

Mid-County Fire Protection District

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When The Smoke Clears....

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Mark your calendars!

Mid-County Firefighters Association has started planning their yearly calendar and would like to invite the public to participate in several events. First, the 2nd Annual Crappie Tournament is tentatively planned for May 14 at the Larry R. Gale Access in Roach. Next will be the Bull Blast. Join us at Saturday, July 9 at Hayburner Ranch on P Road in Decaturville to watch professional bullriders ride some of the rankest bulls in the country. Tickets will be \$10 and will be sold at local outlets closer to the event. Sponsorships are available. For more information, contact Tisha at 573-216-8527. Finally, we are still in the planning stages for our annual golf tournament to be held in late summer.

Stay safe and warm this winter

As the temperature outside drops, families tend to stay inside and turn up the heat to keep safe and warm. What they may not realize is turning up the heat may increase the risk of home heating fires.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), half of all home-heating fires occur during the winter months. On average NFPA research shows heating equipment is involved in almost 70,000 reported U.S. home structure fires yearly, causing approximately 600 civilian deaths, more than 1,600 civilian injuries and almost \$900 million in direct property damage.

"While these numbers are frightening, nearly all of these fires are preventable," said Mid-County Fire Protection District (MCFPD) Chief Scott Frandsen. "We can reduce the number of home heating fires in our community by taking some simple precautions and using the equipment properly."

Chief Frandsen recommends some simple home heating safety tips, so residents can help keep their community safe and warm this winter.

- Install smoke alarms outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. If possible, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home so that when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms monthly.

- Practice your home fire escape plan.
- Have your chimney inspected yearly and cleaned if needed.
- Use a sturdy fireplace screen.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Remember, space heaters need space. Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- Turn portable heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
- Plug power cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.
- Inspect cords for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections. Replace broken ones before using.
- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.





Fire Fast Facts

On average, U.S. fire departments respond to roughly 70,000 home structure fires that involve heating equipment each year. These fires cause on average each year:

- 🔥 roughly 600 deaths
- 🔥 almost 1,700 civilian fire injuries
- 🔥 more than 800 million dollars in direct property damage



Space heaters, excluding fireplaces, chimneys and chimney connectors, are involved in almost one third of the home heating fires but more than three-fourths of the home heating fire deaths. A space heater can be portable or stationary.



Space heaters include wood stoves, portable kerosene heaters, electric heaters, fixed and portable electric or gas heaters, local furnaces and fireplace inserts.



Almost half of home heating fire deaths were caused by fires that started because the heating equipment was too close to things that could burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, and mattresses or bedding.



Chimneys and chimney connectors account for the largest share of home heating fire incidents. Creosote build-up is the leading cause of chimney fires.



Put a Freeze on Winter Fires

As temperatures drop and utility and heating bills rise, many Americans search for alternate ways to heat their homes. The use of wood burning stoves is on the rise, and space heaters sell rapidly off the shelves or come out of storage. And while fireplaces often conjure up images of warmth and comfort, they also represent a significant source of home heating fires – 36%, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

Although winter months are when half of all U.S. home fires occur, these fires are preventable, said Mid-County Fire Protection District Chief Scott Frandsen. If fireplaces and chimneys are not properly maintained, a fire could start. In fact, maintenance of chimneys plays a role in nearly one-fourth of all home heating fires each year. Creosote, a sticky, oily, combustible substance that is created when wood does not burn completely, rises into the chimney as a liquid and then deposits on the chimney walls. Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned annually by a qualified professional, Frandsen said.

Although chimney fires are more common, items placed too close to fireplaces also cause home fires, Frandsen said. Keep anything that could burn at least three feet away from a fireplace, wood stove, or any other heating equipment. He also recommended creating a three-foot “kid-free

zone” around open fires, reducing the possibility of children getting burnt. Be sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room, and never leave a fireplace fire unattended, particularly when children are present, Frandsen said. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container, and kept at a safe distance from your home.



Congratulations to the following Mid-County Firefighters!

The following personnel were honored at the December Awards Banquet:

- Firefighter of the Year* – Jeramiah Johnson
- Shift of the Year* – Tim Perez and Irv Klimkewicz
- Officer of the Year* – Irv Klimkewicz

The following personnel were promoted:

- Chris Bachman* – Deputy Chief
- Steve Eden* – Division Chief of Support Services

Support your Firefighters!!

How? Join the Mid-County Firefighters Auxiliary

Where? Mid-County Station 1

What? If running into a burning building or using the jaws-of-life on a car accident doesn't give you an adrenaline rush, but you still enjoy helping people, the Firefighters Auxiliary may be for you. The auxiliary provides support and assistance to our firefighters and the fire department.

Join us and help make a difference.

Contact Kara Johnson at (573)480-6618 for more information.



Join us!

Are you interested in fighting fires or assisting on accident scenes? We are accepting applications for volunteer firefighters. Please contact Deputy Chief Bachman for more information how to become a volunteer firefighter.



If you break your neck, if you have nothing to eat, if your house is on fire, then you got a problem. Everything else is inconvenience.

– Robert Fulghum