



Frontline

Westerville Division of Fire Newsletter

Quarter 3 2014

Station 111
400 W. Main Street

Station 112
727 E. Schrock Road

Station 113
355 N. Spring Road

Emergencies
9-1-1

Non-emergencies
(614) 901-6600

Clothes dryer safety tips reduce fire risks

Clothes dryer maintenance is very important when it comes to home fire safety. The leading cause of fires from this common household appliance is due to failure to clean lint from the traps, vents and surrounding areas. The Westerville Division of Fire recommends cleaning the lint filter after every load of laundry. Additionally, a dryer should never be operated without the lint filter in place. It is also important to make sure the vent pipe is clean and the vent is not obstructed. If clothes are taking longer than usual to dry or require more than one cycle to dry, it could be a sign that the vent is obstructed. During winter months, snow can also accumulate and cause a blockage against the outside vent. Never overload a dryer and be sure to always follow the instructions for operation outlined in the owner's manual.



DO

- *Have the dryer professionally installed and serviced.*
- *Use only metal ducting designed specifically for dryers to vent the exhaust outside.*
- *Keep the area around the dryer free of items that can burn.*
- *Turn off the dryer before going to bed or leaving the house.*

DON'T

- *Dry anything containing foam, rubber or plastic. A rug with a rubber backing is one example.*
- *Place items that have come into contact with anything flammable like alcohol, cooking oils or gasoline in a clothes dryer. Dry them outdoors or in a well-ventilated room.*
- *Continue to reset the electric panel breaker if the breaker trips frequently while operating your dryer or any other appliance. Stop using the dryer, unplug it and call a qualified electrician or appliance repair company.*



Fire Chief Bernie Ingles

Thanks for the memories . . .

I knew early on in my career this day would eventually come. It is my pleasure to announce I am retiring on September 12 after 25 years of service with the City of Westerville Division of Fire. There are so many things that I could talk about, but I was told to limit my writing to 300 words, so I will have to be brief.

When I started in February 1989, I was excited about coming to Westerville to work. I knew the fire department had a great reputation, that the city was aggressively developing and growing, and that I could have a wonderful future here. All of my expectations were met and then some. I had the opportunity to work with some highly trained and dedicated people throughout my career here and developed some lifelong friendships. If you haven't met your firefighters, paramedics, and other city employees, I highly recommend that you take the time to meet them and get to know them. The men and women that serve this community are top notch, and truly understand the meaning of customer service.

I began my fire service career as a volunteer in 1977, and I was always amazed that a community of this size has that same volunteer spirit throughout. It truly demonstrates the type of community that we have, and speaks volumes about the people who live here.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for providing me with a wonderful career, memories that will last a lifetime, and the many friendships that I have made. It has been my honor to serve the residents of Westerville and Blendon Township for the past 25 years.

Life Saving Equipment

The quality of CPR is an important factor that contributes to survival in sudden cardiac arrest. Thanks to a donation from the Mt. Carmel Foundation,



the Westerville Division of Fire will soon be receiving new life-saving equipment that will assist paramedics by providing effective and uninterrupted chest compressions on sudden cardiac arrest patients. This equipment, the LUCAS 2 Chest Compression System, takes just seconds to assemble and activate. It operates with a battery-powered, mechanized piston and automatically delivers 100 chest compressions per minute.

According to the American Heart Association, interruptions to chest compressions reduce survival rates. And, it is often difficult for paramedics to provide continuous chest compressions in the field when moving a patient up or down stairs. CPR can also be difficult to perform efficiently in the back of a moving medic. The LUCAS device will eliminate these interruptions.

Currently, paramedics must also interrupt chest compressions during defibrillation. A study on the LUCAS device showed that defibrillation did not compromise CPR and that a shock can be delivered during compressions. Once the LUCAS device is placed in service, paramedics will be able to deliver a shock without any pause.

The LUCAS device is not intended to replace personnel, but rather assist while medics focus on cardiac arrest management. Free of the need to provide chest compressions, they can concentrate on other critical life-saving tasks such as ventilation, medication and defibrillation.

The Mt. Carmel Foundation's donation will provide three LUCAS devices. One will be placed on each of the Division's medic vehicles and a third will be placed on the Battalion Chief's vehicle.

Division NEWS



News and Announcements

The WFD Fire Prevention Bureau will host two special classes this fall at the Westerville Community Center. Each class is FREE. Registrations are accepted online or at the Westerville Community Center (350 N. Cleveland Ave).

Home Safety Solutions for Seniors

Tuesday, September 30
2-3:30 p.m.
Activity #401051-01

Fire Safety for the Holidays

Tuesday, October 14
7-8 p.m.
Activity #401051-02

Shane Schifer was sworn-in as a full-time firefighter in April. Shane has been with the Fire Division as a part-time firefighter since 2012. He has been assigned to Station 113.

Three Westerville Division of Fire firefighters have retired recently after years of service to the communities of Westerville and Blendon Township. Thank you to:

Firefighter Jeff Walker, 28 years of service

Firefighter Chris Bright, 30 years of service

Lieutenant Jeff Young, 28 years of service

Fire Prevention Week and Open House

Working smoke alarms are a critical fire safety tool that can mean the difference between life and death in a home fire. That's the message behind this year's Fire Prevention Week theme "*Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month.*" According to research from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire in half.

Fire Prevention Week is October 5-11 and WFD will again host its annual Open House on Sunday, October 5 from 1-4 p.m. at all three fire houses. Representatives from the Westerville Electric Division, Mt. Carmel St. Ann's, OhioHealth and the Citizen's Auxiliary Resource Team will provide visitors with a fun, interactive educational experience. The "Safety Bunch" puppet show and Jaws-of-Life vehicle extrication demonstration will take place at Fire Station 111 (400 W. Main St).



Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Test Yours Every Month!

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Go to FPW.org



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