

CHESTERFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



A TIP OF THE HELMET



Winter/Spring

1998/1999

FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Directors of the Chesterfield Fire Protection District serves as elected representatives of the residents of the district. Among its responsibilities, the Board oversees the annual budget, helps in hiring decisions, serves as the trustees for the pension for the district's personnel, approves equipment purchases, enters into real estate transactions, sets the tax rate and handles legal matters concerning the district. The Board meets several times a month in general sessions to which the public is always welcome to attend. Michelle Sleet serves as Chairperson of the Board, with Wayna Rumley as Treasurer and Richard Gans as Board Secretary.

The Chesterfield Fire Protection District is fortunate to have more than 100 dedicated employees who serve under the direction of Chief Clifford "Chip" Biele and Assistant Chief Les Crews. These men and women receive constant training to stay current with advancements in fire fighting and emergency medical techniques. When you call for an ambulance or fire truck, these are the people, with their training and experience, who come to your aid, using some of the latest equipment available. The Board receives "customer

satisfaction" comment cards from residents after each fire or ambulance call and, with few exceptions, the marks are always very favorable.

As the population and number of businesses within the district continue to grow, the Fire District continues to grow with it. We are currently doing strategic planning to assess the District's future needs. In order to maintain our high insurance ISO rating which is passed to residents in the form of lower homeowner's insurance premiums, we constantly re-examine how we allocate our human and equipment resources. We will be seeking resident input as we move closer to developing definitive plans for future stations and equipment.

On Dec. 1, 1997, the District returned to Central County Fire Alarm and we are, once again, in a dispatching network with our neighbors. We are pleased with our successful effort to keep the fire station at Fernview and Olive. Soon this 24-year old station will get a much-needed renovation. Please call, write or visit us at an open meeting if you have a comment or concern about YOUR Fire District.

Wayna

Michelle

Rich

COMMUNITY "FILLS THE BOOT" FOR JERRY'S KIDS

Fire fighters nationwide came to the aid of Jerry's kids by raising over \$100 million during the first worldwide MDA Telethon over the Labor Day Weekend. This amount made the fire fighters, once again, the largest national sponsor of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Representatives of the International Association of Fire Fighters presented pledges totaling \$12 million. This was nearly \$1 million more than last year's record total. Fire Fighters helped MDA collect over \$100 million, nearly \$2 million more than last year.

These funds will help pay for research and other services for those affected by more than 40 neuro-muscular diseases.

Over 200 "Love Network" television stations carried the 33rd annual telethon live which originated from

CBS Television City in Los Angeles. Chesterfield Mall generously provided the location again this year for the local telethon broadcast, fund raising booths and fire apparatus display.

CFPD Board Chairperson Michelle Sleet, fire fighter Ron Bristow and explorer Matt Sleet presented proceeds from the "Fill The Boot" campaign during the live telecast.

CFPD Chief Clifford "Chip" Biele, joined by chiefs throughout the metropolitan area, manned the pledge phones during the broadcast.

Our "Fill The Boot" campaign could never take place without the support of business, civic and elected community leaders. The overwhelming success of this annual event can only be attributed to the generosity of the residents we proudly serve.

On behalf of your fire fighters and paramedics, please accept our sincere appreciation.

WELCOME ABOARD

The Chesterfield Fire Protection District is pleased to welcome Kelly M. Thosen, CPA, to the administrative staff as district controller. Kelly graduated in 1993 from Truman State University (formerly Northeast Missouri State University). Before joining our district, she was a supervisor at the accounting firm of Mueller, Pross, Park & Willbrand, P.C.

Kelly is a member of the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA).

WINTER FIRE SAFETY

By David B. Nichols, Fire Marshal

Most people enjoy a nice fire in their fireplace, but this friendly fire can turn into a deadly enemy if certain precautions aren't taken.

First, every fireplace needs a screen in front to keep sparks from flying out onto the hearth.

Second, burn only dry, seasoned hardwood. If you cut down a live tree, stack the wood outdoors for at least one year. This will dry the wood and help diminish the creosote buildup.

Third, before you light that first fire of the season, have a professional inspect your chimney and clean it, if necessary. It may need to be done more than once each season, especially with an efficient, wood-burning stove. A professional chimney sweep will not only clean, but inspect for cracks or other problems.

Why is this so important? **TO AVOID CHIMNEY FIRES.** When wood burns, a sticky substance called creosote builds up inside the chimney walls. Creosote is black and looks like tar. It also burns like tar. If the accumulation is thicker than 1/8", it can ignite and create a tremendously hot fire. A chimney fire can cause

cracks in a masonry chimney and ruin a metal chimney. You can repair a masonry chimney, but, most likely, you will have to replace a metal one. Either option is expensive.

How can you tell if your chimney is on fire? You may hear a roaring inside the house from the chimney area. Sparks and/or

flames may shoot from the top of the chimney.

Don't be fooled if the sparks or flames die down; the fire can still be burning in the chimney. If the chimney cracks or if heat radiates through it, the house may catch fire. If you have, or even think you may have, a chimney fire, call the fire department. Dial 911. If we get to your house early enough, we can extinguish the fire before it spreads to the rest of your house.

While on the topic of wood-burning appliances, I should mention one other thing. When cleaning ashes from the fireplace or wood stove, put them in a metal container and place the metal container outside away from anything combustible. Ashes can remain hot, or still have hot coals for a couple of days after the fire goes out. Do not put ashes in paper bags, cardboard boxes, plastic trash cans, etc. Do not store them in the garage or on the porch. Over the years, we have responded to many house fires resulting from ashes in a combustible container.

Improper use of portable space heaters ranks high on the list of potential hazards. Keep any type of portable heater at least three (3) feet away from anything combustible. Some examples are curtains and draperies, couches and chairs, beds and tables. In other words, anything that will burn. Always read your instruction manual before you use your heater.

When using a kerosene heater, make sure you use the correct fuel. Your instruction manual will list the type of fuel. In many cases, it will be K-1 Kerosene. If you buy your fuel from a service station, be sure you are purchasing the correct type. Some people have filled their cans with gasoline — with **DISASTROUS** and **DEADLY** results. **NEVER** refill a heater when it is hot and **NEVER** fill it indoors.

Also, remember that any type of fuel-burning portable heater needs oxygen. Keep a window open slightly in the room where the heater is used to provide replacement oxygen.

Electric portable heaters have some additional precautions:

1. Never use an extension cord. Place these heaters near an electrical outlet so you can plug them in directly.
2. Inspect the power cord. Do not use the heater if the cord is frayed or otherwise in poor condition.
3. Do not place anything, such as a throw rug, over the power cord.
4. Do not replace fuses with higher amperage fuses. Some older homes have fuses instead of circuit breakers. For example, if the heater causes fuses to blow, do not replace a 15 Amp fuse with a 20 Amp fuse.

Please remember that all types of portable heaters are only meant to be used as a temporary heat source. Do not use them as a substitute for your central heating unit. Never leave a portable heater "on" when the room is unattended or while you are sleeping. **Do NOT use them overnight.**

If you have any questions, please call our non-emergency number, 514-0900.



FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

By Chief Clifford "Chip" Biele

Hello! The Board of Directors, all employees and I would like to share with you a bit of history of the Chesterfield Fire Protection District. During its formation, many dedicated employees have helped make the CFPD what it is today.

CFPD has a long history and tradition of providing emergency services to the community. Originally, the department was an all-volunteer service dating back to 1925. Local businessmen calling themselves the Bellefontaine Volunteer Fire Department operated the equipment, which was housed at a business called Bellefontaine Motors.

The volunteer department consisted of one volunteer and one old-fashioned chemical extinguisher which was pulled behind a car. The department operated on revenue obtained by purchasing a "fire tag" for \$3.00 a year that was affixed to your home. The department originally protected 712 buildings. Barn and brush fires were the typical fires that kept the department busy.

Then, in 1957, The Chesterfield Fire Protection District came into existence as a tax-supported fire district with three pumpers, approximately 12 volunteers and two engine houses.

I am happy to say that, along with the fire protection, we were one of the first fire departments in St. Louis County to establish an ambulance service in 1962 with one ambulance.

Today, the District covers 55 square miles and services approximately 55,000 people who live in Chesterfield, Clarkson Valley, parts of Maryland Heights, Creve Coeur, Wildwood and unincorporated St. Louis County.

The District has come a long way since the days of the Bellefontaine Volunteer Fire Department. We protect our citizens with some of the most modern and up-to-date equipment and resources available. We are a fully-paid fire department with a fire chief, assistant chief, chief medical officer, fire marshal and fire inspectors, battalion chiefs, captains, medical supervisors, firefighter/EMTs, firefighter/paramedics, firefighters, three elected officials who serve as the board of directors and other staff members. The district employs 104 persons.

At this time, five engine houses and a training and maintenance facility serve the district. Firefighting and advanced life support pumpers and life support ambulances staffed with paramedics operate from these engine houses. In 1997, we responded to 4,067 alarms.

Along with fire and EMS protection, CFPD provides an excellent fire prevention bureau that strives daily to make sure the district is a safe community in which to live.

In closing, I hope you were able to learn a little of our beginning and where we are now. Please feel free to stop in at any of the five engine houses anytime to meet and get to know your firefighters and paramedics.

ENGINE HOUSE LOCATIONS

Station #1
15700 Baxter Rd.
Chesterfield, MO
63017
532-0098

Station #2
18424 Wild Horse
Creek Road
Wildwood, MO 63005
532-5811

Station #3
1201 Fernview Drive
Creve Coeur, MO 63141
514-9520

Station #4 and
Administration Offices
13725 Olive Boulevard
Chesterfield, MO 63017
514-0900

Station #5
155 Long Road
Chesterfield, MO 63005
532-9030

Maintenance and Training
151 Long Road
Chesterfield, MO 63005
537-0715

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY!

CHESTERFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES 1988 — 1998

By David S. Becker, Chief Medical Officer

Of the calls received by the fire district, over 70% are medical. Emergency medical services provided by the fire district have expanded significantly in the last 10 years as demand for EMS services has increased. Fire district citizens have received direct benefits from these increases. Some of the expanded services include:

In 1988, the fire district operated two ambulances.

In 1998, the fire district operates four ambulances.

In 1988, there were 16 paramedics in the department.

In 1998, there are 45 paramedics in the department.

In 1988, there were less than 10 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's).

In 1998, there are 37 EMT's.

In 1988, there were no Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) in use.

In 1998, there are 11 AED's placed on apparatus and in staff vehicles.

In 1988, fire district engines provided first responder

level and basic life support when dispatched to medical calls.

In 1998, the rescue squad and all fire district fire engines have advanced life support equipment.

In 1998, the fire district has a 24-foot special events/disaster trailer. Equipment carried includes disaster supplies, a stretcher golf car and six mountain bikes capable of providing ALS service.

This year has seen many improvements and additions to the fire district, many of which were not here even two years ago, to say nothing of 10 years. We provide several community EMS education programs. These include CPR training, first aid training and other safety programs designed to promote health and safety at home and work.

With an eye to the future, and the desire to enhance services on an on-going basis, the fire district and its personnel are committed to providing the best possible emergency medical services. These services are not just



limited to the personnel and equipment on the ambulance — they are present on every vehicle. You can be assured that when a fire engine responds to your emergency, it is equipped and has personnel trained to assist you in any manner.

Chesterfield Fire Protection District
13725 Olive Blvd.
Chesterfield, MO 63017

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WINTER HOLIDAY TIPS

The Winter Holidays will soon be here. Our hope is for everyone to have a safe and happy holiday season, so please be sure to follow these tips.

- If you choose a "real" tree, make sure it is fresh. Shedding needles are a sure sign of a dry tree.
- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut one inch off the trunk. This cut provides better absorption of water from the stand. Check the water level every day and make sure the cut is submerged.
- Make sure that artificial trees are flame retardant.
- Never smoke near the tree or combustible decorations.
- Never place trees near a direct source of heat or in a location that blocks an exit.

- Only purchase electric lights that bear a label from a testing laboratory like UL.
- Always unplug all lights before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Do not run electrical cords through doorways or under rugs.
- Keep candles in sturdy holders that cannot be easily tipped. Keep them away from combustible materials like curtains.
- Avoid hanging stockings near an open flame.
- Never burn wrapping paper in the fireplace. It can give off toxic vapors and is a major cause of chimney fires.

GOLFERS AND SPECTATORS AFFORDED COVERAGE

During the week of June 1 — 7, 1998, the Chesterfield Fire Protection District and the Metro West Fire Protection District provided emergency medical services on site at the 1998 Michelob Light LPGA held at Forest Hills Country Club. District paramedics and EMT's provided EMS from golf carts and special bicycles.

This was the 5th year that Forest Hills Country Club held the event. On-duty ambulance crews and off-duty volunteers from the fire districts gave over 550 manpower hours for this event.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT US?

Please use the lines below to let us know. We will attempt to address your questions in future issues.

DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

YES

NO

MAIL THIS FORM TO:
DAVE NICHOLS, FIRE MARSHAL
CHESTERFIELD FIRE PROT. DIST.
13725 OLIVE BLVD.
CHESTERFIELD, MO 63017

OR FAX TO:
514-0696
ATTN: DAVE NICHOLS