



On The Scene

Plainfield Fire Protection District

Volume 5, Issue 1

Spring 2017

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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View our 2016 Annual Report on our website at plainfieldfpd.com.

From the Chief



David S. Riddle, Chief

Welcome to spring and as it warms up and more of us venture outside to enjoy the weather please keep a sharp eye out for those pedestrians and bicyclists that will be sharing the roadways with you. Put the phone down and stop the texts to stop the wrecks.

In light of three tragic and preventable deaths from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning in our fire district in 2016, we partnered with Kidde and First Alert to put a working CO detector in the homes of some of the most vulnerable residents of our community. While this is definitely a work in progress we've gathered some data points that cause concern. Included in our visit to the selected homes, we also offer to check the smoke detectors. Though we don't have enough data to come to any solid conclusions yet, the early data suggests that more than half of the homes we've visited also have a significant issue with smoke detectors. These issues included too few smoke detectors, detectors that have no batteries or dead batteries, detectors that were beyond their recommended life of 10 years while some homes had no detectors at all. Though we currently have a full list of

families for our CO detector installation program we may continue to expand the program as resources permit.

Please, please, please contact us at 815/436-5335 during normal business hours to request help or guidance on the placement, testing and maintenance of your home smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. We're here to help you and those you love. Our members will make an appointment with you to provide the needed assistance.

This May will see the awarding of scholarships named in honor of retired Chief John D. Eichelberger. Four college-bound high school seniors who live within our fire district will be the recipients of these awards, underwritten and sustained by the Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department. This is the second year of this effort and we're glad we're able to partner with our students and schools in this important endeavor.

Thanks for your continued support and as always, be careful out there....

Be careful out there....
David S. Riddle, Chief

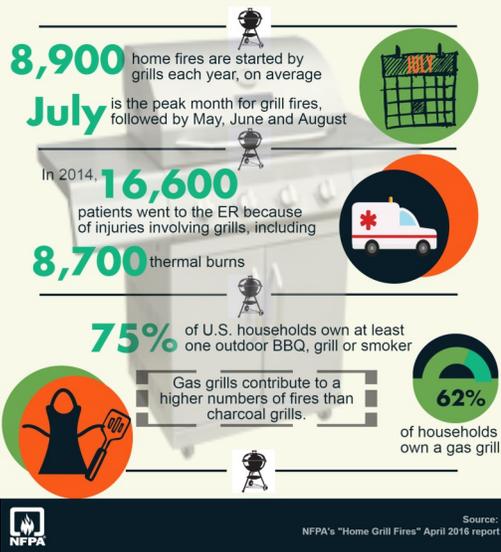
Barbeque Grill Safety

Warm weather season is approaching and that means outdoor grilling season will be here soon. Before using your propane grill for the first time this season apply a light soap and water solution to the hose to check for a propane leak. Bubbles will form if there's a leak. If your grill has a gas leak and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill and if the leak stops have the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop call 9-1-1. Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it. If you smell gas while using your grill, immediately get away from the grill and call 9-1-1, (continued on page 2)



Barbeque Grill Safety

GRILLING STATISTICS from NFPA



(continued from page 1) do not move the grill.

If you use starter fluid for your charcoal grill never add more charcoal starter fluid or any other flammable liquid to the fire. Always keep charcoal starter fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources. When finished grilling let the coals cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container with a lid and store the container away from your home or other structures.



All grills, propane and charcoal, should only be used outdoors. Locate your grill away from your home, other structures, deck railings, eaves and overhanging branches. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill at all times. Keep your grill clean of grease buildup, including the tray below the grill, and never leave your grill unattended while in use.

For more grilling safety tips and an informational video please visit <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/wildfire-and-seasonal-fires/grilling>.

Most grill fires occur during the months of May, June, July and August with July being the peak month for grill fires.

Brush Fires, Mulch Fires and Red Flag Warnings

Occasionally Red Flag Warnings are issued for our area by the National Weather Service. A Red Flag Warning means weather conditions are favorable for the development and fast spread of brush fires. Outdoor burning of any kind should not occur during a Red Flag Warning. Brush fires rapidly grow and spread and are usually fanned by the wind. Structures and combustible materials in the path of a brush fire are at risk of catching fire. Mulch fires can also occur during hot, dry conditions. To limit your home's exposure to a mulch fire, locate mulch in your garden at least 18 inches away from combustible construction.



Smoke seen from a brush fire on September 27, 2016 from Route 30 and 143rd Street.

To help protect your home and other structures from brush and mulch fires don't allow combustible storage or dead vegetation near structures. Do not stack firewood next to your home or other structures. Keep your gutters and roof clear of leaves and pine needles. Keep grass cut and clear any tall dry grass. Provide enough water to help keep grass and shrubs healthy. Trim low hanging or dead branches from trees and shrubs. Dispose of smoking materials in ash trays and wet them to ensure they are extinguished. Make sure to extinguish open flames such as fire pits, campfires, barbecue grills, citronella candles and torches before leaving them, never leave an open flame unattended. Never burn or have an open flame on any day that a Red Flag Warning has been issued.

Severe Weather Season

Spring and summer can bring severe storms to our area. Be alerted to threatening weather conditions with a NOAA weather radio and also by monitoring weather alerts on the radio, television, on-line and through your cell phone. Make sure you and your family have a plan and know where to go and what to do for severe weather threats including severe storms, high winds, flooding, hail, lightning and tornados. A watch means weather conditions are favorable for the development of the type of weather situation the watch was issued for. A warning means the type of weather situation the warning was issued for is occurring within the warned area and you should seek the appropriate shelter immediately. For more information about severe weather preparedness please visit <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/spring-safety>.

Call us at 815-436-5335 for help with installing or maintaining smoke alarms and CO detectors.

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Plainfield Fire Profiles: Lieutenant Brian Joseph



Lieutenant Brian Joseph began his career with the Plainfield Fire Protection District as a volunteer Firefighter/EMT-B in November 2002 and transitioned to paid on call status before being hired as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic with the first group of Plainfield Fire Protection District full-time Firefighter/Paramedics in April 2006. Brian was promoted to Lieutenant in March 2009.

Prior to becoming a Firefighter/Paramedic Brian had been working in construction and after September 11, 2001 he decided he wanted to become a Firefighter/Paramedic. Brian enjoys giving back to his community. For the past ten years Brian has served as the Fire District liaison for St. Baldrick's. Brian also coordinated with Plainfield Firefighters/Paramedics Local 4560 to donate funds to Allenforce, a non-profit in Plainfield that serves veterans by providing power wheelchairs that allow disabled veterans to go places that a traditional wheelchair would not be able to go. With the funds provided Allenforce was able to customize their trailer with a wrap, grip textured paint and a shelving system. The trailer is used to haul the power wheelchairs where needed.

What Brian likes best about being a Firefighter/Paramedic is helping people, he sees people on their worst day and tries to make it better. He also enjoys working with his co-workers and the day to day challenges the job brings. Brian grew up in Plainfield. After graduating from Plainfield Central High School Brian joined the Marine Corp. Currently Brian and his wife and their two children live in Naperville.

Have you Ever Wondered?

How often should I replace my smoke alarms?

Smoke alarms need to be replaced 10 years after the date of manufacture stamped on the back of the smoke alarm. If your smoke alarms do not have a date of manufacture stamped on them, then they are more than 10 years old and need to be replaced.

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



With warmer spring weather you can go bike riding. To stay safe, so you can have fun, always ride your bike with adult supervision. Stay off of busy streets. Don't ride your bike after dusk or when it gets dark outside because drivers in cars will have a harder time seeing you. Always stop for stop signs and before crossing a street or intersection to make sure it is safe to cross and no cars are coming. Remember to always walk your bike across the street and only cross at the corner not in the middle of a street. When riding your bike always remember to wear a helmet, make sure that the helmet fits you and is not too loose.

Springtime also brings thunderstorms. When you are outside playing and you hear thunder it is time to go inside so you won't get struck by lightning. To be safe you need to either go inside a building, like your house, or get inside a hardtop car (not a convertible) and keep the windows rolled up. Do not seek shelter under or near a tree or in a picnic shelter because they will not be able to protect you from a lightning strike. After a thunderstorm passes wait 30 minutes after the thunder stops before going back outside to play. Remember when thunder roars, go indoors!

Sometimes thunderstorms bring too much rain and there are floods. Never play in flood water, always stay away from flooded areas. The flood water is dangerous because it can have strong currents and there may also be things under the water that you cannot see that you could run into and get hurt so always stay out of flood water.

Enjoy the springtime and have fun while playing outside!

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

Plainfield Fire Protection District
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In order to save on costs, everyone in certain carrier routes will receive this mailing.

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Bob Baish
Trustee

Fire Chief

David S. Riddle

Dates to Remember

April 16th Easter Sunday

April 26th Chat with the Chiefs

May 14th Mother's Day

May 29th Memorial Day

June 14th Flag Day

June 18th Father's Day



Save the Date

Fire Prevention Week
Open House!

Saturday,
September 30th,
from 11 am to 2 pm
at Fire Station 2,
23806 W. 135th Street.

There will be displays,
demonstrations, fire
station tours, museum
tours, raffles and a
hot dog lunch.

Please plan to join
us for our annual
Open House.

April 9th-15th is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

This week is to thank and celebrate public safety telecommunications personnel that answer 9-1-1 calls for help and dispatch the appropriate emergency response. Thank you to our telecommunicators!

May 21st-27th is Emergency Medical Services Week

This week is to thank and celebrate emergency medical personnel from paramedics to emergency room technicians, nurses and doctors. Thank you for your dedication to help those in emergency medical situations!