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Smoke Alarms: Make them work for you!



Fire prevention week 2024 focuses on Smoke Detectors, and making them work for you! If they are properly installed with a working battery or power source, they are always working for you, and they make a difference! Smoke from food left on the stove will activate the detector, allowing occupants to quickly take care of the problem, or provide time for everyone in the house to safely exit. A candle left burning that lights something on fire will make the detector sound, giving everyone time to react. That is what detectors to, they provide early warning of a potentially bigger problem!

Take the time today to check your detectors. If they are over 10 years old, replace them. If the old detectors are battery operated, replace them with a 10 year battery detector. Over time, it will save you money by not having to replace the batteries, and it will save you time by not having to change the battery.

If you have working smoke detectors already, make sure you take care of them. Clean them with a vacuum cleaner periodically. Dust can accumulate in a detector and cause it to go into alarm condition. With the way detectors work, they do not know the difference between smoke, dust, or even aerosol sprays. All they know is that they detect something, and they make sure to let you know about it.

In a partnership with the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office, the Signal Hill Fire Department is able to provide 10 year battery smoke detectors at no charge to homeowners in the Signal Hill Fire Protection District to replace old or malfunctioning battery operated detectors. If you want more information about the program, call the firehouse at (618)397-1995.

Emergency Dial 9-1-1

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

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 2024,

There are many tools that we use in our daily lives and one of the most important tools is fire. You may have never thought of it as a tool, but that is exactly what it is. We use fire as a tool to cook our food, heat our houses, and at times produce light for us to see. Manufacturing companies use fire to shape and mold various product that we buy. Essentially, whether we think of it or not, fire is actually a part of our everyday lives. Why is this important? Well, when used properly, fire is safe. When something goes wrong in the use of fire, bad things happen. One of the jobs of your fire department is to try and prevent bad things from happening, but to do that, we need your help!

This years Fire Prevention Week message again focuses on smoke detectors. You may ask, why focus on smoke detector so often. The answer to that question is easy - ***smoke detectors save life and property!*** One fire the Signal Hill Fire Department responded to in January of this year started as food burning on the stove after being left unattended. The smoke detector was able to alert the occupant who was able to exit the house and call 911 with minor breathing issues from the smoke. Firefighters were quickly notified and responded and were able to keep the fire contained to the area in and around the stove. While there was smoke damage throughout the house, after work to clean the house and redo the kitchen, the family was able to resume living in the house within a few months. Without notification from the smoke detector, serious injury or worse could have happened to the occupant, and the house could have received even greater damage requiring a longer refinish time or even a complete rebuild.

Fire doesn't care! It doesn't care who you are, where you live, how much money you have, your race, religion, or anything else about you in any way. It will damage or take your possessions and not think twice about it. It will cause smoke inhalation, burn you, or even worse, and not think twice about it. You on the other hand have the ability to think twice about it. Think about what you can do to keep your house safe, and prevent fires from occurring outside of where they should be. Make sure you have property installed and working smoke detectors and that they are tested and maintained. Make sure everyone living in your house knows what to do to safely get out of a house in the event of a fire and where to go once outside. Trust me when I tell you that a little bit of work now to prevent a fire is much easier than what you will have to deal with should you have a fire!

Do your part today!

Tom Elliff
Fire Chief

EMERGENCY – DIAL 911

SOME PEOPLE RUN FROM PROBLEMS, OTHER 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 round 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?

\$230.00



\$1100.00



\$55.00



\$375.00



Stookey Township provides building for firefighter training

Since Stookey took over the property at 313 Eiler Road that was previously the West End Khoury Park, they have been working on a redevelopment plan for the property. Earlier this year their plan was finalized and a portion of the plan called for the removal of the building that served as the maintenance shed, concession stand, and storage. A part of the plan was to provide this building to the Signal Hill Fire Department for the training of firefighters.



Firefighters were able to work in and on the building to learn new skills and refine their old skills.

Activities that took place consisted of:

Ground and Aerial Ladder Training

Search and Rescue

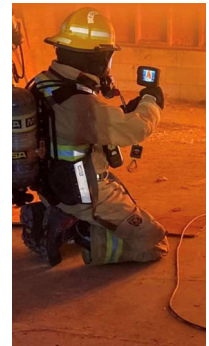
Hoseline Advancement

Ventilation

Live Fire Scenerios

Rural Water Supply

Fire Extinguishers



Northwest and Villa Hills Fire Department were able to join Signal Hill Firefighters and benefit from this training, as well as the Cadets from the Swansea Fire Department Cadet Program. Training with the building ended on September 28th when the building was allowed to burn on purpose.

By allowing the fire department to use this building for training, Stookey Township was able to provide valuable training opportunities for the firefighters that serve the residents of Stookey township and surrounding areas. Stookey Township was also able to realize a cost savings as the amount of materials that were taken to the landfill was less. In the end, everyone involved benefited from this joint venture.

The Signal Hill Fire Department thanks the Stookey Township Board for allowing the firefighters to utilize the building and gain valuable knowledge and skills!



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Signal Hill Fire Department

Help your community - VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Signal Hill Firefighters are in the community, for the community, from the community. “We” are your friends and your neighbors. We are there in your time of need whatever the problem is, at whatever time of day or night it is. While all the firefighters have other jobs, we come together for one purpose ~ help keep our community safe!

It is your time to become part of the “We”! The Signal Hill Fire Department is seeking individuals to become part of the “We” and part of the Signal Hill “TEAM”.



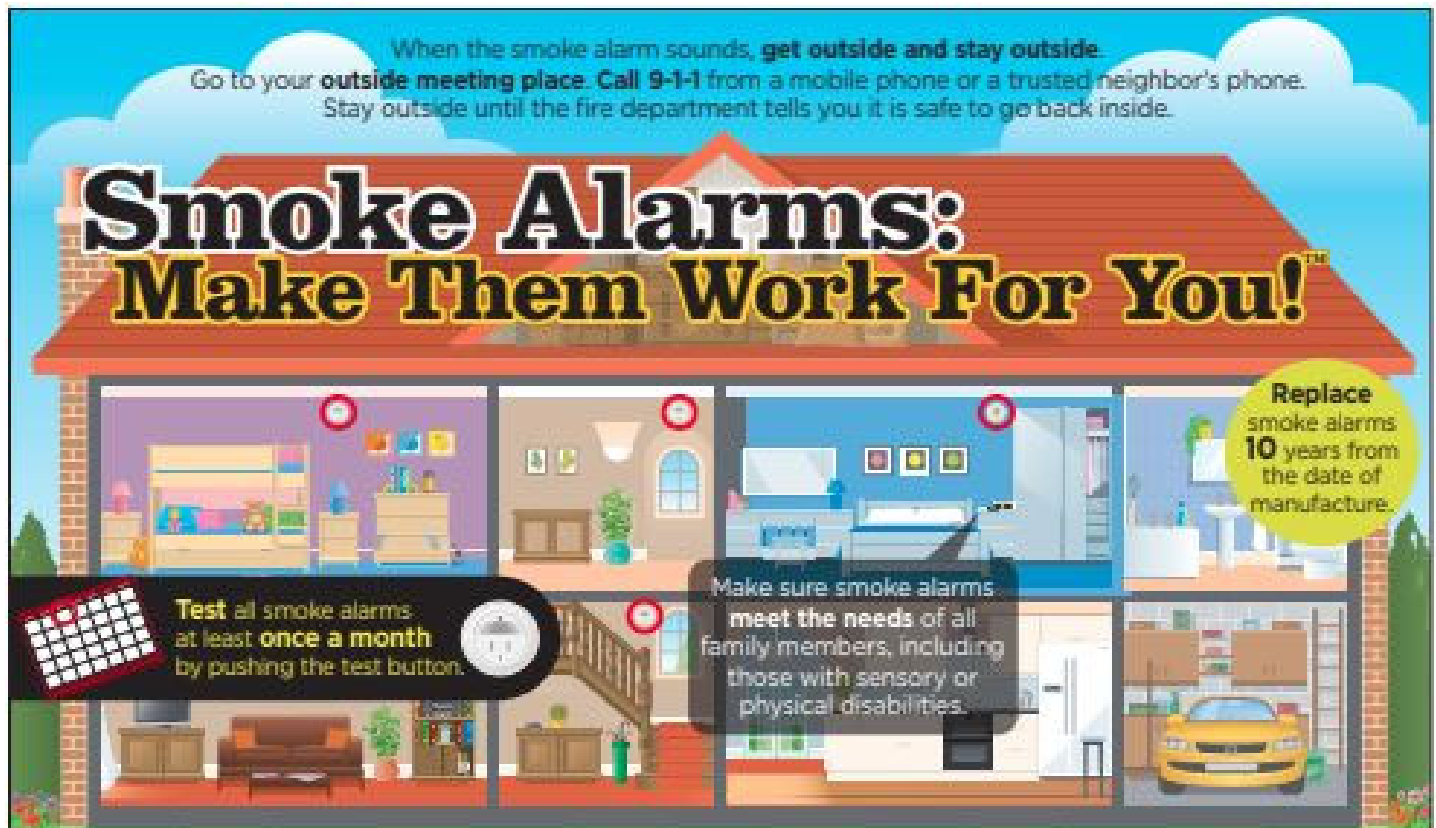
Applicants must:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Possess a valid drivers license
- Pass a written basic skills test
- Pass a physical exam
- Pass a background check
- Live within 1 1/2 miles of the Fire District

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BECOMING A FIREFIGHTER?

- Great opportunity for career growth
- Educational incentives for fire science courses
- Satisfaction of helping others in their time of need
- A feeling and sense of accomplishment
- Opportunity to learn and build your resume
- Learn leadership skills

Contact us today at (618)397-1995 or visit us on the web at www.shfd.net



You could have as little as two minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

Installation

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- When installing, follow the instructions that come with the smoke alarm.
- For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms. When one sounds, they all sound. It is important to have interconnected smoke alarms if you sleep with the bedroom doors closed.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall.

How to Choose an Alarm

It is important to purchase a smoke alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory. The two most common types of smoke alarms are ionization and photoelectric alarms.

- For the best protection, or where extra time is needed to wake up or help others, both types of alarms or dual sensor ionization-photoelectric alarms are recommended.
- An ionization smoke alarm is more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is more responsive to smoldering fires.
- Photoelectric smoke alarms are the best type of alarms to be installed near the kitchen and bathrooms to reduce nuisance alarms.

Testing and Maintenance

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning to keep smoke alarms working.

Replacement

- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable (long-life) batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- For smoke alarms that do not have non-replaceable (long-life) batteries, replace batteries at least once a year. If the alarm chirps, replace only the battery.

Sparky wants to know, what should you do?

Want to test your knowledge about fire safety? How about testing your family. Take the time now to sit with your family and have some fun time learning!

Quiz #1

Is your house set to prevent fires? (Circle the right answer)

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Every home should have working smoke detectors | YES | NO |
| 2. Smoke detectors never have to be maintained | YES | NO |
| 3. I can plug all my electronics into one outlet with power strips | YES | NO |
| 4. I should know two ways out of every room in my house | YES | NO |
| 5. I should block doors and windows | YES | NO |
| 6. My family should have a "fire escape plan" | YES | NO |
| 7. Flammable materials should be left out in the open | YES | NO |
| 8. We need to have a fire extinguisher in our house | YES | NO |
| 9. Food should never be left unattended while cooking | YES | NO |

Quiz #2

If there is a fire in your house, what should you do: (Circle the right answer)

- | | | |
|--|----|-------|
| 1. Get out and stay out | DO | DON'T |
| 2. Walk upright through a smoky room | DO | DON'T |
| 3. Crawl on your hands and knees to stay below smoke | DO | DON'T |
| 4. Go back into a burning house to get something | DO | DON'T |
| 5. Take time to get all of your things before you go | DO | DON'T |
| 6. Feel closed doors and door handles to see if they are hot before opening them | DO | DON'T |
| 7. Call 9-1-1 before you leave the house | DO | DON'T |
| 8. Leave the house and THEN call 9-1-1 | DO | DON'T |
| 9. Go to your family's outside meeting place and then call for help | DO | DON'T |

Answers: Quiz 1 - 1 Yes, 2 No, 3 No, 4 Yes, 5 No, 6 Yes, 7 No, 8 Yes, 9 Yes

Quiz 2 - 1 Do, 2 Don't, 3 Do, 4 Don't, 5 Don't, 6 Do, 7 Don't, 8 Do, 9 Do

Signal Hill

Fire Department

329 Hazel Avenue

Belleville, Illinois 62223



To Report a Fire Dial 9-1-1

Hot Flashes

SMOKE ALARMS

Make Them WORK For You!™



**FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK™**

fpw.org

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