

# Park Ridge Fire Department

*OUR MISSION: TO LIMIT THE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY THROUGH  
PLANNING, PREVENTION AND RESPONSE*

Battalion Chief Bill Pretzer retired on May 2, 2010 after 32 years of dedicated service with the Park Ridge Fire Department. Battalion Chief Pretzer worked his way up through the ranks and contributed selflessly to the Department as well as to the City of Park Ridge on many levels. Pictured below is Battalion Chief Pretzer with his crew (Black shift) on his last day of work. We wish Bill and his family many happy, healthy years to come!!



## May 2010

Volume XI, Issue V  
[www.parkridgefd.org](http://www.parkridgefd.org)



**Highlights of the Month**

**Congratulations!**



Congratulations and best wishes to Battalion Chief Bill Pretzer and his family on his retirement after 32 years of service! Battalion Chief Pretzer began his career with the Park Ridge Fire Department on 4/30/1979 and retired on 5/2/2010. He received a retirement axe on behalf of the Fire Department.





The following is an after action report for the Flood Victim Day held on May 8, 2010.

The Cook County Disaster Grant program was established to assist businesses, families, and individuals who were impacted by the severe storms and flooding that occurred between September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008. In order to assist residents in applying for the grant funds, the City of Park Ridge, in conjunction with Cook County, held a Flood Victim Day on May 8<sup>th</sup> at City Hall from 9:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. It went exceedingly well as over 152 residents attended and received the grant applications. The Fire Department, as the lead Disaster and Emergency Preparedness agency for the City, will continue to monitor this effort. We would like to thank Cook County for their service towards helping our flood victims. In the future, Cook County will be able to provide the exact number of applicants from Park Ridge, and the total amount of money spent in assistance towards repairs and remediation. Acting Chief Sorensen hosted the event as the City's representative. No City money was expended in providing this service to our residents.

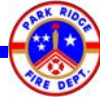


Deputy Chief Sorensen:

Thank you for taking the time to come to our office for this special recognition. It was much appreciated and goes a long way to show the local communities the cooperation and coordination our respective agencies must share in protecting the general public. If there is anything we can ever do for your department or community, just let me know.

THANKS AGAIN!!!! Melvin K. Pedersen (Resident Agent in Charge/U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Immigration and Customs Enforcement)





## Thank You Letter

Dear Jeff;

Well, here it is Memorial Day weekend; and we are finally back in our apartment. We were able to move back in on May 15th; almost 2 months to the day of the fire. I can't tell you how good it is to be home; and to see all the renovations, the new carpet, the new kitchen floor, the new paint on the walls....no more black soot!! We are slowly getting things put away, settling in and going through the things that were saved....cleaning what we are saving; and making our trash collector a very happy man with all the bags of garbage!!

I just wanted to tell you how much it meant to me, George and my 2 kitties all the things you did to help us get back on our feet. "Thank you" just doesn't seem to say enough.....without all the contacts you made for us, all the gift cards and donations from the Kianiwas Club, all the clothes and household items that were donated just because you sent the word out.....and the internet went to work. I am so proud to be a citizen of this wonderful town of Park Ridge, and know that my safety is in the hands of someone as kind, compassionate and giving as you are. You didn't just come and put out that horrible fire and then leave.....you stayed in contact, brought me all those donations.....you didn't forget about me and my family. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.....you truly are an angel disguised as a friend, just hiding your wings.

I want to thank all the fire fighters who answered that call on March 19th, saved my life; saved the life of 2 of my kitties; put their lives in danger without a second thought.....telling me "just doing my job". Well, it takes very special people to make being a fire fighters their career.....special people with kind, giving hearts; special people with an extraordinary desire to be of service to his fellow man in one of the most dangerous jobs I know. Please let all those who were their that morning how much I appreciate what they did for my family and that all of them are in my prayers everyday. I have a much deeper, emotional feeling now; everytime I hear those sirens go flying down Dee or Touhy.....

On this Memorial Day weekend we are asked to remember all who served this country and gave their lives doing it; but I want to make just a small change in that.....I also want to remember all who serve this country, who serve their communities every single day; with no thought to their own safety.....all the fire fighters, the police officers, the EM's.....Happy Memorial Day to you all.....and thank you for YOUR service.

Again, THANK YOU, Jeff.....please stay in touch; and know you and your family are in my prayers every day. I'm attaching a couple of pictures of how the apartment looks now....a work in progress; but it's HOME!!

Peace and Love,  
Cheryl Breo

Life Is What Happens To You While You're Busy Making Other Plans





RICHARD J. DURBIN  
 ILLINOIS  
 COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
 COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
 COMMITTEE ON RULES  
 AND ADMINISTRATION  
 ASSISTANT MAJORITY  
 LEADER

United States Senate  
 Washington, DC 20510-1304

May 13, 2010

309 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1304  
 (202) 224-2152  
 TTY (202) 224-8180  
 230 SOUTH DEARBORN, 38TH FLOOR  
 CHICAGO, IL 60604  
 (312) 353-4952  
 525 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET  
 SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703  
 (217) 492-4062  
 PAUL SIMON FEDERAL BUILDING  
 250 W. CHERRY STREET  
 SUITE 115-D  
 CARBONDALE, IL 62901  
 (618) 351-1122  
 durbin.senate.gov

Mr. Jeffrey Sorensen  
 Park Ridge Fire Department  
 901 East Devon Avenue  
 Park Ridge, IL 60068-4648

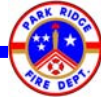
Dear Mr. Sorensen:

I would like to offer my congratulations to the Park Ridge Fire Department for receiving a \$15,147 award from the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Operations and Safety program. I wish you the best of luck on this project and in all your future endeavors.

Very truly yours,

Richard J. Durbin  
 United States Senator





**Personnel News**



Congratulations to Battalion Chief Sankey on his promotion on May 5, 2010 from Captain.

He has taken Battalion Chief Pretzer's position on Black Shift as Battalion Chief.

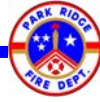


Congratulations to the Wolff Family!

Sydney Rae Wolff, was born on 5/28/10. She weighed 8 lbs 5oz and was 20.5 inches long.

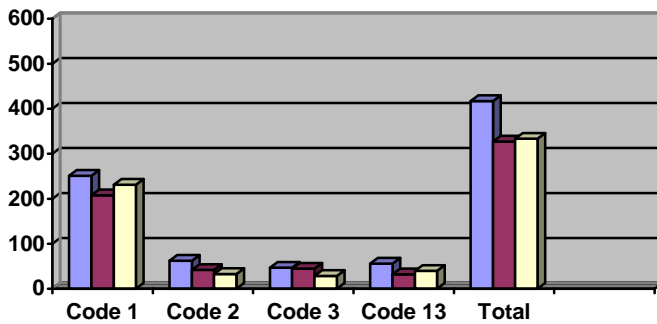
This Is Ray and Daniella's second child; big bother Tyler is very happy to have a sister!



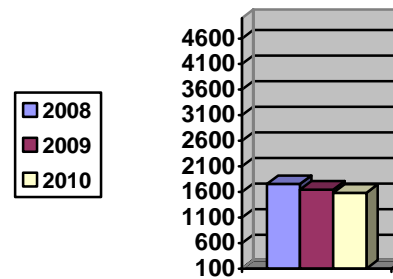


**Response Statistics**  
Fire Administration

CODE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	MONTHLY PERCENTAGE	TOTAL RESPONSES
1- ambulance	231	69%	333
2- single vehicle	33	10%	
3 - full fire	29	9%	
13 - mutual aid & auto aid	40	12%	



CURRENT MONTH

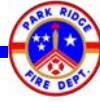


TOTAL ALARMS YTD



"Vehicle crash at Amphora"



**FIRE INVESTIGATION**

Lieutenant Derek Decker

The Park Ridge Fire Department investigated four fires during the month of May 2010.

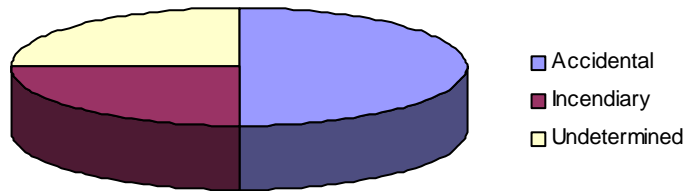
- May 1 Park Ridge fire equipment along with auto-aid companies were dispatched to the 1700 block of W. Dempster for a reported fire on a third floor balcony. Arriving companies found a fire coming from the balcony of a second floor unit of a multiple family residential building. Fire companies determined the fire involved a grill fueled by propane. The fire was quickly confined and extinguished by using a dry chemical extinguisher. The resulting damage was estimated at \$6,000. Fire investigators determined the fire was caused by a failure of the hose attaching the propane tank to the grill. The fire was classified as accidental.
- May 17 Park Ridge fire equipment along with auto-aid companies responded to the 1200 block of N. Potter for a reported oven fire. Arriving companies reported light smoke coming from the house. A fire was found inside the oven. Fire companies contained the fire to the oven and extinguished it by using a CO<sub>2</sub> extinguisher. The resulting damage was estimated to be \$300. Investigators concluded that the fire started when plastic kitchen utensils inside the oven ignited while the oven was preheating. The fire was classified as accidental.
- May 31 Engine 36 responded for a reported outside fire in a parking lot near Summit and Euclid. A small trash receptacle was found fully involved upon arrival. A pump can was used to extinguish the fire. The fire nearly consumed the entire receptacle as well as damaged a nearby light pole. No monetary damage estimates could be determined. The cause of the fire was not identified and the fire was classified as undetermined.
- May 31 Engine 36 responded for a reported outside fire on N. Hamlin near Habberton. Large stacks of newspapers were found burning in the middle of the street. A pump can was used to extinguish the fire. It was determined the fire was intentionally set, but the person responsible could not be identified. The fire has been classified as incendiary.





Damage resulting from the May 1 grill fire

May 2010 Fire Classifications



The total fire damage estimates for May 2010 are \$6,300.

**Special Teams**  
FF/PM Bill Petersen

**Technical Rescue Team (TRT)**

TRT members participated in Division III drills. On May 25, 2010, Technicians Ascione and Skinner responded to a Division III technical rescue box alarm to assist the Skokie Fire Department on a trench collapse.





**Training**  
Battalion Chief Scott Sankey

**Daily Quick Drills**

Each shift day, the Training Division assigns a quick drill to be discussed at the morning roll call. The quick drills for May included reviewing St. Francis EMS System Medical Orders #6 through #12 and fire hydrant component and operation review.

**Annual Respirator and Special Team Physicals**

All personnel received their annual Occupational Safety and Health Administratio (OSHA) Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) respirator user certifications. The Dive, TRT, and HAZMAT team members also received their annual physicals as required by MABAS Division III.

**Online Training Portal**

All personnel completed training on firefighting foam and defensive driving strategies for emergency vehicle operators.

**MABAS Division III Special Teams**

Members of the Fire Investigation, HAZMAT, URRT (Dive), and TRT teams participated in Division III training drills.

The TRT team also participated in a joint training session with MABAS Division I at NIPSTA.

**Tool of the Month**

The program continued this month. A particular tool or tools are selected for the month and each member of the shift must be prepared to discuss and demonstrate the proper use and forcible entry tools.

**Outside Training**

B/C Sankey	Health & Safety Officer	40 hrs
FF/PM Kuzmanovich	HAZMAT Metering	8 hrs
FF/PM Koletsos	HAZMAT Metering	8 hrs

**Apparatus & Equipment**  
Battalion Chief John Hanson

For the month of May 2010, the Fire Department front line vehicles logged 3,230 miles. Due to the high amount of miles and the stresses that the vehicles are put under, it is critical that we perform routine and emergency maintenance in cooperation with City Garage. Below is a list of the maintenance completed for the month:



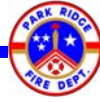


F-31	2005 Ambulance	- Emergency light relays replaced
F-32	2005 Ambulance	- Replaced Siren
F-33	2005 Ambulance	- Replaced emergency light primary and secondary switches
F-35	2001 Squad	- Replaced Quartz scene light - Heater hose clamps replaced to correct leak
F-42	1996 Engine	- Wiper arms replaced - Pump panel lights replaced - Auto eject replaced - Replaced Quartz scene light
F-43	2005 Engine	- Pump seal adjusted to correct leak - Replaced perimeter lights
F-45	2001 Aerial Platform	- New Fire Commander pump controller installed

**Fire Prevention and Public Education**  
Lieutenant Kevin Plach

Activity	Monthly Totals
Initial Inspections	46
Re-Inspections	25
Pre-Permit Meetings	1
Construction Visits	7
Final Inspections	4
Plan reviews	16
Sprinkler Hydros	1
Storage Tank Installs	0
Storage Tank Removals	0
Residential Sprinklers	0
Fire Flow Tests	2
Fire Alarm Tests	2
Fire Pump Tests	0
Key Box Insp./Installs	1
Hood Test	0
Single Family Home Inspections	1
Citations	0
Meetings	7
Fire Drills	2
Seminar/Schools	2
Complaints	2
Shift Tours	0
Public Education Tours	0
<b>Total-</b>	<b>119</b>





**Car Seat Safety Checks**

21 car seat safety checks were performed in May.

**CPR and First Aid classes**

13 people attended CPR and First Aid classes during the month of April.

**The following classes were provided:**

- 1 CPR and First Aid classes
- 1 Health Care Provider CPR class

**CPR and First Aid training was provided to:**

- 13 people in our 2 public classes

**Park Ridge Fire Explorer Post 3536**

The first meeting of the month was held on May 5<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, 13 Explorers practiced different SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) donning and doffing techniques as well as vent, enter, and search drills. The second meeting was held on May 19<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, 15 Explorers continued working with their SCBA's and also practiced advancing hoselines into the training tower.

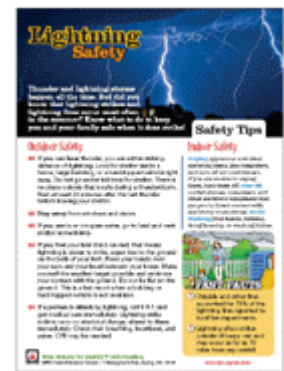
**Monthly Tip**

Summer is the peak time of the year for lightning strikes and lightning fires. However, lightning does occur year round. It's important to be prepared for this dangerous weather phenomenon.

**Safety tips**

*Outdoor safety*

- If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance of lightning. Look for shelter inside a home, large building, or a hard-topped vehicle right away. Do not go under tall trees for shelter. There is no place outside that is safe during a thunderstorm. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before leaving your shelter.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- If you are in or on open water, go to land and seek shelter immediately.
- If you feel your hair stand on end, that means lightning is about to strike, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands over your ears and your head between your knees. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact



[Download these NFPA safety tips on lightning.](#) (PDF, 680 KB)





- with the ground. Do not lie flat on the ground. This is a last resort when a building or hard-topped vehicle is not available.
- If a person is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1 and get medical care immediately. Lightning strike victims carry no electrical charge; attend to them immediately. Check their breathing, heartbeat, and pulse. CPR may be needed.

*Indoor safety*

- Unplug appliances and other electrical items, like computers, and turn off air conditioners. If you are unable to unplug them, turn them off. Stay off corded phones, computers, and other electronic equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity or plumbing. Avoid washing your hands, bathing, doing laundry, or washing dishes.

***Please see attached Lightning Safety Information Brochure on the following page.***





# Lightning Safety

Thunder and lightning storms happen all the time. But did you know that lightning strikes and lightning fires occur most often in the summer? Know what to do to keep you and your family safe when it does strike!

## Safety Tips

### Outdoor Safety

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### FAST FACTS

- ❗ Outside and other fires accounted for 78% of the lightning fires reported to local fire departments.
- ❗ Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles from any rainfall.



Your Source for SAFETY Information  
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)

