



On The Scene

Plainfield Fire Protection District

Volume 3, Issue 1

Spring 2015

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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Community Blood Drive, Wednesday April 8th from 1:30 to 6:30 pm at our Administration and Training Facility, 23748 W. 135th Street in Plainfield.

From the Chief



Chief David S. Riddle

Welcome to our Spring edition of *On The Scene*. As your new fire chief of the Plainfield Fire Protection District (PFPD) I welcome my first opportunity to address you in this newsletter.

I'm both humbled and honored to assume the reins from our long-time Chief, John Eichelberger, who retired at the beginning of the year after 40 years of dedicated and loyal service to the residents of and visitors to our District. My wife Patti and I live in the district and have two adult sons with families of their own, including our 4 grandchildren. My late father and brother as well as other extended family members were also career and volunteer members of the fire service. I began my fire service journey as a volunteer with the Harvey, Illinois Fire Department. My career with Harvey ended after rising through the ranks and leaving as Chief to accept the Chief's position with the Channahon Fire District. I remained Chief of Channahon Fire until joining Plainfield Fire in early 2012.

In my experience, our fire district is comprised of some of the best and most dedicated firefighters, paramedics, technical rescue members, hazmat technicians, water rescue experts, fire prevention inspectors and support staff that you'll find assembled anywhere. With the rapidly evolving mission of the fire service coupled with the increasing demand on resources, we all are making efforts to continue to do more with less. From the potential of our expanding role in Integrated Mobile Healthcare through the Affordable Care Act to the risks associated with the increased transport of crude oil and other hazardous materials on our local railroads and highways, our mission (left of this column) remains; "...efficient emergency response and prevention." Rest assured that your PFPD members are regularly training on a wide variety of skills which requires incorporating new skills and strategies all of the time.

As part of our long-term strategic planning process we will be breaking ground soon on an outdoor training facility where our members can learn and train on hundreds of different "real-life" scenarios under the seasoned eye of highly qualified instructors. There is already regional and statewide interest in partnership for additional training opportunities. Your district remains ready and willing to serve our community and I look forward to meeting you in non-emergency settings.

Sincerely,
David S. Riddle, Chief

Severe Weather Season, Are You Prepared?

Now is a good time to review your safety plan in preparation for spring and summer storms. This year is the 25th anniversary of the deadly Plainfield tornado that came from the northwest beginning in Wheatland Township and moved through Plainfield, Crest Hill and Joliet on August 28, 1990. This tornado killed 29 people and injured 350 people along a 16 mile path of destruction. On November 17, 2013, during a "tornado outbreak" there were over 70 tornados across 7 states with 25 of the tornados in Illinois. One of the tornado producing storms that day is responsible for the 5 tornados that went through parts of Pekin, Washington, Dana, Coal City, Diamond, Wilmington, (continued on page 2)



Severe Weather Season, Are You Prepared?

(continued from page 1) Manhattan and Frankfort. Since tornados and severe weather cannot be prevented, it is best to be prepared for severe weather by being informed and having a plan. Have multiple ways you can be notified in the event of severe weather including wireless alerts to your cell phone, internet alerts, local radio and television alerts, a NOAA weather radio and the outside warning sirens that are meant to alert people outdoors. Know where you should go for shelter when you're at home, school or work. Choose your shelter in a small interior room or interior hallway, under a stairwell or heavy piece of furniture, in the basement or the lowest level, away from windows. Do not seek shelter in open areas like large stores, gymnasiums or auditoriums. Leave mobile homes and vehicles and seek shelter in a substantial building. Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle and don't hide under an overpass. As a last resort, lie flat in a ditch.



Severe storm approaching Plainfield, May 2014.



Severe storms include damaging winds, hail and lightning. **When thunder roars, go indoors!** If you're caught outdoors during a thunderstorm do not stand next to trees or power poles. Get out of the water if you're boating or swimming. Leave open areas and fields like golf courses, ball fields or farm fields. Seek shelter inside a building or hard top vehicle. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before resuming outdoor activities. Floods and flash floods are the most deadly form of severe weather nationwide. Half of all flash flood related deaths happen in vehicles. **Don't drown, turn around!** Never drive through flood water. Pictured above is 135th Street east of Route 59 when it was flooded in April of 2013 and pictured right are flood waters overflowing from Riverview Park at Route 59 and the viaduct in April of 2013. Immediately seek shelter on higher ground if you're in an area where a flash flood warning is issued. With planning and preparedness you can be ready for severe weather. For more information about severe weather safety please visit the National Weather Service's Severe Weather Page at www.nws.noaa.gov/om/severeweather.

Severe storms include damaging winds, hail and lightning. **When thunder roars, go indoors!** If you're caught outdoors during a thunderstorm do not stand next to trees or power poles. Get out of the water if you're boating or swimming. Leave open areas and fields like golf courses, ball fields or farm fields. Seek shelter inside a building or hard top vehicle. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before resuming outdoor activities.

Floods and flash floods are the most deadly form of severe weather nationwide. Half of all flash flood related deaths happen in



Spring Fire and Life Safety Checklist for Your Home

Here's a Spring Fire and Life Safety Checklist to use as a reference as you do your spring cleaning.

Smoke alarms are located on every level of my home, including the basement and inside of bedrooms.

Smoke alarms have been vacuumed to remove dust accumulation.

Smoke alarms are tested monthly and have working batteries.

Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old. Replace smoke alarms when they reach 10 years of age.

Carbon monoxide detectors are located within 10 feet of bedrooms.

Carbon monoxide detectors are tested monthly and have working batteries.

Carbon monoxide detectors are less than 5 years old. Replace carbon monoxide detectors when they reach 5 years of age.

Fire extinguishers have been checked and recharged if needed.

Fire extinguishers are located in an accessible location.

Fire extinguishers are rated for household use. A multi-purpose A-B-C fire extinguisher is recommended for household use.

I know how to use my fire extinguishers.

Electric wiring, including household cords, outlets and switches have been checked for damage or wear and replaced if needed.

Outlets are not overloaded with extension cords.

Windows have been checked to ensure they open and close properly.

Our household emergency escape plan has been reviewed and practiced.

Pesticides and chemicals are properly stored and out of children's reach.

Swimming pool chemicals are properly stored and out of children's reach.

Oil based paints and solvents are stored in a metal cabinet and out of children's reach.

Gasoline is stored in an approved container outside the home, either in a garage or shed, and out of children's reach.

The barbeque grill and propane tank have been inspected, are only used outdoors, and all propane cylinders are stored outside.

The barbeque grill is located away from siding and deck railings.

For more grilling safety tips please visit <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/grilling>.

If you need help changing a smoke alarm or CO detector battery call us at 815-436-5335.

Plainfield Fire Profiles: Paramedic Rhonda Callans



Rhonda Callans is a part-time Paramedic with the Plainfield Fire Protection District and has been employed with the fire district for 21 years. In addition to her role as a Paramedic, Rhonda also teaches Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) community classes offered at the Plainfield Fire Protection District. Rhonda coordinates and volunteers at the Community Blood Drives that are held at the fire district. The Plainfield Fire Protection District coordinates with St. Mary's Church to hold Community Blood Drives every 8 weeks, alternating locations at the fire district and the church. Donations can be made every 8 weeks. The blood that is collected goes to area hospitals to help those in need. Just one blood donation can help up to 3 people.

In addition to her service with the Plainfield Fire Protection District, Rhonda is also an Emergency Medical Services Instructor at Joliet Junior College, Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox and Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn. Rhonda is the Emergency Medical Dispatch Course Coordinator at Joliet Junior College and is the Emergency Medical Dispatch Continuing Education Program Developer for the Silver Cross Emergency Medical Services System website. For the past 22 years Rhonda was the Emergency Medical Services Coordinator at the Rialto Theater in Joliet but recently resigned due to changes in her schedule and going back to school full-time.

Rhonda resides in Joliet and enjoys spending time with her family and watching her children participate in school sports. Rhonda encourages everyone to "help save a life, give blood and learn CPR. Two ways you can help make a difference." Our next blood drive is Wednesday, April 8th from 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm at our Administration and Training Facility, 23748 W. 135th Street.

Fire and Life Safety for Kids



Does your family have a fire escape plan? The family in this picture is looking at the escape plan for their house. Ask your parents to help you make an escape plan and practice a family fire drill so everyone knows what to do and where to go if there is a fire. Make sure everyone knows how to get out of the house and where your family meeting place is at.

If your smoke alarms go off you want to crawl low, because that is where the good air will be, smoke will be higher by the ceiling. Feel doors with the back of your hand before opening them. If the door is warm or hot do not open the door, go

another way. If the door is cool then it's ok to open it slowly and look to see if there is smoke or fire. If you don't see smoke or fire crawl to the door and get outside. If you see smoke and fire close the door and go another way. Once you get outside go to your family meeting place.

At your family meeting place ask if someone has called 9-1-1 for help, you will have to ask a neighbor to call 9-1-1 if you do not have a cell phone. Never go back inside a house that is on fire for any reason. Let firefighters know if you have family members or pets that have not come outside yet. Firefighters wear special clothes and air masks that make it ok for them to go inside to rescue people and pets.

A house fire is scary but if your family has an escape plan and practices a fire drill you will know what to do if a fire happens. For more information about fire safety and home escape planning visit Sparky's web site at www.Sparky.org and for fire safety video's visit www.Sparky.org/TV.



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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David S. Riddle

Dates to Remember

Flood Awareness Week, March 15 - 21, 2015
Don't Drown, Turn Around! Don't drive on flooded roads.

Pancake Breakfast, March 22, 2015, 7 am to 1 pm
Plainfield Fire Protection District, 23748 W. 135th Street

Community Blood Drive, April 8, 2015, 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Plainfield Fire Protection District, 23748 W. 135th Street

Chat with the Chiefs, April 22, 2015, 7 pm to 9 pm
Plainfield Fire Protection District, 23748 W. 135th Street

Memorial Day, May 25, 2015
We honor and remember our Nation's fallen soldiers.

Flag Day, June 14, 2015

Lightning Awareness Week, June 21 - 27, 2015
When thunder roars, go indoors!

**54th Annual
Pancake Breakfast!**
Sunday, March 22nd
from 7 am to 1 pm

23748 W. 135th Street
in Plainfield

\$6 adults
\$4 seniors and children

We hope to
see you here!



SAVE THE DATE!

**Our annual Fire Prevention Week Open House will be held on Saturday,
October 3rd from noon to 3 pm at Fire Station Two, 23806 W. 135th Street.**