



Frontline

Westerville Division of Fire Newsletter

Quarter 2 2015

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

Fireworks Safety Tips Reduce Injury Risks

While the use of fireworks is prohibited in the City of Westerville (except for permit-issued public exhibition purposes), you and your family may be around fireworks during the warmer months of the year, especially on the 4th of July.

No matter how small and compact, any firework can be damaging if used improperly. Consumer-oriented fireworks may malfunction, even if used properly, and can cause serious injuries.

The Westerville Division of Fire is always on high alert on the 4th of July. In addition to our duties to supervise the public fireworks display, we often get calls for burns and injuries when fireworks go wrong at private celebrations.

The following basic safety tips should be followed if you make the decision to use fireworks.

Know your fireworks. Read labels before igniting.

A responsible adult should supervise all firework activities.

Never give fireworks to children.

Alcohol and fireworks do not mix.

Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.

Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away.



Use fireworks *OUTDOORS* in a clear area away from buildings and vehicles.

Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.

Always have a bucket of water and charged water hose nearby.

Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them into metal or glass containers.

Never experiment with homemade fireworks.

Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.

Source: National Council on Fireworks Safety



Fire Chief Brian Miller

Simple ways to have a safe, healthy summer

As the days get longer and the weather warms up, please take the time to think about summer safety. We've dedicated this quarter's issue to important reminders and tips for a safe, healthy summer.

Throughout the summer months, the Westerville Division of Fire and our emergency medical services respond to the types of incidents you'll read about here, including injuries caused by improper use of fireworks, medical heat emergencies and water rescue emergencies. And, of course, we also see more cycling and skateboard injuries in the warmer months.

That's not to say we don't encourage everyone to get outside and enjoy the warm air. There is always something to do in Westerville, whether it's an organized community activity or simple neighborhood fun. But, keep in mind the easy things you can do to stay ahead of the heat and/or away from injury. Staying hydrated, wearing a life vest when boating and wearing a helmet while riding a bike or skateboard make all the difference when it comes to protecting your life, your body and your health.

We wish everyone a safe and healthy summer. Look for us each month at 4th Friday in the bank lot across from Westerville City Hall and stop by to say hello.

Heat Illness 101

Long periods of time in hot, humid conditions can cause a number of problems on a spectrum of heat-related illnesses. These can range from mild heat cramps to deadly heat stroke.

Heat illnesses typically result from the combination of fluid loss through sweating (or lack thereof) and fluid intake. Sweating is the body's way to cool itself, so if the hydration status in the body is out of balance, one of these heat illnesses can occur.

Heat cramps are typically mild, and the first sign to cool down and rest. Replace fluids in the body with water or a sports drink (helping replace sodium in the body lost through sweat). Stretch muscles slowly and gently while cooling down.

Heat exhaustion is more serious, occurring in extreme heat and with excessive sweating without adequate fluid replacement. Symptoms such as fevered body, nausea/vomiting and fatigue may occur. Remove excess clothing and replace fluids immediately. If the body does not begin to cool on its own and symptoms begin to worsen, call 9-1-1.

Heat stroke is the most severe form of heat illness. It occurs when the body cannot regulate its temperature and becomes overwhelmed by heat. This is life-threatening and 9-1-1 should be called immediately for medical transport.

SAVE THE DATE 9/11 Ceremony

Mark your calendars for Friday, September 11 for the sixth-annual *Westerville 9/11 Memorial Ceremony*.

11:30 a.m.
First Responders Park

Piece C-40,
First Responders Park

Division NEWS



News and Announcements

Is your home fire safe? Learn from Fire Prevention experts so that you can conduct a fire safety inspection and assess risks in your own home.

Home Fire Safety Inspection

Tuesday, July 21
Westerville Community Center
7 - 8 p.m.
Activity #301058-02 (FREE)

The Westerville Division of Fire welcomes **Cory Lang**, who was sworn in as a full-time firefighter on Tuesday, April 21.

Water Rescue Preparation is Key

Did you know the Westerville Division of Fire is capable of responding to water emergencies?

Every year we respond to incidents on Hoover Reservoir and some of the retention ponds throughout the City and Alum Creek. WFD has two boats for these purposes, and we regularly conduct training to ensure our water rescue teams are ready to go in the event of an emergency.

The first boat, which is kept at Station 111 (West Main Street), is inflatable and designed for use in fast-moving water, such as Alum Creek after a heavy rain. The second boat, housed at Station 113 (North Spring Road), is a flat-bottomed boat for smooth water surfaces, such as retention ponds or Hoover Reservoir. In addition to these boats, every fire and EMS vehicle carries life jackets.

Fortunately, water rescues are less common in our community, but with a large body of water, the creek and several ponds in our service district, we're prepared for any emergency that may occur at these sites.

NOTE: *Hoover Reservoir is property of the City of Columbus. However, the Westerville Division of Fire would be dispatched for emergency rescue purposes.*



Bike Safe Westerville

The Westerville Division of Fire supports the Parks and Recreation Department and the Division of Police campaign to "Bike Safe Westerville."

Together, these two City departments have produced a short video series (including one just for kids) on cycling safety. The campaign promotes helmet use and safe riding procedures on Westerville's 29-plus miles of recreational pathways. You can view the videos online at www.youtube.com/tellwesterville or by visiting the "Get Social" tab on the City website (www.westerville.org).

