarm Last?

Most alarms installed today have a life span of about 8-10 years. After this time, the entire unit should be replaced. It is a good idea to write the date of purchase with a marker on the inside of your alarm so you will know when to replace it. Some of the newer alarms already have the purchase date written inside. In any event, always follow the manufacturer's instructions for replacement.

Anything Else I Should Know?

Some smoke alarms are considered to be "hard-wired." This means they are connected to the household electrical system and may or may not have battery backup. It's important to test every smoke alarm monthly and replace the batteries with new ones at least once a year.



Firefighters remove siding from a home after a quickly spreading yard fire extended to the structure.

Many people believe that the open burning of landscape waste is not dangerous. In this case - the neighbor left burning grass and leaves unattended for "just a few minutes." The result was the fire grew and ignited the siding and exterior sheathing.

If you are adamant about burning your landscape waste, NEVER leave the fire unattended and always have a charged garden hose at hand.

Thanks to everyone who supported Ribs & Raffle Day on June 27th. 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.

- Allards Shoe Repair
- Bandanas Barbeque
- Belleville Wal Mart Supercenter
- Centerfield Park
- Commerce Bank
- Cracker Barrel Old Country Store
- Crehan’s Irish Pub
- Don Rodgers’ Ltd.
- Dreamy, Creamy Scoops
- Eckerts Orchards, Inc.
- Effinger’s Garden Center
- Family Video
- Fischer’s Restaurant
- Fletcher’s Kitchen & Tap
- Fun Spot Skating Center
- Gateway Grizzlies
- Hollywood Tan
- Hometown Ace Hardware
- Laser Rock at The Edge
- Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate
- Nonna’s Family Restaurant



- Quiznos Classic Subs
- Red Lobster Restaurant
- Shop-N-Save
- Six Flags
- Smoothie King
- St. Clair Bowl
- St. Louis Bread Co.
- The Lincoln Theatre
- The Magic House
- West End Creamery
- Yorktown Golf Course
- Chief Greg Render
- Firefighter Shelley Hudson
- Captain Gary Bainter and family
- Firefighter and Mrs. Alan Render



Welcome to New Members
Associate Leann Bassler & Active Kevin Downard



Children are one of the highest risk groups for deaths in residential fires. At home, children usually play with fire, matches, lighters and ignitables - in bedrooms, in closets and under beds. These are “secret” places where there are a lot of things that catch fire easily.

- Every year over 35,000 fires are set by children. 400 children under nine years of age die in home fires every year
- Keep matches and lighters locked up and away from children. Check under beds and in closets for burnt matches, evidence your children may be playing with matches.
- Teach your children that fire is a tool, not a toy.

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, Stef, Sandra & Patricia

November 7th

