



Hot Flashes



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April 2018

When the warmer weather hits, there's nothing better than the smell of food on the grill.

Three out of five households own a gas grill, which translates to a lot of tasty meals. But it also means there's an increased risk of home fires.

Each year an average of 8,900 home fires are caused by grilling, and close to half of all injuries involving grills are due to thermal burns. While nearly half of the people who grill do it year-round, July is the peak month for grill fires followed by May, June and August.



Grilling by the numbers

- In 2014, 16,600 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills
- July is the peak month for grill fires (17%), including both structure, outdoor or unclassified fires, followed by May, June and August
- **A failure to clean the grill was the leading factor contributing to the fire in one-fifth of all grill structure fires (19%).** In 17%, something that could catch fire was too close to the grill
- Leaks or breaks were the factor in 11% of grill structure fires and 23% of outside and unclassified grill fires

Storm Warning Sirens Improvements made

Over the winter, improvements were made to the way sirens in the fire district and surrounding areas are activated.



See Page 4 for more details

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

April 2018,

It has been a little more than a year since I assumed the duties of Chief of the Department. A lot has been accomplished in that short time frame. The new truck that was ordered in 2015 arrived and was placed in service. While it has not been put to the test, so far the truck is performing just as we had hoped. A change in dispatch services to the Belleville Dispatch Center in May of 2017 has proven to have been a positive step. Since the change, all of the issues that firefighters were seeing with receiving calls at the previous dispatch center have all but gone away. In the end, both of these major changes to the department took a lot of work to allow all the moving parts come together, but with the help of the dedicated members of the department, these major projects have had a positive impact on the safety of district residents.

Another enhancement that began in 2017 and was completed earlier this year was an upgrade of the way the severe weather sirens in the Signal Hill Fire District, as well as neighboring districts, are activated. More information about these changes can be found on page 4. A special thanks to Stookey Township for working with the area fire departments to improve the way residents are notified of potential damaging storms.

Page 3 of this edition of Hot Flashes asks a simple question – *What if no one showed up?* Your fire department is staffed by volunteer firefighters. The department is always looking for men and women who have a desire to help others. There are many that have thought of joining a fire department, however for some reason they never do. I believe a lot of that is because of the concepts shown on television that firefighters are always getting hurt. While it is true that some injuries occur, advances in technology and education combined with fire prevention programs have reduced the occurrences of fire which reduces the number of calls the fire department responds to. This overall reduction in calls equates to fewer opportunities to even be in a position of receiving an injury.

If you have ever thought you might want to give to your community, the fire department might be right for you. We are more than happy to discuss the opportunities that present themselves and answer any questions that you may have about what it takes to be a firefighter, and what we do throughout the year. Give me a call or stop by the firehouse. You can also obtain more information by visiting our website, www.shfd.net, or contacting us on Facebook or Twitter.

Your safety starts with you! Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working. Remember that fire is a tool, and precautions to keep fires from occurring should always be taken!

Tom Elliff
Fire Chief

What if no one answered the call?



Did you know that your fire department is staffed by women and men who give their time to be there when needed. Help is needed in your community today!

Are you ready to help answer the call? Contact the Signal Hill Fire Department at (618)397-1995 or visit our website at www.shfd.net

Tornado Siren Activation Improvement

The way in which sirens in the Fire District are activated for severe weather was recently improved. A new computerized siren controller from WeatherWarn® has been installed in the City of Belleville Police/Fire Dispatch Center to activate tornado sirens in and around the Belleville area. In a cooperative effort, sirens maintained by the City of Belleville, Northwest Fire District, Signal Hill Fire Department, and Villa Hills Fire Department will now be activated based upon direct notification from the National Weather Service (NWS). Work on this project, which included controller installation and siren modifications, was completed by Global Technical Systems, Inc. of Jacksonville, Illinois.



The WeatherWarn® controller provides graphical user interface which allows for activation of the warning system manually or automatically. Automatic notification is accomplished when the controller receives a message and information provided by the NWS. Upon receipt of this message, sirens in the warned area will be automatically activated by the controller. Telecommunicators in the Belleville Police/Fire Dispatch Center also have the ability to manually activate individual sirens, or sirens in groups when weather conditions dictate a warning should be issued and the NWS has not yet issued a warning.

The WeatherWarn® controller is also set to create a message that will be sent out via CodeRed for residents of Stookey Township who are registered with the system. Additionally, the message will be sent to Twitter and Facebook pages managed by the Signal Hill Fire Department. Pre-incident information and notification is vital to helping to ensure for the safety of residents. Residents should have a safety plan and prepare themselves and their families for any potential type of disaster.



Funding for this system controller was provided in part by Stookey Township thru a grant to the Fire Department. Additional funding to complete the project was paid for by the Fire Department.

The siren and message systems will be tested on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am.

Residents in Stookey Township can sign up for Code Red notifications by visiting the Signal Hill Fire Department website at www.shfd.net. Residents wanting further information on emergency preparedness can contact the fire department at 618-397-1995.

Thanks to all of the Fire Protection District residences and businesses that responded to the October fundraiser. Our volunteer firefighters greatly appreciate your generous donations. All of the funds received are reinvested to improve or enhance the Fire Department's capabilities to serve you.



At its Annual Appreciation Dinner on March 10th, Signal Hill volunteer firefighters and associate members were recognized for their dedication and service to improve the quality of life in our community.

Years of Service pins were presented to the following:

Volunteer Firefighter Mark Bagby—10 Years

Volunteer Firefighter Michelle Hudson-Render—10 Years

Volunteer Firefighter Wayne Lindauer—35 Years

Thank You



For Your Service

Signal Hill Fire Captain honored for lifesaving skills

On March 17, Fire Captain Andy Nicholson was at a friend's house in the fire district. Before he knew what was happening, a 15 month old child had quit breathing and was turning blue. Captain Nicholson took action and performed Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on the child while 911 was being called. Thanks to Andy's quick actions, the child was breathing when the ambulance arrived. The child was taken to the hospital and transferred to a pediatric hospital, and was released two days later. Captain Nicholson had just taken a CPR refresher course the Monday before this happened as part of the fire department's regular training. Captain Nicholson was nominated and received the American Heart Association's Lifesaving Award for his quick actions and thinking. Congratulations Captain Andy Nicholson!



2017 BY THE NUMBERS

Signal Hill Volunteer Firefighters recorded more than 1300 hours of continuing education and training, and over 540 hours associated with 133 incident responses last year.

The incident response breakdown for 2017. These numbers include mutual aid provided to neighboring departments:

Building Fires—14
 Brush/Grass/Trash Fires—18
 Extrication—1
 Power Lines Down—7
 Service Calls / Standbys—19
 Good Intent—20
 False Alarms—35
 Lightning Strike—1
 Vehicle Fires—4
 Rescue/EMS Assist—5
 Hazardous Conditions—7

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

**MAKE SURE YOUR SMOKE ALARMS PERFORM AS INTENDED
 – WHEN YOU NEED THEM THE MOST**

- **TEST** smoke alarms monthly
- Change the **BATTERIES** every year
- Beware of **CHIRPING** smoke alarms – it's time to replace the batteries
- Replace older smoke alarms – **REPLACE** alarms that are more than 10 years old
- Know the **SOUND** of the smoke alarm and what to do if the alarm goes off



**REMEMBER, ONLY WORKING SMOKE
 ALARMS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!**

Safety Tip

CFL Light Bulb Safety

Energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) are becoming more common in homes and at work. In addition to using less electricity, they also have a positive impact on the global climate. Here are some important safety tips you should know about CFLs.



PURCHASE CFL LIGHT BULBS that have the listing label of a recognized testing laboratory. Light bulbs labeled by a recognized testing lab will ensure that the bulb meets the latest product safety standards.

When a CFL Burns Out

- »» When a CFL bulb burns out it may smoke and the plastic base may blacken. This is normal and is not a fire safety issue.
- »» CFLs should never be discarded with household trash. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that consumers use local recycling options for CFLs. Contact your local government or visit epa.gov/cfl/cflrecycling to identify local recycling options.

If a CFL Breaks

CFLs are made of glass and can break. Be careful when removing from packaging and installing or removing from a socket. If a CFL breaks:

- OPEN a window to allow the room to air out for 5–10 minutes.
- People and pets should LEAVE the room.
- TURN OFF forced air heating and/or air conditioning.
- COLLECT broken glass and visible powder using stiff cardboard, tape or a damp paper towel.
- PLACE the debris in a glass jar or a plastic bag in a safe location outside until you can dispose of it.
- CONTACT your local government to find out how to dispose of the debris
- CONTINUE airing out the room for several hours.

NOTE

Consider checking the Consumer Product Safety Commission (cpsc.gov) for recalls of CFLs that may present a fire danger.

FACT

CFL bulbs contain a small trace of **mercury** within the glass. When broken, mercury will immediately dissipate into the air. Concentrations of mercury will likely approach zero in an hour or so.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Name of Organization Here

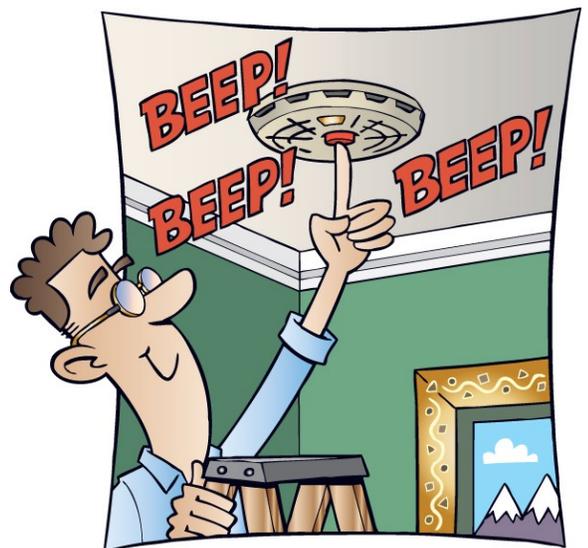
Contact Information Here

Facts and figures about smoke alarms

- In 2009-2013, smoke alarms sounded in more than half (53%) of the home fires reported to U.S. fire departments.
- Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms (38%) or no working smoke alarms (21%).
- No smoke alarms were present in almost two out of every five (38%) home fire deaths.
- The death rate per 100 reported home fires was more than twice as high in homes that did not have any working smoke alarms compared to the rate in homes with working smoke alarms (1.18 deaths vs. 0.53 deaths per 100 fires).
- In fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, almost half (46%) of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries.
- Dead batteries caused one-quarter (24%) of the smoke alarm failures.

Here's what you need to know!

- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home.
- Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.
- Replace all smoke alarms in your home every 10 years.



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

Hot Flashes

Be Red Cross Ready

Get a Kit

Make a Plan

Be Informed

For more information on disaster preparedness, visit the fire department website at www.shfd.net, call the firehouse at 397-1995, visit the American Red Cross website at www.redcross.org, or visit the local Red Cross office.