



On The Scene

Plainfield Fire Protection District

Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring 2018

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.



David S. Riddle, Chief

During the holiday season we participate in the *Keep The Wreath Red* program that emphasizes the fire safety hazards that are more prevalent during this time of year. The usual holiday hazards center around Christmas trees and decorations. Unfortunately we had two small fires related to the holiday decorations and were unable to maintain our typically perfect track record in having no recordable holiday hazard fires. We're glad to report however that there were no injuries connected with these two small fires. Let's all aim for a perfect holiday season next winter and help us maintain a fire-safe 2018.

We're excited to begin the preparations for testing of recruit firefighter/paramedics for the Plainfield Fire Protection District that will occur later this summer. Please let any of your interested friends, neighbors and relatives know about this opportunity and keep a watch on our website for updates and details about the requirements and process.

Our 2017 Annual Report should be going to press and ready for distribution by the time you read this. In it you'll find a summary of our significant activities throughout 2017, a number of graphs and charts that break down our call types and volume as well as information concerning the financial health of your fire district. This too will be available on our website.

The fire district's annual open house to recognize Fire Prevention Week will be held on Saturday, September 29th, 2018 at fire station 2 and our headquarters campus on 135th street from 11 am until 2 pm. We again have a lot of exciting demonstrations and displays that will interest you. Mark your calendars and bring your family and friends to this ever-growing event, which last year had over 1200 attendees. Off-site parking and a shuttle bus will be available.

Chat With The Chiefs will be April 25th at Plainfield Fire Protection District Headquarters at 7 pm. Please join Plainfield Police Chief John Konopek, Oswego Fire Chief Mike Veseling and myself for conversation.

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

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EMS Week, May 20-26, 2018



The Emergency Medical Services Week theme for 2018 is EMS STRONG: "Stronger Together." EMS Week is designated to recognize the dedication and hard work of the men and women who work in the field of emergency medicine. They are always available to respond when help is needed. This week is also a time to remind everyone of the importance of learning CPR and first aid. Being able to render assistance until help arrives can potentially save someone's life. Please join the Plainfield Fire Protection District in thanking Emergency Medical Service workers for all they do and consider learning CPR and first aid. Visit our CPR/ALCS web page for information about our classes at <http://www.plainfieldfpd.org/cpracls/>.

Sparky's Safety Spot

Could you escape if your home caught on fire?
Don't bet on it. Tonight, plan and practice a home fire drill with your family.

NFPA
The name and the image of Sparky® are registered trademarks of the NFPA.

Prepare a Family Severe Weather Plan



Make a Severe Weather Plan

Find out how at [ready.gov/make-a-plan](https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan)



Weather-Ready Nation

National Weather Service
[weather.gov/tornado](https://www.weather.gov/tornado)

With spring weather here make sure your family severe weather plan is up to date and that everyone in your family knows what the plan is. If you don't have a family severe weather plan you can put your emergency plan together in 4 steps. Step 1 includes evaluating how will you receive alerts and warnings? Are wireless alerts enabled on your cell phone? Is your weather radio operating properly? Review your shelter plan for various severe weather scenarios and locations. What is your evacuation route and what is your household emergency communication plan? Step 2 involves considerations specific to your household for example functional needs, medications, pets, etc. Step 3 is when you write down your specific emergency plan tailored for your household. In step 4 of the process you'll practice the plan to see how well it works and to make sure everyone understands the plan so you're ready in the event of an actual emergency. Proper planning and being prepared is the best way to be weather ready. For detailed information about severe weather plans please visit <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>. For information about local hazards visit the Plainfield Emergency Management Agency website at <http://plainfieldema.org/>.



Never drive around barricades

- Most flood fatalities occur in vehicles
- 12 inches of water can sweep a car off the road



[weather.gov/flood](https://www.weather.gov/flood)

Have a family severe weather plan that covers the common hazards for our area along with a fully stocked disaster supply kit!

Clothes Dryer Safety



Clean the lint filter every time you use the dryer and clean the dryer vent ductwork annually.

Approximately 2,900 home clothes dryer fires are reported each year. To keep your clothes dryer operating safely make sure the correct electrical plug and outlet are used and that the dryer is connected properly. Have a new clothes dryer installed by a professional. Read manufacturers' instructions and warnings in use and care manuals that come with new dryers. Clean the lint filter before and after each load of laundry. Don't forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up. In addition, clean the lint filter with a nylon brush at least every six months or more often if it becomes clogged. Clean lint out of the vent pipe every three months. Have your dryer cleaned regularly by a professional, especially if it is taking longer than normal for clothes to dry. Inspect the venting system behind the dryer to ensure it is not damaged or restricted. Put a covering on outside wall dampers to keep out rain, snow and dirt. Make sure the outdoor vent covering opens when the dryer is on. Replace coiled-wire foil or plastic venting with rigid, non-ribbed metal duct. Have gas-powered dryers inspected every year by a professional to ensure that the gas line and connection are together and free of leaks. Check regularly to make sure nests of small animals and insects are not blocking the outside vent. Keep the area around the clothes dryer free of items that can burn. If you will be away from home for an extended time, unplug or disconnect the dryer. Don't use a clothes dryer without a lint filter or with a lint filter that is loose, damaged or clogged. Don't overload the dryer. Don't use a wire screen or cloth to cover the wall damper. They can collect lint and clog the dryer vent. Don't dry anything containing foam, rubber or plastic. An example of an item not to place in a dryer is a bathroom rug with a rubber backing. Don't dry any item for which manufacturers' instructions state "dry away from heat." Don't dry glass fiber materials (unless manufacturers' instructions allow). Don't dry items that have come into contact with anything flammable like alcohol, cooking oils or gasoline. Dry them outdoors or in a well-ventilated room, away from heat. Don't leave a clothes dryer running if you leave home or when you go to bed.

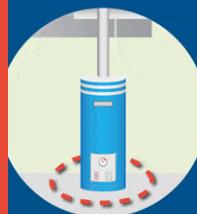


Major appliances, like a refrigerator, stove, washer or dryer, should be plugged directly into a wall outlet.

Do not use an extension cord with major appliances.



Locate fire pits at least 15 feet away from structures.



Prevent basement fires.

Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from the furnace, water heater and other heat-generating equipment.



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Plainfield Fire Profiles:



Lt. Joe Schroeder, FF/PM's Drew Urbancic, Craig Rundle and Dan Saviano with Baby Maxwell. (Pictures courtesy of Mae View Photography)

Plainfield Firefighter/Paramedics recently responded to a 9-1-1 call for a woman in labor. Upon arrival it was determined that the baby was going to be delivered at the house rather than waiting to get transported to the hospital. The delivery went well with no complications and Baby Maxwell and his Mom are both doing fine. To show their appreciation, Baby Maxwell's family stopped by the fire station and thanked the Firefighter/Paramedics that delivered Maxwell. They also had the Firefighter/Paramedics sign a custom onesie for a family keepsake. Delivering Maxwell was a special moment for the crew who got to help bring a life into the world. To commemorate this special day a blue stork sticker will be placed on ambulance 1914 and Fire Engine 1911.



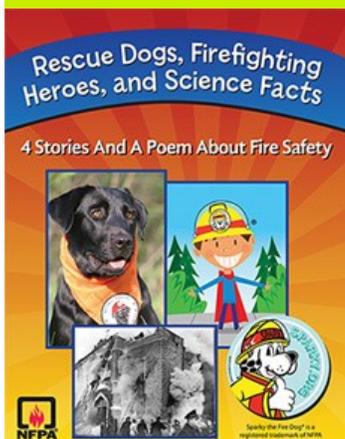
Have you Ever Wondered?

What type of fire extinguisher is best for home use? A multi-purpose A-B-C fire extinguisher is recommended for home use along with working smoke alarms and a family escape plan. Visit <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/extinguishers.html> for more information.

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

Warmer weather sometimes means thunderstorms and severe storms. Remember when thunder roars, go indoors. Don't play outside during a thunderstorm. Seek shelter inside a house, building or a car if there is nowhere else to go. A severe thunderstorm watch means that severe thunderstorms are possible so be aware of the weather in case a storm comes. A severe thunderstorm warning means a severe thunderstorm is coming your way and you need to seek shelter right away. Severe thunderstorms bring heavy rain, dangerous lightning, high winds and sometimes hail. The picture to the right shows how hail sizes are measured. If there is a hailstorm stay indoors away from windows to avoid getting injured by the falling hail or breaking windows from severe hail. A tornado watch means a tornado could form and you need to be aware of the weather. A tornado warning means a tornado is coming and you need to seek shelter right away inside a house or building, on the lowest floor, away from outside walls and windows and cover your head. Never run outside to look at a tornado.



Would you like to learn more about rescue dogs, firefighters and fire safety along with science? Visit Sparky's Schoolhouse at <https://sparkyschoolhouse.org/app/uploads/2015/05/eBookComplete.pdf> to download the e-book "Rescue Dogs, Firefighting Heroes, and Science Facts" shown in the picture to the left. The four stories are: "Jack the Superhero Alien Firefighter," "The Black Pearl and Captain Ron," "Three Ways Science Has Made the World a More Fire-Safe Place" and "Learning from Tragedy." There is also a poem from Sparky the Fire Dog called "Stay Fire-Safe!" For more fire safety stories, facts, videos, apps and games visit Sparky.org.

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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David S. Riddle

Dates to Remember

April 25th, Chat with the Chiefs
7 pm at PFPD Headquarters, 23748 W. 135th Street

May 5th, Fill the Boot for Burn Camp
10 am to 4 pm at Walmart on Route 59 at 127th Street

Safe Boating Week, May 19-25, 2018
SafeBoatingCampaign.com

Emergency Medical Services Week, May 20-26, 2018
EMS Strong: "Stronger Together"

May 28th, Memorial Day



PlainfieldFPD.com

815-436-5335

Have a disaster supply kit ready in case of severe weather.

nws.noaa.gov/os/thunderstorm/

[#SpringSafety](https://twitter.com/SpringSafety)

Disaster Supply Kit

- ✓ Food and Water
- ✓ Battery Powered Weather Radio
- ✓ Flashlights and Batteries
- ✓ Cell Phone (With Charger or Spare Battery Pack)
- ✓ First Aid Kit
- ✓ Pair of Shoes
- ✓ List of Emergency Contacts
- ✓ Whistle to Signal for Help

weather.gov/thunderstorm 

The Plainfield Fire Protection District and International Firefighters Association Local 4560 will be participating in "Fill the Boot" to raise funds for the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance's "Camp I Am Me" for children and teenagers who have experienced injuries from burns. "Fill the Boot" will be held at Walmart, 12690 S. Route 59, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 5th. For more information about the "Boot Day for Burn Survivors Campaign" please visit the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance web site at <https://www.ifsa.org/get-involved/boot-day>.