



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.

Inside this issue:

Hot Weather Safety 2

Oily Rags, Flammable and Combustible Liquids 2

Plainfield Fire Profiles: Jim Melaniphy 3

Have You Ever Wondered?, Fire & Life Safety for Kids 3



Please leave the fireworks show to the professionals!

On The Scene

Plainfield Fire Protection District

Volume 5, Issue 2

Summer 2017

From the Chief



David S. Riddle, Chief

The summer heat will soon be upon us so be sure to stay hydrated and cool. Staying cool might include swimming so it's important to briefly review just a few swimming safety rules: NO! running, pushing or shoving. NO! diving in shallow water. NO! glassware in the pool area and don't leave children unattended in the pool area. Tragedy strikes quickly and with little warning.

An always enjoyable summer celebration is the 4th of July. Though fireworks that explode are generally illegal in Illinois there are many lawful "fireworks" that don't explode, but that doesn't mean they're safe. We all enjoy the fireworks and encourage you to watch them in shows put on by licensed professionals over this holiday. An unfortunate fact is that our children are the too-frequent victims of fireworks "accidents" and just as one important reminder, sparklers burn at 1,800° Fahrenheit! For more fireworks safety tips please check our website for links.

Our training facilities are being put to good use and here's a brief update: Since our first live burn in the training buildings on the headquarters campus last year on April 25th, we have had over 100 live training burns. Plainfield Fire personnel are not the only men and women that are able to take advantage of this significant and robust training facility. Other groups that have taken advantage of our facility include the MABAS Division 15 TRT (Technical Rescue Team), Joliet FD's TRT, the Plainfield Police & Fire Academy, the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute's Explorer Program, as well as other Fire Protection Districts including Braidwood, Channahon, Coal City, Minooka, Morris and Troy. These agencies have utilized the burn towers to keep up their life saving skills as well as honing their technical, non-fire rescue skills.

An extremely useful app for your smartphone was recently launched by the Will County Emergency Management Agency. The **Ready Will County** app will assist you in preparing a custom emergency plan for your family along with a treasure trove of emergency preparedness information in one easily accessible location; right on your smartphone! For example, during an emergency users can alert their contacts that they are safe or need help. Users can also use the map feature to see evacuation routes or road closures. Information you really need, when you need it! I encourage you to download the **Ready Will County** app right now while you're reading this and make sure you and your loved ones are ready when the emergency strikes.

I hope to see you at our next quarterly "Chat with the Chiefs" which is scheduled for July 26th at the Plainfield Police Department. I hope your schedule permits your attendance.

If you have the power to make someone happy, do it. The world needs more of that.

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

EMS Week Awards

May 21st—27th was Emergency Medical Services Week and the Plainfield Fire Protection District was recognized at the Silver Cross Emergency Medical Services Awards Banquet for three outstanding calls in 2016. The first award was for a call where a man in full cardiac arrest was successfully resuscitated. Recognized for this call were Lt. Brian Joseph, and Firefighter/Paramedics Doug Mullen, Josh Serrato and Steve Kelly. The second award was for off duty FF/PM Joe Baber for lifesaving actions to a woman who was hit by a car after exiting a bus on the expressway. The third award was for a Fire District wide campaign to get carbon monoxide detectors in homes after a multi-fatality carbon monoxide poisoning call. Recognized for this (continued on page 2)

On The Scene, Page 2

Hot Weather Safety



IT'S HOT OUTSIDE!
STAY COOL. STAY HYDRATED. STAY INFORMED.

Extremely hot weather can cause sickness or even death.

STAY COOL.
Stay in air-conditioned buildings as much as possible and avoid direct sunlight.

STAY HYDRATED.
Drink plenty of water and don't wait until you're thirsty to drink.

STAY INFORMED.
Stay updated on local weather forecasts so you can plan activities safely when it's hot outside.

KNOW WHEN IT'S HOT!
Check local news for extreme heat alerts and safety tips.

 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Environmental Health

Along with summer weather comes the risk of heat related illness. Take precautions to prevent heat related illnesses during excessive heat warnings. Be aware of the weather and plan your day accordingly, avoiding strenuous outdoor activities during the hottest time of the day. Stay hydrated, avoid being in direct sunlight and stay in air conditioned areas as much as possible to help prevent heat related illnesses.

Heat exhaustion requires immediate action to prevent heat stroke. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include: heavy sweating, weakness, cold, pale and clammy skin, a fast and weak pulse, nausea or vomiting and fainting. First aid for heat exhaustion includes: move to a cooler location, lie down and loosen your clothing, apply cool, wet cloths to as much of your body as possible and sip water. If you vomit and vomiting continues seek medical attention immediately.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency. Symptoms of heat stroke include: a high body temperature (above 103° Fahrenheit), hot, red, dry or moist skin, a rapid and strong pulse and possible unconsciousness. First aid for heat stroke includes: call 9-1-1 immediately, move the person to a cooler environment, reduce the person's body temperature with cool cloths or a bath. Do not give them fluids to drink.

For more information visit the Centers for Disease Control website at <https://www.cdc.gov/extremeheat/index.html>.

Never leave children or pets unattended in a vehicle. Even on a 70° Fahrenheit day the temperature inside a parked vehicle can reach a dangerous level that can cause heat stroke and death.

Seek immediate first aid for symptoms of heat exhaustion.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency, call 9-1-1 immediately for anyone suffering with the symptoms of heat stroke.

Know the difference between heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

EMS Week Awards

(continued from page 1) call were Deputy Chief Jon Stratton, Battalion Chief Scott Moore, Lt. Brian Joseph, Lt. Chuck Kraft, and Firefighter/Paramedics Ashley Davis, Jack Jirgl, Bryan Gallup, Josh Serrato, Karen Kelly, Matt Gallagher, Matt Mullins, Mike Williams, Robert Proctor, Roy Doden and Steve Kelly.

EMS Year of Service Awards were also presented to the following staff members for five years of service: Ed Eddy, Jr. and Zachary Randich; for ten years of service: Lorin Eichelberger, Joshua Giovenco and Joseph Schroeder; for fifteen years of service: Assistant Chief Mark Reynolds, Ray Crompton, Chad Johnson and Carl Schultz; for twenty years of service: Kelly Rogina and for twenty-five years of service: Jeff Marciniak.

Oily Rags, Flammable and Combustible Liquids



Home improvement projects involving oil-based paints, stains and varnishes require proper handling of the products and the oily rags used with these products for fire prevention. An annual average of 800 home fires start when oily rags catch fire or are ignited. Annually 1,600 home fires are caused by spontaneous combustion or chemical reactions; statistics from the National Fire Protection Association.

Oily rags release heat as they dry, if the heat is not released into the air it builds up and a pile of oily rags can heat up enough to ignite a fire. To prevent a fire take oily rags outside to dry. Hang the rags or spread them on the ground and weigh them down so they don't blow away. Keep the rags away from buildings. Once dried put the rags in a metal can with a tight lid and fill the can with a water and a detergent solution that will break down the oils. Make sure to locate oily rag cans in a cool place, out of direct sunlight and away from any other heat sources. Check with your local garbage collector for information on proper disposal of the rags.

Flammable and combustible liquids give off vapors that can ignite causing a fire. Common flammable liquids include gasoline, lacquers and nail polish. Common combustible liquids include paint thinner, kerosene, oil-based paints and stains. Do not use flammable and combustible liquids near an open flame and do not smoke when working with these liquids. If you spill a liquid on your clothing, remove your clothing and place it outside to dry; once dried it can be laundered. Always store flammable and combustible liquids in their original containers with the lid tightly closed; never store these liquids in a glass container. Gasoline should only be used as a motor fuel, not as a cleaner. Never bring gasoline indoors. Store gasoline in a container made for gasoline storage and keep it tightly closed. Never store gasoline containers in a basement or the occupied space of a home or building. Gasoline containers should be stored in an outbuilding, detached garage or shed. For more information please visit <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/by-topic/safety-in-the-home/gasoline-and-propane/gasoline-at-home>.

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

On The Scene, Page 3

Plainfield Fire Profiles: Jim Melaniphy



Jim began his career as a volunteer firefighter back in the 70's. Traveling with his full-time career in software development, database design and IT administration, he was able to volunteer in Frankfort, IL and Hillsboro, NJ. When Jim was back in Illinois, he joined the Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter in 2004. He wanted to get back to volunteering after 9/11. Since he was working from home he was available to help during the day, which he thought was needed. He liked the idea of being there to support his neighbors and the community. In 2007, Jim was hired part-time by the Fire District for technical support. In 2010 he took on IT administration full-time with the Fire District. Jim is also the Secretary/Treasurer for the Board of the Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department, which consists of past and current Plainfield firefighters and paramedics and is a charitable association that supports members, the community, and the fire service. When long time Fire Chief John Eichelberger retired in 2015, Jim came up with the idea for a scholarship in Chief's name. As a result of that idea the Fire Department has provided eight \$500 Scholarships to high school seniors residing within the district and majoring in fire science, emergency medical services or public safety programs. Jim resides in Plainfield with his wife Sally and his fun loving puppy, Bob. They have 3 grown daughters and 3 grandsons. Jim will be retiring from the Fire District in January 2018 and we thank him for his years of service. We will never forget his famous words of "IT wisdom" around the stations: "Turn it off and turn it back on."

Have you Ever Wondered?

How hot do sparklers really get?

Sparklers burn between 1,200° and 1,800° Fahrenheit and the sparkler rod stays very hot after the sparks stop. Keep a bucket of sand nearby to safely dispose of used sparklers. Keep the used sparklers in the sand filled bucket until they are cool before disposing of them.

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



There are a lot of fun things to do in the summer! Here are safety tips to keep your summer fun. When swimming always follow the rules at the pool and never swim alone. If you're swimming in a lake stay in the area for swimmers and don't swim where the boats go. Don't swim in the ponds in your neighborhood. Ponds are made to hold rain water so your neighborhood does not flood



and you should never swim in them. Always wear a lifejacket when you are out on a boat or playing in or near lakes. When thunder roars, go indoors! Always get out of the water when there is lightning and thunder and wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before going back into the water.

Fire safety never takes a summer break. Plan and practice a home fire escape drill with your family. Know 2 ways out of every room. Remember to stay low and go so you are below the smoke. Do not stop to get anything, go outside and wait at your family meeting place. Call 9-1-1 from a cell phone or a neighbors phone after you get outside. Get out and stay out! Never go back inside a burning building for any reason. Let firefighters know if anyone, including pets, are still inside the home. Never hide from fire, go outside!

Visit Sparky's Learn Not To Burn web page for fun fire safety videos at <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/resources/education-programs/learn-not-to-burn/learn-not-to-burn-videos>.

Have a safe and fun summer!

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

Plainfield Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 911
Plainfield, IL 60544

PR SRT STD
US Postage PAID
Permit # 141
Plainfield, IL

ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

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.

Board of Trustees

Bill Barnes
President

James R. Lehmann
Secretary

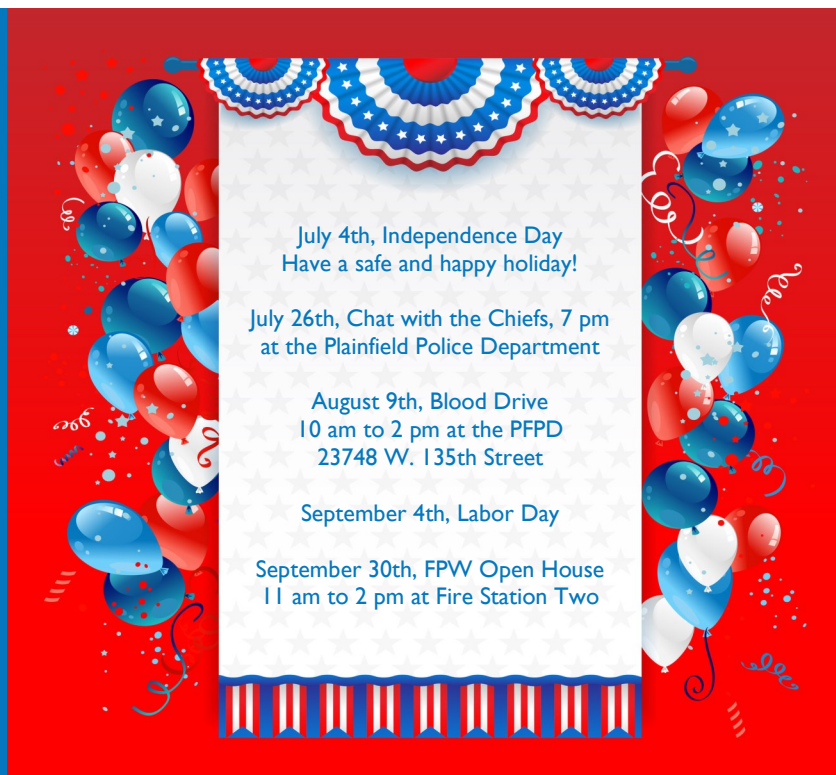
Douglas Shreve
Treasurer

Tom Paul
Trustee

Bob Baish
Trustee

Fire Chief

David S. Riddle



Save the Date

Fire Prevention Week
Open House!

Saturday,
September 30th,
from 11 am to 2 pm
at Fire Station 2,
23748 W. 135th Street.

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

Please join us for our
annual Fire Prevention
Week Open House.

Celebrate the 4th of July Independence Day Holiday safely by leaving the fireworks show to the professionals!

Sparklers burn between 1,200° and 1,800° Fahrenheit! Sparklers and fireworks are not toys.
Only use fireworks that are legal in Illinois and follow all directions and safety warnings on the packaging.