

Mid-County Fire Protection

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Move Over, It's the Law

The Mid-County Fire Protection District (MCFPD) would like to remind motorists it's the law to move to the right when they come upon a stopped emergency vehicle or when approached by an emergency vehicle that is giving an audible or visual signal.

By law Missouri motorists must move over to the other lane when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle or when approached by an oncoming emergency vehicle. Senate Bill 872 upgraded failure to comply with this law to a Class A misdemeanor. The legislation also creates the crime of endangerment of a highway worker. Individuals are guilty of endangering a highway worker if the speed they are traveling is greater than 15 mph, if they pass another vehicle in a work zone that results in the death or injury of a highway worker, if they fail to obey work zone traffic control signal or move equipment used to control traffic flow, or if they assault a highway worker

with their vehicle or other instrument.

The law simply states drivers must slow down and move over, if possible, for an emergency vehicle stopped on the side of a road with its lights flashing. Too often, police officers say that doesn't happen, and that puts lives in danger.

Traffic going by at 70 miles per hour seems a lot faster when you're just a few feet from the highway. That's exactly where many law officers, emergency medical workers, firefighters and tow truck drivers find themselves daily.

The Missouri Department of Transportation is trying to get the word out by posting signs informing people of the law. Those signs are on interstate and major highways.

The penalty for a citation for the "move-over" law is up to six months in jail and/or up to a \$500 fine. That's the same penalty that applies to failing to yield the right-of-way to an approaching emergency vehicle that is giving an audible or visual signal.



Proceeds from the event will go into the Auxiliary funds, which help firefighters in the event of death, injury and illness.




Breakfast with Santa


Join us on Saturday, Dec. 13 from 8 to 11 a.m. for breakfast with Santa. Kids and their families will be able to visit with Santa and tell him what they'd like for Christmas. Santa and his entourage of elves will also be on hand for photos. Cost of the breakfast will be \$4 for adults and \$3 for kids 12 and under. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage and drinks.



How to Report Emergencies

When dialing 9-1-1, you need to remember these important tips.

 Speak slowly and clearly. Calm down and take a deep breath before talking.


 Provide as much information as possible:


Your name


Who is involved


What happened

An address of the location

 Stay on the phone and follow any instructions the 9-1-1 dispatcher may give.

 Please have your house numbers visible from the road.

 If you are calling from your home for a medical emergency, please make sure emergency personnel are able to enter the dwelling (i.e., unlock doors, turn porch light on, have someone wait by the road/driveway, if possible).

 Remember, if the power is out, cordless phones will not work. Also, calling 9-1-1 from a pay phone is free.

Firefighters to be Honored at Annual Banquet

On Saturday, Dec. 13, the Mid-County Firefighters will be honored by the auxiliary at the annual awards banquet. This year the banquet will be held at Old Kinderhook. Firefighters and their families often put in long hours and spend a lot of time training and volunteering. This banquet allows the auxiliary to say "thank you" for the efforts they do.

Awards will be presented by Chief Scott Frandsen. The winners of these awards will be announced in next month's newsletter. Awards to be presented include the following:

Firefighter of the Year – This award goes to a firefighter (paid or volunteer) who has gone above and beyond the daily routine.

Shift of the Year – Voted on by the members, the paid shift of the year is one that makes a difference at the station.

Officer of the Year – The officer of the year is voted on by members of the

department and is given to an officer (paid or volunteer) who has demonstrated leadership and knowledge throughout the year.

Service Awards – Members who have dedicated time and effort, responded to calls and made sacrifices to be at trainings and emergencies are honored at the banquet.

How Do I Volunteer?

Questions about volunteering arise on a daily basis. You don't have to fight structure fires or provide medical care to help us make a difference. We have other opportunities for volunteers including auxiliary functions (fund-raising, providing refreshments at scenes, etc.). We are also looking for people who want to drive the trucks, engineer the pump panels and provide support for the firefighters and crews on the scenes. Call MCFPD Station 1 at (573)346-2049 for more information.

Fire Never Takes a Holiday

The winter holidays are time for celebrating. This means more cooking, decorating and entertaining, leading to an increased risk in fires.

Holiday Decorating

Use caution with holiday decorations and whenever possible, choose those made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.

Carefully inspect new and used light strips and replace damaged items before plugging them in. Do not overload extension cords.

Always unplug lights before replacing bulbs or fuses.

Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

Holiday Entertaining

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. When

cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the range.

If you smoke, provide plenty of large, deep sturdy ashtrays and check them frequently. Cigarette butts can smolder in the trash and cause a fire.

Christmas Trees

Try to keep live trees as moist as possible by giving them plenty of water daily.

Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source (i.e., fireplaces and radiators).

Safely dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are highly flammable and should not be left in a house or garage or placed against the house.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!!