



On The Scene

Plainfield Fire Protection District

Volume 5, Issue 4

Winter 2017-18

From the Chief

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:

Holiday Fire Safety, Heating Safety 2

New Ambulance and Pumper Tender 2

Plainfield Fire Profiles: Ralph Rouse 3

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



Please help keep fire hydrants clear of snow!



David S. Riddle, Chief

The holidays are here and we hope they continue to be safe for each and every one of you. We're here to help achieve that goal so don't hesitate to call on us if we can help you check your smoke or carbon monoxide detectors or provide any advice when it comes to your home or business safety issues. Our annual fire prevention week open house was another success thanks to almost 1200 of you that attended the 3-hour event this year. Our staff was excited about showing you a snapshot of the services we provide and just a small slice of the expertise your Plainfield Fire District members are able to offer. Thanks again for all of your support and we hope you'll be able to join us at next year's open house.

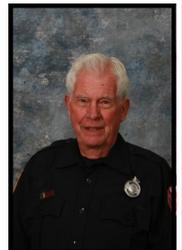
As you may have read in the Profiles section of previous *On The Scene* newsletters we will have three significant members of our Fire District retire at the end of this year. The first retirement is of our 33 year HR/Finance administrator Cheree Lewis. She began her career as a fulltime administrative assistant downtown at former fire station 1 on Des Plaines. She's been the hub of the evolving growth of our fire district, learning and doing more as our operations grew and became more complex, year after year. When Cheree began in 1985 there were only 6 fulltime employees and today there is a mix of about 135 fulltime and part time employees. We surely wouldn't be where we are today without her dedication and commitment to the district and our residents. Cheree plans on doing more traveling with her husband Larry, while also enjoying her grandchildren and many hobbies. We sincerely wish her continued good health and happiness and know she'll enjoy the well-deserved life of retirement after doing so much for so many these past 33 years.



The second retirement is of our long-time IT/AV/CAD system coordinator, Jim Melaniphy who developed, implemented and maintained our growing reliance on that "side" of the business, without whom we'd be lagging in our efforts to deliver state-of-the-art services to our residents. Jim has also proudly served as a volunteer firefighter with us since 2004. He's been an integral part of our operation since joining us full time and has continued to guide us by identifying weaknesses and vulnerabilities, developing systems to address those and continually looking for ways to improve those structures that support mission. We wish Jim and his wife Sally a long and fruitful retirement, enjoying their grandchildren along with their varied hobbies and interests.



Lastly, this past November Ralph Rouse, a member of our organization since 1950 retired. Most of us can only imagine the changes Ralph has seen both in the community and in our Fire District. One of the biggest must be the transition from a primarily volunteer organization to the primarily career agency it is today. Ralph clearly remembers the sad day in August of 1990 when the devastating tornado struck our community and has shared the memories of those horrible days that followed. He's played a significant role with us over these past 67 years including being selected as Fireman of the Year in 1980 and 1992. His service as an officer with the volunteer department is notable and he's been the President since 1979. We know Ralph and his wife Shirley will now get to enjoy a well-deserved retirement, finally! Cheree, Jim and Ralph will be greatly missed by all of us.



With the changing weather upon us, please slow down, plan a little more time to get to your destinations and put the cell phone down while you're driving; Stop The Texts – Stop The Wrecks!
As always,

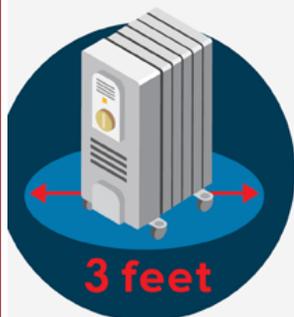
Be careful out there....
David S. Riddle, Chief

Holiday Fire Safety



The Plainfield Fire Protection District is participating in the annual holiday fire safety campaign "Keep the Wreath Red" to raise awareness of fire safety. All fire stations are decorated with a holiday wreath with red lights. If there's a fire caused by a holiday decoration then a red light will be replaced with a white light. Unfortunately on December 5th we had a Christmas tree fire therefore there is one white light on the fire station wreaths. This fire was caused by a string of Christmas lights that overheated. Most holiday decoration related fires are started by candles accounting for 55% of holiday decoration fires in December (between 2011-2015 per NFPA). For safety locate candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn. Always blow out candles before leaving a room or going to bed. Never leave a child or a pet alone in a room with a burning candle. Use sturdy candle holders that won't tip over. Never use a candle if oxygen is used in your home. Consider decorating with flameless candles. When buying a fresh cut Christmas tree check to make sure the needles do not fall off when touched. Cut 2 inches from the base of the trunk before placing the tree in the stand. Locate your Christmas tree so it is at least 3 feet away from heat sources and is not blocking an exit. Make sure to add water to the stand daily.

An adequately watered Christmas tree will not dry out as quickly. A dry tree is a fire hazard and should be immediately removed from your home. Locate the dry tree outside away from your home, garage or other structures while waiting for disposal. When decorating with lights and/or other electric powered devices make sure they are listed by a qualified testing laboratory for safety. Inspect light strings before using them and replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions. When decorating outside make sure you are using outdoor rated electrical decorations and cords. Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so cords don't get damaged. Always turn off decorations before leaving your home or going to bed. For more holiday fire safety tips visit <http://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Seasonal-fires/Winter-holiday-safety/Christmas-tree-fires>.



Heat your home safely.

Keep anything that can burn 3 feet away from a fireplace, wood stove or space heater.

U.S. Fire Administration



Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January & February. Have heating equipment & chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional. Give space heaters space! They account for 4 out of 5 home heating fire deaths. Keep anything that can burn at least 3ft from heating equipment: furnace, fireplace, wood stove and portable heaters. With a few simple safety tips & precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jS5xGfRO-Tw>.

New Ambulance and EMS Updates



The EMS division has had several upgrades; we took possession of a 2017 Horton Ambulance which went into service in August at Fire Station 4. We upgraded our cardiac monitor/defibrillators with the purchase of five Zoll "X" Series. These will help the paramedics assess and care for patients

more efficiently and with greater accuracy. The monitors they are replacing have been moved to the ALS fire vehicles so they too will have expanded capabilities to treat patients. All levels of EMTs took part in continuing education that included High Performance CPR and Advanced Capnography. They also completed a Mental Health First Aid Course which expanded their knowledge in recognition, communication, and caring for those with mental health issues.

New Pumper Tender 1937

The new 1937 is a 2017 Pierce 3,000 gallon pumper tender capable of flowing 1,250 gallons of water per minute. This unit has multi-use capabilities which better serves the residents of the district by being able to supply 3,000 gallons of water in rural areas that don't have fire hydrants within the Plainfield Fire Protection District boundaries, as well as carry out fire suppression duties when the needs arises. This new apparatus replaces a late 1980's pumper tanker which also served the District very well. 1937 went into service this December at Fire Station 3.



On The Scene, Page 3

Plainfield Fire Profiles: Ralph Rouse



Ralph and Shirley Rouse on November 14, 2017

In 1950 Ralph Rouse joined the Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and has been serving the Department ever since. In 1979 Ralph became President of the Volunteer Department and still holds that office. Ralph has been the constant thread throughout every Department public event: pancake breakfast, firemen's dance, pig roast and the turkey raffle. He has also been instrumental in the success of the Department member events: picnics, Christmas parties, meetings and dinners.

As the Fire District started to build new fire stations, Ralph assisted with the installation of the computer networks, the public address systems and televisions. He helped to run the cables to support these systems and set up the various connections throughout the buildings. For the last 6 years Ralph has been the Superintendent of the maintenance group for the headquarters building. He and Fred Baldego worked to keep the building clean and functional. Ralph was always one of the first contacts for any group that came to deliver public safety related training in our facility.

After serving the Department and Fire District for the last 67 years Ralph decided it was time to retire and spend more time with his wife Shirley. We honored Ralph and his family with a ceremony on November 14th where he was presented a plaque by Bill Barnes, President of the Plainfield Fire Protection District Board of Trustees. Thank you Ralph for all your years of service and dedication to the Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department and the Plainfield Fire Protection District!

Have you Ever Wondered?

Which season has the most home fires?

Home fires occur more in winter than any other season. For information to keep your home safe visit <http://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Campaigns/Put-A-Freeze-on-Winter-Fires>.

If you have a question please call us at 815-436-5335 or send an email to onthescene@plainfieldfpd.com.

Fire & Life Safety for Kids

adding layers will help keep you warm as the temperature drops

CHILLY
1-2 layers
long layer
outer layer to keep out wind, rain
warm shoes water proof
weather.gov/safety

COLD
2-3 layers
warm hat
outer layer to keep out wind, wet snow
gloves
boots water proof
1-2 layers

EXTREME COLD
3+ layers
1 insulating
gloves
warm hat
face mask
outer layer to keep out wind
boots water proof
2+ layers

Winter weather is here and that means cold, snow and ice. To be safe always wear winter clothes to protect you from the cold. Dressing for cold weather will keep you warm and prevent frostbite and hypothermia which is a medical emergency. When playing outside make sure to come inside and warm up if you are cold and don't stay outside if your clothes get wet from the snow. Playing outside in the snow is a lot of fun. To keep having fun make sure you wear winter clothes to keep you warm!

There are a lot of outdoor winter activities to enjoy like sledding and building a snowman. To have fun always follow the rules when visiting a sledding hill so no one gets hurt. When going outside do not go onto a frozen pond or any ice unless a trusted adult says it is ok. Ice is not always as strong as it looks and it may not be able to support you. Stay off the ice. If you see someone or a pet fall through ice call 9-1-1 to have help come. Do not go onto the ice to save them, wait for firefighters to come and rescue them. Have a safe and happy winter!



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

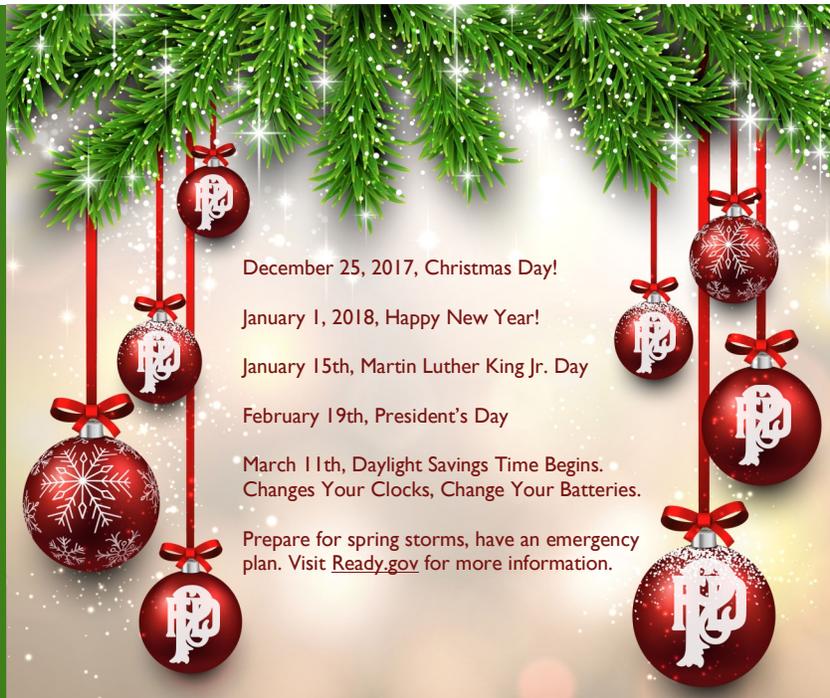
Douglas Shreve
Treasurer

Tom Paul
Trustee

Bob Baish
Trustee

Fire Chief

David S. Riddle



December 25, 2017, Christmas Day!

January 1, 2018, Happy New Year!

January 15th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 19th, President's Day

March 11th, Daylight Savings Time Begins.
Changes Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries.

Prepare for spring storms, have an emergency
plan. Visit Ready.gov for more information.

Carbon Monoxide

Install and maintain CO
alarms in a central loca-
tion outside each sleep-
ing area and on every
level of your home.

Choose a CO alarm
that has the label of a
recognized testing
laboratory.

Know the difference
between the sound of
smoke alarms and the
sound of CO alarms.

CO alarms make great
holiday gifts!

PlainfieldFPD.com

815-436-5335

The Plainfield Fire Protection District wishes everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!