Park Ridge Fire Department

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

Ronald McDonald greeted those that attended November 25th's Open House at Park Ridge Fire Station #35! Ronald posed for pictures and handed out Fire Safety booklets to the boys and girls. It was a great day to get out and enjoy meeting our friendly and very helpful Park Ridge emergency personnel. The guests enjoyed hot apple cider, popcorn and more fun food, while walking around looking at and climbing on the fire trucks.

November 2011

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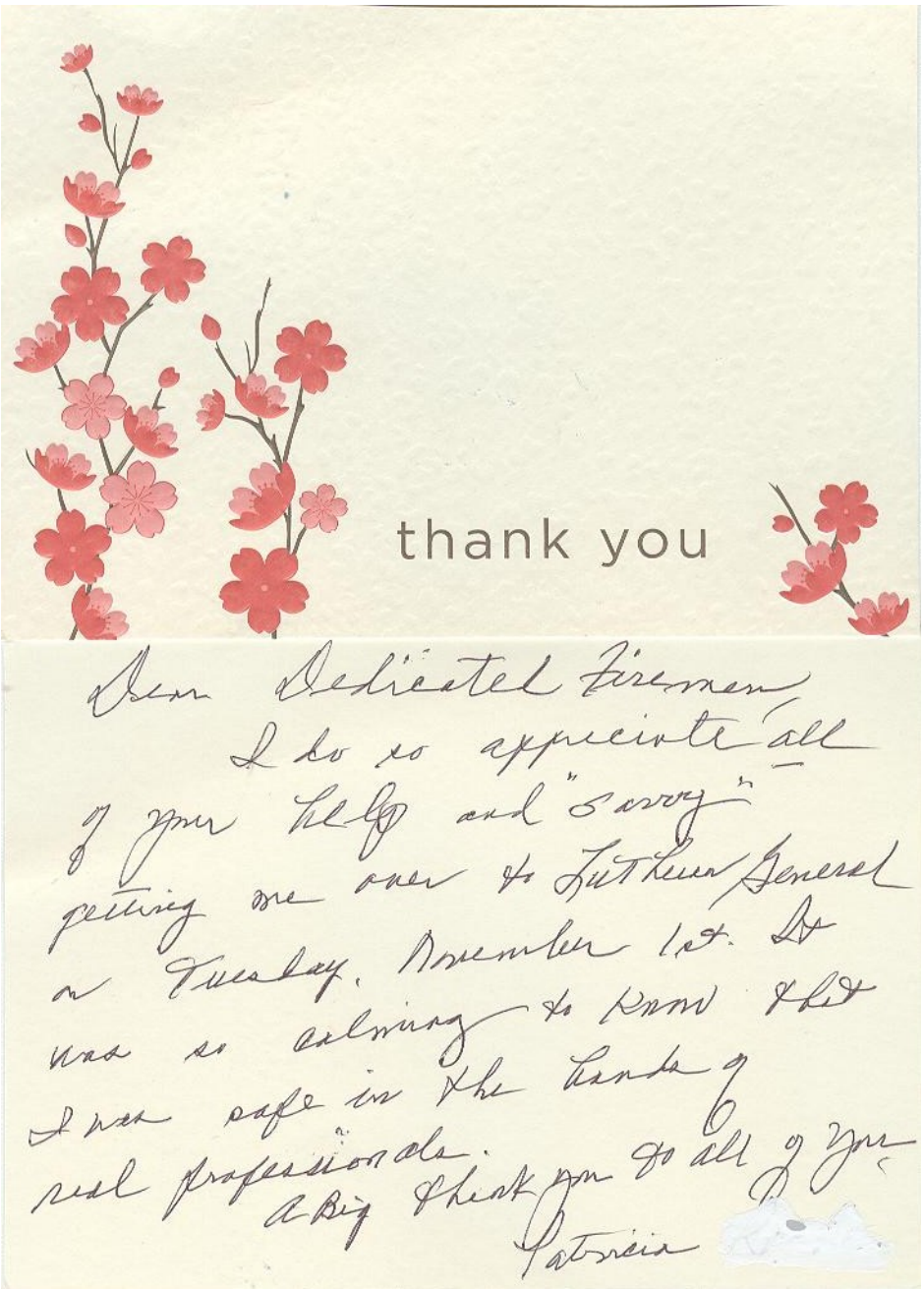
Highlight of the Month
Fire Administration



DATE: 11/28/11

TO: Chief Zywanski

FROM: Jennifer Steurer, Senior Administrative Assistant

SUBJECT: After Action Report- November 25, 2010 Fire Department Open House

The following is an after action report for the Fire Department Open House held on November 25, 2011.

The day after Thanksgiving proved to be an extraordinary, warm November day.. The perfect weather brought out huge crowds and approximately 1,000 visitors of all ages attended our Open House! That is over twice the amount we usually have attend. Chief Zywanski, Deputy Chief Sorensen, Fire Marshal Lt. Plach, Fire Inspector Rich Kufner along with his wife, Georgine, Senior Administrative Assistant Jennifer Steurer and four Fire Explorer's were on hand along with the Gold shift on-duty crew.

The Fire Department delivered Santa Uptown via our Squad that was decorated with lights, to a massive crowd of waiting families. Station 35 provided fresh popcorn, cookies, fruit snacks, pretzels, animal crackers, water bottles, juice boxes and hot cider to our visitors. Children and adults alike were given tours of the apparatus. Our Fire Prevention Bureau provided fire safety information and materials. Ronald McDonald arrived at 7 p.m. and passed out fire safety information to the children.

We would like to thank our Public Works Department for providing a generator to power our light decorations on the Squad as well as their popcorn machine!

We tried to utilize as many on duty staff members for this event as possible, in order to keep down costs:

- The Fire Department expended 8 hours of overtime, costing $263.00

- Other expenses include:

Drinks (water, juice boxes, hot cider)	$153.00
Snacks (desserts, fruit snacks, popcorn)	$147.00
Supplies (cups and popcorn bags)	$ 32.00
Public Education Materials (Alert All)	$250.00
Public Education Materials (NFPA)	$200.00

Total-$1,045.00

Open House Photos

Personnel News
Fire Administration

WONDER LAKE – A surprised Dave Bruchsaler was greeted by friends, family and members of the Wonder Lake 456 Boy Scout Troop on Sunday afternoon.

By LINDSAY WEBER - editorial@nwherald.com

The group had gathered to dedicate a new trail that Bruchsaler's son, David, had organized as his final project in hopes of becoming an Eagle Scout. David said he hopes the trail will serve as a place where those who walk on it can enjoy the scenery and nature. Assistant Scout Master Eric Niese has the same hopes for those who use the trail. "It's a good way to get kids to put down the video games, get outside and enjoy the fresh air together," Niese said. The new trail, appropriately named Scout Master Trail, sits off West Wonder Lake Road near the corner of Thompson Road. It was built by troop members and volunteers and was made possible by local donations. David said it took him nearly three months of planning and building to make the trail possible. The sign at the start of the trail pays homage to his father for his years of community service. David gave a speech praising his father's love of helping others. He said he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps by becoming a firefighter in hope that others would look up to him as he does his father. Bruchsaler helped build the trail but said he had no idea that David had planned to dedicate it to him. Bruchsaler was misty-eyed when his son spoke of his father's accomplishments and his desire to be like him.
"I was just blown away by the words of my son," Bruchsaler said. "He's thinking on his own and taking the initiative. I'm so proud of him."

Bruchsaler, a Park Ridge firefighter and Wonder Lake volunteer firefighter, was a former Boy Scout and the fourth Eagle Scout in Wonder Lake's Troop 456, of which he is currently Scout Master. He was the founding member of the Explorer Program, a worksite-based program that allows young men and women to explore different career programs servicing the community.

Bruchsaler plans to step down from his position as Scout Master but will continue his involvement in scouting by acting as a Charter Organizational Rep – a liaison between the Firefighters Association and the Boy Scout organization.

David's Eagle Scout status is still pending, but he says that either way he and his father will continue to be involved with scouting.

"It's been such a pleasure to watch these kids grow into men and see things through their eyes and see what they have accomplished. I'm an Eagle Scout, and that's for life," Bruchsaler said.

This month we received emails and calls regarding wonderful service received from our Department.

1.) Gold Shift

Lt. Ron Krause's crew went to a call at 919 S. Prospect for a smell of smoke on 11/4/11. The homeowner called on 11/9/11 to thank them for their efforts in tracking down the odor, and was very appreciative. The next day according to the homeowner, he said that the sun heated up the back of a set of blinds on the windows that caused them to heat up and emit the odor.

2.) Red Shift
Jennifer notified Battalion Chief Hanson of a person who dropped their keys down a sewer behind Trader Joes.

Red Shift had Tower 36 and Mike McGrath (PW) go over to assist. Tower 36 was able to retrieve the keys with a coat hanger prior to Mike McGrath's arrival. Battalion Chief Hanson spoke to the woman and she was extremely happy. The keys were left with the manager of Trader Joe's for her to pickup later.

3.) Gold Shift

On November 18, 2011, the red shift Battalion Chief, John Hanson received the following message via email.

Subject: Thank you.

Hello,

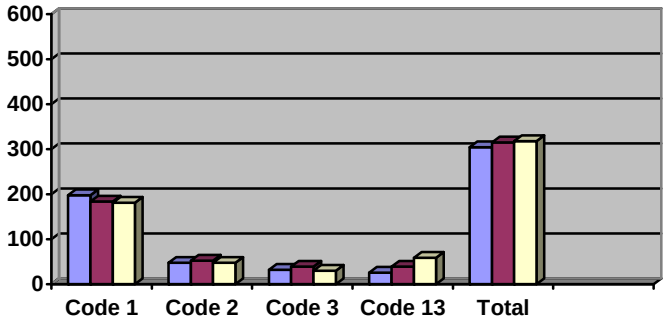
I am not sure who to send this message to, but I wanted to thank the Park Ridge Fire Department. My son got his leg stuck in his crib and it began to swell. The Fire Department came this morning and helped release his leg. The men were very nice and great with my kids. Both of my children said they were very cool and that they would ask them for help again if we are ever in need.

World Trade Center Steel Update
Fire Administration

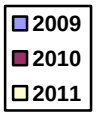
To date, seven proposals have been received in response to the Public Art Commission's request for proposals of displays. They will review those proposals at their next meeting, which will take place on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. at Fire Station #35. After reviewing the proposals, they will vote to narrow the choices down to three candidates.

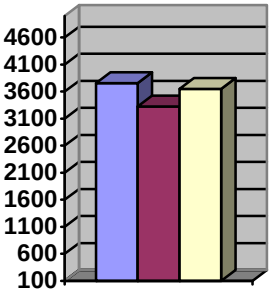
Response Statistics
Fire Administration

CODE	MONTHLY REPONSES 2010	MONTHLY REPONSES 2011	MONTHLY PERCENT 2010	MONTHLY PERCENT 2011
1– ambulance	184	181	58%	57%
2– single vehicle	53	48	17%	15%
3 – full fire	39	30	12%	9%
13 – mutual & auto aid	39	59	12%	19%
TOTAL RESPONSES	315	318	100%	100%



TOTAL ALARMS YTD





CURRENT MONTH

Incident Response
Deputy Chief Sorensen

November 3	Fire companies responded into Niles to assist at the fire at Rosati's Pizza on Milwaukee Avenue. Tower #36 acted as the RIT company, providing emergency assistance and back-up to other companies on the scene. Ambulance #36 was assigned to EMS standby for potential injuries on the fireground.
November 3	Fire companies responded to the car versus pedestrian crash at Cumberland and Higgins. It was determined that the incident occurred in Chicago's jurisdiction. The patient had relocated into the Dominick's store at 1900 S. Cumberland. The patient was transported to Lutheran General Hospital.
November 3	Fire companies responded to the two-vehicle crash on Devon near the 7-11 store, 500 block of West Devon Avenue. Two patients were transported to Lutheran General Hospital by Ambulance #35 and Ambulance #36.
November 4	Paramedics transported three patients that received fall injuries from the 0-100 block of North Meacham Ave.
November 15	Companies responded for the reported basement fire in the 100 block of North Prospect. Contractors on the scene had accidently started a small fire which was extinguished with a pressurized water extinguisher. Damage was isolated to the finished basement, and the house was turned back over to the owner.
November 19	Companies responded to the intersection of West Crescent and South Delphia Avenues, for a car crash, automobile into a tree. Patients transported to Lutheran General Hospital.
November 24	Thanksgiving- Companies responded to the cooking fire in the 200 block of South Cumberland Avenue. The fire did not extend out of the appliance (oven).
November 26	Companies responded to the grill fire, adjacent to the house in the 1800 block of Burton Lane. The gas to the house was shut off at the meter and the fire extinguished. There was no extension of fire to the house.

FIRE INVESTIGATION
Lieutenant Derek Decker

Investigation Summary

November 15 All Park Ridge fire companies along with Niles Truck 2, North Maine Engine 1 and North Maine Battalion 1 responded for a fire alarm activation with smoke in the basement. Upon arrival of Battalion 35, the 1st floor was charged with smoke and a basement fire was confirmed. The fire involving a refrigerator and construction materials was rapidly extinguished with a pressurized water extinguisher.

Investigators determined the fire originated in an area where construction work was being completed in the basement. At the point of origin was a pile of cloth rags which were used to stain a wooden bar and cabinet. The improper disposal of the stain soaked rags resulted in the spontaneous ignition of the rags and other items. The fire was classified as accidental.

November 26 All Park Ridge fire companies along with Des Plaines T81, North Maine Engine 1 and North Maine Battalion 1 responded for a grill fire with a residential exposure. Upon arrival of Tower 36, an uncontrolled natural gas fire in the grill was found. The controls on the grill were inoperable. Tower 36 quickly controlled the gas utility and extinguished the fire with an extinguisher. The fire was contained to the grill and no damage to the adjacent structure resulted.

Investigators determined there was a sudden failure of the grill's valve controlling the flow of natural gas. This failure resulted in a moderate flow of gas while the grill was being used for cooking.

Training
Battalion Chief Scott Sankey

Quick Drill
Throughout the month the Training Division assigns various quick drills to be discussed at the morning roll call. The quick drills for November included: Ford Transit Connect Emergency Operations Guide review, Troubleshooting Activate PASS devices, Engine Company equipment locations and Blue Card theory and definition review.

Report of the Week
Throughout the month the shifts are assigned a report from the National Firefighters Near Miss web portal. The site provides firefighters a place to anonymously document and share their close calls and near miss experiences with other firefighters around the country. By sharing these reports we hope to prevent similar situations from happening in the future. The

reports reviewed for November included *Quick Action with a Firefighter Bailout* and *The Engine isn't Supposed to Pump and Roll*.

Word of the Week
Throughout the month shift members at each station are assigned a word. The member researches the word as it relates to the fire service and presents his/her findings to the rest of his station during the morning roll call meeting. The words for November were *Clapper Valve* and *Taxpayer*.

Target Safety Online Training
All department personnel were assigned a four-part HAZMAT Operations Refresher training module.

Forcible Entry Techniques
Our new forcible entry prop was delivered in November. All three shifts practiced forcing entry on both inward and outward swinging doors using hand and hydraulic tools.

Officer and Acting Officer Expectations
Chief Zywanski delivered an Officer and Acting Officer Expectations presentation to all Gold and Black shift personnel. Red shift will receive the training in December.

Acquired Structure Training
All three shifts were able to do some hands on training using a house scheduled for demolition at 1408 South Courtland. Crews practiced cutting vent holes in the roof with hand and power tools.

Vehicle Stabilization Training
Black and Gold shift personnel a practiced vehicle stabilization technique using our new Prospan struts. The hands-on training involved stabilizing a vehicle on its side and a vehicle on its roof. Red shift will receive the training in December.

Tool of the Month
The tools of the month for November were monitoring devices. These consist of a Carbon Monoxide detector, Flammable Gas Sniffer, and our 4-gas monitors.

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

Outside Training
No outside training this month.

The Fire Department utilized a home at 1408 S. Courtland that was scheduled for demolition, to conduct training from November 15-17, 2011. There was no live fire training that took place at that address. Training involved the use of forcible entry tools, saws, hose lines and theatrical smoke.

Pictured below are FF Zermeno and FF/PM Scott practicing roof ventilation tactics.

Special Teams
Battalion Chief Scott Sankey

Hazardous Materials Team (HAZMAT)
MABAS Division III HAZMAT team members participated in a metering familiarization drill with the entire division that was held in Northfield.

Underwater and Rescue and Recovery Team (URRT)
This month, members of the dive team participated in a MABAS Division III dive drill at the Skokie Lagoons. During this training session, the divers practiced incident command exercise drills in search patterns and boat operations.

Technical Rescue Team (TRT)
The Park Ridge Fire Department's TRT members participated in a Division III drill that took place at NIPSTA (Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Academy). This was a skills based drill that covered structural collapse technician skills. Members practiced cutting concrete and reviewed breaching tools and skills. These techniques would be used to enter collapsed concrete structures for victim removal. A skill station was set up and training was practiced using the Petrogen torch, which is used to cut steel for beam removal.

Apparatus & Equipment
Battalion Chief John Hanson

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 the city garage. Below is a list of the maintenance completed for the month:

F-31	2005 Ambulance	- 4 Fuel injectors replaced - Door repaired - Drawer repaired
F-32	2005 Ambulance	- Repaired air horns - Repaired Neiderman switch - Ford replaced emissions control module - Exhaust leak repaired
F-33	2005 Ambulance	- Repaired door ajar issue
F-35	2001 Squad	- Replaced three quartz lights
F-45	2001 Tower Ladder	- Pump transfer valve repaired - Replaced rear step light

Pictured below is Fire Inspector Rich Kufner and his wife Georgine, who helped assist the Department with our Open House, held on November 25, 2011.

Fire Prevention
Lieutenant Kevin Plach

Activity	Monthly Totals 2010	Monthly Totals 2011
Initial Inspections	62	59
Re-Inspections	53	72
Pre-Permit Meetings	3	0
Construction Visits	4	7
Final Inspections	8	5
Plan reviews	8	9
Sprinkler Hydros	1	0
Storage Tank Installs	0	0
Storage Tank Removals	0	0
Residential Sprinklers	0	0
Fire Flow Tests	0	1
Fire Alarm Tests	2	4
Fire Pump Tests	0	2
Key Box Insp./Installs	6	1
Hood Test	0	1
Single Family Home Inspections	4	0
Citations	0	0
Meetings	12	14
Fire Drills	0	3
Seminar/Schools	4	1
Complaints	1	1
Shift Tours	0	0
Public Education Tours	0	0
Total	**168**	**180**
Year to Date	**681**	**693**

Public Education
Lieutenant Kevin Plach

Highlights
Lt. Plach and Fire Inspector Kufner supplied a public education table as well as assisted citizens with any questions during our Open House held on November 25, 2011.

Car Seat Safety Checks
31 car seat safety checks were performed in November.

CPR and First Aid classes
65 people attended CPR and First Aid classes in the month of November.

The following classes were provided:
1 Health Care Provider class
1 Heart Saver First Aid and CPR classes
1 Heart Saver AED class

CPR and First Aid training was provided to:

- 42 faculty and staff from School District 64
- 13 people in our 2 public classes
- 10 staff members of American Society of Anesthesiologists

Park Ridge Fire Explorer Post 3536
The first meeting of the month was on November 9th. The explorers met at Des Plaines FD station 1 where DPFD FF/PM Menas Klikas taught the group forcible entry techniques. The second meeting was on November 23rd. The explorers were able to use our new forcible entry simulator to re-enforce the earlier training, as well as practice using the "irons" to split wood, strengthening their tool usage. Re-organization of the post has been going well and the explorers are excited about it.

Monthly Tip

- 15,260 estimated number of home candle fires each year
- 166 estimated number of home candle fire deaths each year
- 1,289 estimated number of home candle fire injuries each year
- 55% of home candle fires start because the candle is too close to combustible materials
- 20% of candle fires begin when candles are unattended or abandoned
- 36% of home candle fires begin in the bedroom, more than in any other room
- ½ of candle fire deaths occur between Midnight and 6 am

Top Five Days for Home Candle Fires

1. Christmas Day
2. Christmas Eve

3. New Year's Day
4. Halloween
5. December 23

Source: Home Candle Fires, NFPA Fire Analysis and Research, Quincy, MA, June 2010

With the holidays fast approaching and the increased usage of seasonal decorations, it is important to focus on candle fire safety and prevention. Because **the majority of candle fires result from human error and negligence**, candle fires and their associated casualties are preventable.

- If possible, avoid using lighted candles.
- If you must use candles, ensure that they are placed in sturdy holders.
- Keep candles away from children and pets.
- Be sure to extinguish candles after each use.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.

By following a few candle fire safety tips, everyone can enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.

Causes and Circumstances of Home Candle Fires

- On average, 42 home candle fires are reported every day.
- More than half of all candle fires start when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations is too close to the candle.
- In one-fifth (20%) of candle fires, the candles are unattended or abandoned.
- Over one-third (36%) of home candle fires begin in the bedroom.
- Falling asleep is a factor in 12% of home candle fires and 36% of the associated deaths.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 13% of home candle fires begin with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.
- One-half of home candle fire deaths occur between Midnight and 6 am.
- Young children and older adults have the highest death risk from candle fires.

- The risk of fatal candle fires appears higher when candles are used for light.

Sources: NFIRS, NFPA

Candle Safety Tips

Put candles in sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic holders.

- Avoid using lighted candles.
- If you do use candles, ensure they are in sturdy metal, glass or ceramic holders and placed where they cannot be easily knocked down.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Set a good example by using matches, lighters, and fire carefully.
- Children should never be allowed to play with matches, lighters, or candles.
- Never put candles on a Christmas tree.
- Extinguish candles after use and before going to bed.
- And NEVER leave burning candles unattended!

Remember! Candle fires are PREVENTABLE!
In the event of a fire, remember time is the biggest enemy and every second counts!

- Escape first, and then call for help.
- Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it frequently with your family. Designate a meeting place outside. Make sure everyone in the family knows two ways to escape from every room.
- Never stand up in a fire, always crawl low under the smoke, and try to keep your mouth covered.
- Never return to a burning building for any reason: it may cost you your life.
- Finally, having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire.