



On The Scene

Plainfield Fire Protection District

Volume 4, Issue 3

Winter 2016-17

MISSION STATEMENT

THE PLAINFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT IS DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE BY SAVING LIVES AND PROTECTING PROPERTY THROUGH EFFICIENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREVENTION.

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Please stay off the ice. Only go in areas where it is posted safe to go on the ice. Call 9-1-1 if anyone falls through ice.

From the Chief



David S. Riddle, Chief

As we enter the holiday season our hope is that you and your family enjoy it safely. Here are our 12 Days of Holiday Safety:

1. Remember **Change-Your-Clock, Change-Your-Battery?** Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Replace your smoke detector if it's over 10 years old and replace your carbon monoxide detector if it's over 5 years old. Ensure your family and guests know what to do if they hear them activate by knowing and practicing your escape route and having an outside meeting place.
2. Don't be shocked by your lights or appliances! Check those cords regularly.
3. Overload isn't just something that affects your daily life. Check to ensure this holiday doesn't put a strain on your outlets!
4. Use that test button. Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to ensure they're protecting you; you probably have them in your kitchen, bathrooms and garage at the minimum.
5. Will this trip you up? Prevent trips and falls by keeping electrical cords safely along walls and out of doorways and other high traffic areas.
6. Kids and pets find the oddest things "tasty!" Don't put lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, tinsel and small decorations within reach of your pets and young children.
7. Trees need to drink too. Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.
8. Is your home fire extinguisher fully charged and up to date? Is it accessible? Remember the four steps to using your fire extinguisher: **PASS** – **P**ull the pin, **A**im at the base of the fire, **S**queeze the handle and **S**weep side to side!
9. Make a wish! Blow out the candles **before** leaving a room or going to bed. Better yet, use battery operated faux candles; just as pretty and **NO** fire hazard!
10. Cozy on a winter's night? Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from *anything* that can burn-decorations, trees, gifts, furniture and curtains.
11. Have you adopted your fire hydrant? If snow covers "your" fire hydrant and you can't see it, guess what? We can't see it either. Please clear the snow from around the hydrant, 3 feet in every direction.
12. Now that's hot! Keep children away from unsupervised cooking areas; use the stove's back burners and turn pot handles in away from curious little hands.

May the special joys of the season be yours today and always,

Be careful out there....

Keep the Wreath Red

Along with area fire departments and fire districts the Plainfield Fire Protection District has decorated every fire station with a holiday wreath that has red lights on it for the holiday fire safety campaign called "Keep the Wreath Red." If there is a fire caused by a holiday decoration, a red light will be replaced with a white light. The goal is to keep the wreath covered in red lights through the holiday season.

The most common holiday decoration related fire is caused by candles. Place candles on uncluttered surfaces at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn. Blow candles (continued on page 2)



Pictured are some PFPD employees with the wreath at Fire Station 2 on 135th Street.

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Keep the Wreath Red



(continued from page 1) out when you leave the room or go to bed. Use candle holders that are sturdy and won't tip over. Avoid using candles in the bedroom where more than one-third of U.S. candle fires begin. Lastly, never leave a child or pet alone in a room with a burning candle. Consider using flameless candles which look and smell like real candles.

A dry Christmas tree is a fire hazard. A tree that has been properly watered will not burn as readily as a dry tree. If you have a fresh Christmas tree, keep water in the tree stand at all times; never let it dry out. When buying a fresh tree make sure the needles don't fall off when touched. Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2 inches from the base of the trunk and add water to the tree stand. Locate your Christmas tree so it's not blocking an exit and is at least three feet away from any heat source including fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, heat vents and candles. The most common cause of Christmas tree fires is a heat source that's too close to the tree. Properly dispose of your Christmas tree as soon as it shows signs of drying out.

Use lights and electric decorations that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Only use lights, extension cords, timers and electric decorations rated for outdoor use when decorating outside. Replace any string of lights that has worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for the maximum number of light strands that can be connected and don't overload extension cords; check the extension cord label to see how much load it is rated to carry. Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving your home or going to bed.

By following fire prevention tips you can greatly reduce the risk of fire in your home and enjoy a safe holiday season while helping to "Keep the Wreath Red!" For more holiday fire safety information please visit the National Fire Protection Association website at www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/wildfire-and-seasonal-fires/winter-holiday-safety, our website at www.plainfieldfpd.com or call us at 815-436-5335.

Winter Fire and Life Safety

Winter weather means new challenges when it comes to fire and life safety. Here are safety tips to keep your family safe and warm:

- Have your furnace, fireplace and chimney and wood stove and chimney inspected and cleaned annually by a qualified professional before the beginning of each heating season.
- Keep combustible materials at least 3 feet away from furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves, portable space heaters and other heating equipment.
- Don't use flammable liquids to start or accelerate a fire in your fireplace or wood stove.
- Dispose of ashes, when cooled, in a metal container with a lid and keep it at least 10 feet away from your home or other structures.
- Only plug portable space heaters directly into an outlet, not an extension cord.
- Children and pets need to stay at least 3 feet away from fireplaces, wood/pellet stoves, oil stoves and space heaters.
- Always follow manufacturer's instructions for safe and proper use of heating equipment.
- Never use your oven or range to heat your home, doing this is a safety hazard and can be a source of carbon monoxide.
- Do not thaw frozen water pipes with a blow torch or other open flame because doing so can conduct heat and start a fire inside the wall. Use hot water or a hand held dryer for thawing or call a plumber.
- Test your home's smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors monthly and change their batteries at least once a year.



Winter driving can be challenging, here are safety tips for wintery road conditions:

- Be alert to changing weather conditions and the possibility of black ice.
- Remember that bridges and overpasses can ice over faster than roadways.
- Reduce your speed and following distance on slippery roads.
- Don't use cruise control on slippery roads.
- Don't run your vehicle inside a garage to warm it up. Only run your vehicle outdoors.
- Let someone know your route and arrival time when driving during a winter storm.
- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained and has an emergency kit.
- Visit www.ready.gov/car for a vehicle safety and emergency kit checklist.

Holiday gift ideas: smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers and escape ladders.

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Plainfield Fire Profiles: Firefighter/EMT Randy Krnac



Randy has been with the Plainfield Fire Protection District for 37 years. He started out as a volunteer Firefighter/EMT while working for the phone company and is currently part-time. While off-duty Randy provided CPR in 3 separate incidents where someone was having a heart attack; all 3 patients were saved! Randy said "I was just in the right place at the right time."

Randy's most memorable calls include the 1990 tornado. Randy left work early to help with the emergency response and stated "the destruction was much worse in person than what was depicted in pictures and videos." In July 1996 Randy went to work at the phone company and then got calls from co-workers stating they could not get in because of flooding, "the water came up that fast." Randy came home to the historical flooding and helped with the emergency response. A fire response Randy will never forget is the S&G Packaging fire in April 2002. The fire was very difficult to fight and the building was a total loss. What Randy enjoys most about his job is helping people and being with his co-workers.

Randy likes going to car shows, especially Plainfield Cruise Nights that he enjoyed with his good friend Mike Ludemann, the Fire District's EVT who passed away in February 2016. Randy is a lifelong Plainfield resident. He and his wife Sue have been married for 43 years and they have 3 adult children and 8 grandchildren. Randy and Sue's son Chad also works for the Fire District as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic and Randy's late Father, Joe Krnac, was the Fire District's custodian for 22 years.

Have you Ever Wondered?

What are the State of Illinois requirements for carbon monoxide detectors?

Illinois Public Act 094-0741 requires a carbon monoxide detector within 15 feet of bedrooms. It is recommended that a carbon monoxide detector be located on every level of your home, including the basement. Follow the manufacturers instructions for proper installation.

If you have a question please call us at 815-436-5335 or send an email to onthescene@plainfieldfpd.com. You may see your question featured in a future edition of On the Scene.

Fire & Life Safety for Kids



Winter weather brings with it fun winter activities to do outside like build a snowman or go sledding. Even though winter weather can be fun, you need to make sure you are safe while playing outside. Dress warmly and make sure you take breaks and go inside to warm up. Don't wait until your hands and feet hurt from the cold, go inside before you get that cold so you don't get frostbite. When sledding it is a good idea to wear a helmet to protect your head in case you have a collision or slide into something like a tree or fence. If you go to a sledding hill make sure you follow the rules and wait your turn so you don't crash into someone.



Winter also brings ice. Even though neighborhood ponds and other bodies of water freeze that does not mean that they are safe. Never go out onto the ice. There are many things that can make ice weak including changes in the temperature, the movement of water and how deep the water is. In the picture to the right you can see how even the weight of a dog can crack ice. Don't go out onto the ice and don't chase pets or other animals that go onto ice. Call your pet to get off the ice and ask a trusted adult for help. If you see someone fall through ice call 9-1-1 to get them help and don't go onto the ice to help them, wait for help.

To learn more about winter weather safety visit Ready Wrigley Prepares for Winter Weather at http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/readywrigley/documents/13_244218_ready_wrigley_winter_weather_508.pdf.



For more information call us at 815-436-5335 or visit us on the web at www.plainfieldfpd.com

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You may receive this newsletter even if you live outside the boundaries of the Plainfield Fire Protection District.
In order to save on costs, everyone in certain carrier routes will receive this mailing.

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Dates to Remember

December 24th—January 1st, Hanukkah

December 25th, Christmas Day

January 1, 2017, New Years Day

January 16th Martin Luther King Day

**January 27th, Chat with the Chiefs
7 pm at the Plainfield Police Department**

February 20th, President's Day

**March 5th—11th, Severe Weather
Preparedness Week**

March 12th, Daylight Saving Time Begins



The Plainfield Fire Protection District wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season! Please help us to Keep the Wreath Red!

Thank you for supporting Toys for Tots!
Pictured left are the toys that were donated for this year's holiday season.