Westerville Division of Fire Newsletter

Quarter 3 2015

Station 111
400 W. Main Street
Non-emergencies
(614) 901-6600

Station 112
727 E. Schrock Road
Emergencies
9-1-1

Station 113
355 N. Spring Road

Fire Prevention Week: October 4-10
THEME PROMOTES SMOKE ALARMS WHERE WE SLEEP

Location matters when it comes to your smoke alarm. That’s the message behind this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Hear the BEEP where you SLEEP. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!”

Along with firefighters and safety advocates nationwide, the Westerville Division of Fire joins forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) during Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, to remind residents about the importance of having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.

“In a fire, seconds count,” said Westerville Division of Fire Chief Brian Miller. “Half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out.”

According to the latest NFPA research, working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire in half. Meanwhile, three out of five fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign includes the following smoke alarm messages:

- **Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.**

- **Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. This way, when one sounds, they all do.**

- **Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.**

- **Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old, or sooner if they don’t respond properly.**

- **Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.**

- **If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.**

See the back page of this newsletter for more details on Fire Prevention Week programs and activities.

Second story fire safety

October is a busy time at the fire station. We are preparing to host the annual Fire Prevention Open House, an event that kicks off a week of recognition of fire safety and prevention community outreach. This year’s theme emphasizes the importance of smoke alarms, especially in the rooms in which we sleep. It’s something to think about. Are your smoke alarms in good working condition? Do you regularly test them? When is the last time you replaced the batteries? If smoke was to fill the second story of your home, would you know in time to escape?

Take a walk through your house, and not just on your main floor (don’t forget the basement). A quick inventory of the smoke alarms in your home, and their condition, will reveal what, if any, shortcomings may exist. If this campaign helps you think through these questions, then it will be a success. As fire service professionals, we cannot ignore the facts that half of fatalities in home fires happen during hours when most of us are sleeping.

I hope you’ll visit us on Sunday, October 4 at Fire Station 111 at 400 W. Main St. for Fire Prevention Week Open House. We will have activities and programs for all ages, and we can talk more about the best fire safety habits to adopt in your own home.
David Williams has been named Chief Fire Marshal. In this role, Williams will oversee the Fire Prevention Bureau, which focuses on fire safety training and education to reduce fire risks. Williams most recently served as firefighter/paramedic. He has been with the Westerville Division of Fire for 18 years. Williams was sworn in before Westerville City Council on Tuesday, September 1.

Also sworn in to full-time status were three Westerville firefighters: Adam Wise, Mark Dunlap and Brandon Rodgers. Congratulations Adam, Mark and Brandon!

Save the Date!
The Westerville Division of Fire will host the fourth-annual CHILI COOK-OFF LUNCHEON on Wednesday, October 30 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Station 111 (400 W. Main St.) bay. WFD firefighter chefs will prepare a variety of their finest chili recipes. A bowl of chili, corn bread, dessert and a drink is only $5. All proceeds benefit Westerville Caring & Sharing. Tickets are available by contacting Station 111 at (614) 901-6600.

HazMat Drill Pairs Preparation & Safety

The Westerville Division of Fire recently practiced a scaled hazardous materials drill with Otterbein University. On Thursday, July 30, firefighters from 12 Franklin County-area agencies and HazMat specialists gathered to practice an emergency response drill on a simulated chemical spill at the University’s science building.

WFD is one of seven suburban Fire Division members of the Northwest Area Strike Team (NAS-T), which was organized primarily to respond to hazardous materials incidents in north-suburban Columbus and surrounding communities.

The team gathered for this specific scenario to practice resource sharing and deployment techniques with an emergency hazmat response.

“Our objective in a training scenario like this is to practice the management of a real incident,” said Westerville Division of Fire Chief Brian Miller. “The partnership with Otterbein University is critical if an event were to occur on campus. We’re minimizing risks for confusion and ultimately injury or loss of life.”

Visit www.westerville.org/fire to learn about these and other WFD programs.