

Back In Quarters Charleston Fire Department Newsletter



www.charlestonfire.com

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8

October 2011

HOT TOPICS

- Fire Prevention Week
- Safety Engine

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Fire Prevention Month

"It's Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!" This year, our campaign is all about keeping you, your family, and your community safer from fire. For educational material and tip sheets on the leading causes of home fires, information about protecting your home and families with life-saving technologies, and the importance of home escape planning, visit



www.nfpa.org for more information.

Each year, the campaign focuses on a different aspect of safety, from preventing forest fires to planning an escape route during a blaze. While the campaign lasts the entire month, most police and fire departments designate the second week of October as Fire Prevention Week, during which demonstrations and expos are held in different U.S. cities.

Sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Fire Prevention Month has roots that date back to The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that killed more than 250 people and left more than 100,000 homeless (Article on page 6). The fire, which was reportedly started in a barn, also burned more than 2,000 acres and destroyed about 17,400 structures. The three-day fire, which started October 8, did most of its damage on October 9, 1871, which is why Fire Prevention Week is always held around that date. The first National Fire Prevention Day was declared by President Woodrow Wilson in 1922, and the week-long observance is the longest running public safety and health campaign on record.

The fire department operates Safety City in conjunction with the police department throughout the school year. Third grade classes from throughout Kanawha County visit and learn about fire safety and personal safety. During Fire Prevention Week the fire department also conducts station visits and station tours as well.



Safety Engine

The “Safety” Engine Concept is a resource that the Charleston Fire Department is adopting to establish a fire ground that supports safety and survivability for all firefighters.

The Safety Engine Concept is a means of developing a more “survivable” fire ground. If we think about our own careers, most will agree that the likelihood of us facing a self-rescue situation is more probable than an actual rescue

requiring outside assistance. The Safety Engine Concept supports the philosophy of establishing a fire ground that supports/promotes “firefighter self-rescue” as it’s primary duty. The Safety Engine Concept is designed to be in compliance with NFPA 1500 and OSHA 1910.134.

This does NOT lessen the importance of Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT). Rapid intervention teams are an absolute priority. The Safety Engine Concept is simply designed to be a proactive and/or preventative means of fire fighter rescue.

Traditionally, a dedicated rapid intervention team was required to be in a stationary non-committed position at or near the Command Post. The Safety Engine Concept in contrast, supports a crew that initiates proactive measures thereby reducing the possibility of RIT deployment. No Safety Engine Crew should take on a task or assignment that will jeopardize their safety or that of a fellow firefighter if immediately abandoned.

The Safety Engine requires personnel to proactively deploy/initiate the tools and equipment that not only support the safety and survivability of firefighters but also allows for a quicker more effective rescue effort.

A Safety Engine will be assigned to every “high hazard” incident. High hazard incidents include, but are not limited to: hazardous materials incidents requiring entry, specialized rescue operations and structure fires. It is recommended to assign the third (3rd) or fourth (4th) due/arriving company be assigned as the Safety Engine to initiate proactive survival measures for initial arriving units.

The initial action of the Safety Engine Captain is to meet and confer with the Incident Commander to identify any critical issues of concern, fire ground assignments, accountability and take on the role of Incident Safety

Officer. The ISO is responsible for identifying the number of personnel assigned to the hazard zone, their primary assignments and the available equipment necessary for their rescue if the need be. The ISO should also remain at the command post to oversee personnel accountability, unit assignments, fire ground communications, and general tactical operations.

The Captain of the Safety Engine will become the Incident Safety Officer (ISO) and don a “green” safety vest.

Lieutenant of the Safety Engine will begin proactive safety measures (Later to become the Accountability Officer).

Firefighter of the Safety Engine will begin proactive safety measures (Upon arrival of the RIT Team, combine and upgrade the RIT Team to a crew of 4).

Safety Measures may include:

- Incident Size up (360° “Hot Lap”)
- Devising a Rescue Action Plan
- Personnel Monitoring
- Proactive Ladders
- Security Bar/Obstruction Removal
- Backup/Safety Line
- Scene/Entry Point Lighting
- Progress/Accountability Reporting
- Activation of the RIT Team and Rescue Action
- Post-Incident Analysis (Review/Revise/Implement)

The Safety Engine Concept is designed to focus on the survivability of firefighters working on the modern fire ground. The Safety Engine Concept is just another method of modification to current operations that helps us place a proactive focus on firefighter survivability. This concept will allow our fire department to meet the requirements of a dedicated Incident Safety Officer and assist our Rapid Intervention Team while establishing a safer, more proactive fire ground that lessens the need for a RIT deployment.

The key to fire ground survival lies solely in our own hands, the reactionary method of firefighter rescue has unfortunately become commonly fatal. Lets learn from the past in hopes of preventing or avoiding similar tragedies in the future.

Evacuation Plan for the City of Charleston



The Kanawha County- City of Charleston Evacuation Plan has been revised and updated and can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.cityofcharleston.org/government/city-departments/homeland-security-emergency-services>

<http://www.kanawha.us/oem/>

Charleston has been divided up into four areas for Emergency Evacuations and a Resident Evacuation Instructions Brochure for each area has been published:

- East End Charleston to Points North
- West Side Charleston to Points North
- South Hills Charleston to Points South
- Kanawha City Charleston to Points East

Included in the Resident Evacuation Instructions Brochure:

- Map of area with visible Evacuation Routes
- Explanation of Evacuation Plan for the area
- Individual and Family Evacuation Recommendations- Steps to follow to prepare for an Evacuation

Additional Resource Information

In 2010 the Kanawha County Emergency Management, Charleston Homeland Security & Emergency Management worked with JH Consulting to:

- Complete Evacuation Plan Development
- Build from concepts contained in former KPEPC Emergency Management Plan
- Review and approval by county/city emergency managers and focus groups

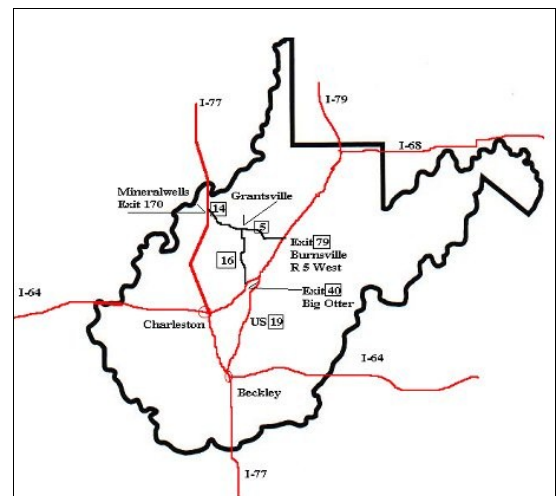
Initial plan adoption and implementation

This document is intended to provide evac-

uation strategy and guidelines for medium to high-level (catastrophic) evacuation events in the county and is developed with consideration to predominant threats and hazards in Kanawha County.

This plan provides overall operational guidance for public alert and warning, movement of evacuees, and care and shelter; and provides the roles of key departments and agencies during an evacuation. It does not provide or replace operational plans for specific departments or specific functions, such as shelter management.

In small-scale evacuations, such as those occurring during local fires, at crime scenes, or due to a localized hazardous materials spill, this plan assumes that such events are managed by local first responders in the field Incident Command Post (ICP), typically without an activation of an Emergency Operations Center (EOC). It is significant to note, though, that building capabilities to respond to medium and large scale evacuations would, by default, strengthen capabilities to implement small, localized evacuations. It is further significant to note that several elements of this plan may be employed during small scale evacuations, such as the use of the same evacuation routes, pick-up points, etc.



Fire Prevention Tips

A small fire can grow into a deadly one within one or two minutes. To help prevent a tragedy, closely inspect your home to eliminate potential hazards. Prepare your home for an emergency, and teach your family about the dangers of fire and how to escape.

- Put a smoke alarm on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area, and in every bedroom.
- Smoke alarms can be battery-operated or electrically hardwired in your home and are available at a variety of price points.
- If you have hearing problems, use alarms with flashing strobe lights and vibration.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Replace batteries once a year, even if alarms are hardwired.
- Test your smoke alarms at night to see if your child will wake up and respond to the alarm. Children sleep more deeply and may not wake up. If your child does not wake up to the alarm, try an alarm where you can program your voice to alert him or her.
- Mount smoke alarms high on walls or ceilings since smoke rises. Ceiling-mounted alarms should be installed at least 4 inches away from the nearest wall. Wall-mounted alarms should be installed 4 to 12 inches away from the ceiling.
- Replace all smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Consider installing both ionization alarms, which are better at sensing flaming fires, and photoelectric alarms, which are better at sensing slow, smoky fires, or dual sensor alarms.
- Consider installing a home sprinkler system.
- Plan and practice several escape routes and a safe place to meet outside.
- Plan and practice two escape routes out of each room of the house. It is important to have an alternate escape route in case one is blocked by fire.
- Have a designated person to help young children and others who might have difficulty escaping.
- Fire drills should be practiced at least twice a year. Home fires and home fire-related deaths are more likely to occur during cold-weather months, December through February.
- Practice your escape plan at night to see if your child awakes to the smoke alarms.
- Designate an outside meeting place, so all members of the family can be accounted for quickly. Once you are outside, call the fire department or 911 from a cell phone or neighbor's phone.
- Teach safety. A child who is coached properly ahead of time may have a better chance of surviving.
- Children should know the sound of the smoke alarm. When they hear it, teach them to get outside quickly and crawl low if there is smoke.
- Touch doors with the back of your hand before opening them. If the door is hot, use an alternative exit.
- Teach children never to go back into a burning building for anything such as a toy or pet, and to call the fire department or 911 from a neighbor's home or a cell phone outside.
- Teach children that if their clothes catch on fire, they should immediately stop, drop to the ground and roll themselves back and forth quickly to extinguish the flames.
- Take children to your local fire station for a tour. Children will be able to see a firefighter in full gear and learn that he or she is someone who saves children – not someone to be afraid of or hide from.
- Teach children to never touch or play with matches, candles, gasoline or lighters.
- Be sure you are not teaching your children bad habits. Do not let them see you smoke in bed or disconnect smoke alarm batteries.
- Check the kitchen for preventable hazards and supervise children at all times in the kitchen.
- Keep children away from cooking and heating appliances. Never leave the kitchen while cooking and never leave a child alone.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.
- Cook with pots and pans on back burners. Turn handles away from the front.
- Eliminate other potential hazards.
- Keep matches, lighters, and gasoline locked away and out of children's reach. Keep flammable items such as clothing, furniture, newspapers or magazines at least three feet away from the fireplace, heater or radiator.
- Store all flammable liquids such as gasoline outside of the home.
- Place space heaters at least 3 feet from anything that can catch fire such as curtains or papers.
- Always turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Plug an electric space heater into an outlet with enough capacity. Never plug it into an extension cord.
- Place covers over unused electrical outlets and avoid plugging several appliance cords into the same electrical socket.
- Replace old or frayed electrical wires and appliance cords, and keep them on top of, not beneath rugs.
- Establish a "Kid-Free Zone" around fireplaces, including gas fireplaces, and wood burning stoves. Glass fire screens can get very hot.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Place candles in a safe location away from combustible materials and where children or pets cannot tip them over.
- Have chimneys cleaned and inspected once a year.

For questions concerning fire prevention, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at 304-348-8058.

2011 Safety Trading Cards



In October 2011 we will begin to pass out our "New" 2011 Safety Trading Cards to children in our community. This year we have 9 different Safety Trading Cards that include Charleston Firefighters, Emergency Medical Personnel and Police Officers.

The card back features a short biography of the person(s), a safety message and our sponsors information and/or logo. These cards reach thousands of

homes in the Kanawha Valley and show our concern for children's safety through the important safety messages included



on the cards. We have bundled 2,500 sets of these cards (each set includes 9 individual cards) to give out at various community events and locations.

Children have long collected trading cards of their favorite heroes. They organize their cards in binders, trade cards and never seem to throw them away. Not only do they collect and trade these cards, they also READ them! What better way to effectively communicate our safety information.

Our goal is to capitalize on kids fascination with cards to get our safety messages across and reinforce our current community programs. This extremely popular program helps to enhance community relations, open doors of communication, educate both children and adults, and motivate individuals to make wise choices about their lives.

This years cards include:

Charleston Police Department: Corporal Robbie Skull & Corporal George L. Hender-son

Charleston Fire Department: Fire Chief Chuck Overstreet, Assistant Fire Chief Bob Sharp, Captain Ken Tyree, Lieutenant Marshall Henthorn, Assistant Fire Chief Owen Hawk II, Captain Mark Strickland and Fire Station 7 A-Shift Personnel- Scott Holmes with his son- Dakota Holmes, Aaron Hartleben with his son- Matthew, Fred Dunbar with his daughters-Allison & Courtney, Eric Abilmona with his son and daughter-Landon & Kendall and Bente Simerman with his son- Kyle Simerman.

I want to say a special Thank You to all our Sponsors for this year!

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 466

W. Kent Carper

Henthorn Environmental Services LLC

Pass Fire Protection, Inc

M & L Electric LLC

Swor Insurance Agency

Charleston Public Safety Council

Flashover Simulator Training



In October, the fire department will take part in the Flashover Simulation Training. This training will enable firefighters to safely watch a fire from the incipient stage as it progresses through the fully developed stage. Firefighters will learn to recognize the conditions leading up to and causing a flashover, including rollover and they will learn how to properly apply hose streams to mitigate this phenomenon.

Rate on share saving is 3%.



Credit Union News

Just a reminder to everyone Local 317 IAFF Credit Union is a privilege to being a member in good standing of Local 317 Union. What this means is if someone decides to not be a member of the Local then you cannot belong to the Credit Union. This was in the by laws when the Credit Union was established in 1939 and has not changed to date.

Also when you leave the job (not retirement) your signature loan must be paid in full or use the proceeds from your pension, this is why you sign a termination agreement each time you take out a signature loan.

Please remember when you're changing insurance company's to add Local 317 IAFF Credit Union as you're loss payee, if your loan is with us, tell new insurance company you have a loan on the vehicle, ATV, etc. and they should ask for the name of credit union.

If you have questions regarding the policy and by law of Local 317 IAFF Credit Union you are urged to call any board member or the office.

Mark your calendars...

2011 Charleston Fire Department Recognition Dinner/Ceremony

Friday November 4th from 6PM-9PM
Emmanuel Baptist Church
1401 Washington Street West
Charleston, WV 25302

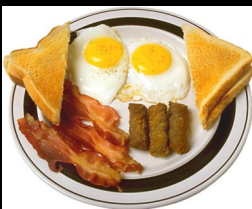
We would like all the firefighters to wear their Class A Uniform for a Group Photo and make this a special occasion for us and our families.

Firefighters and Family Invited! Retired Firefighters Invited! CFD Staff Invited!

More details to follow...looking at furnishing the meat and each family bring a side dish & drinks. (Meat, Coffee and Tableware Provided)

Pension Board Election

There will **NOT** be a Pension Board election this October 10, 2011. No one requested to run this time. The current trustees will remain the same, Scott Fisher, Myron Boggess, Joe Schaffer and Jimmy Sadler.



Retired Firefighter Breakfast

Retired Charleston Firefighters meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 8AM for breakfast at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant- 5720 Maccorkle Ave SE in Kanawha City. Feel free to drop by, have breakfast and keep in touch with our retired brother firefighters.

If anyone would like to contribute an article for any future newsletter, please contact Assistant Chief Bob Sharp.

The Great Chicago Fire of 1871

Fire that gave birth to “Fire Prevention Week”



The **Great Chicago Fire** was a conflagration that burned from Sunday, October 8, to early Tuesday, October 10, 1871, killing hundreds and destroying about 4 square miles in Chicago, Illinois. Though the fire was one of the largest U.S. disasters of the 19th century, the rebuilding that began almost immediately spurred Chicago's development into one of the most populous and economically important American cities.

On the municipal flag of Chicago, the second star commemorates the fire. The exact cause and origin of the fire remain uncertain.

The fire started at about 9 p.m. on Sunday, October 8, in or around a small barn that bordered the alley behind 137 DeKoven Street. The traditional account of the origin of the fire is that it was started by a cow kicking over a lantern in the barn owned by Patrick and Catherine O'Leary. Michael Ahern, the *Chicago Republican* reporter who created the cow story, admitted in 1893 that he had made it up because he thought it would make colorful copy.

The fire's spread was aided by the city's overuse of wood for building, a drought prior to the fire, and strong winds from the southwest that carried flying embers toward the heart of the city. The city also made fatal errors by not reacting soon enough and citizens were apparently unconcerned when it began. The firefighters were also exhausted from fighting a fire that happened the day before. ^[5] The firefighters fought the fire through the entire day and became extremely exhausted. Eventually the fire jumped to a nearby neighborhood and began to devastate mansions, houses and apartments. Almost everything that crossed the fire's path was made of wood that had been dried out for quite a while. After two days of the city burning down it began to rain and doused the remaining fire. It is said that over 300 people died in the fire and over 100,000 were left homeless.

The city's fire department did not receive the first alarm until 9:40 p.m., when a fire alarm was pulled at a pharmacy. The fire department was alerted when the fire was still small. When the blaze got bigger, the guard realized that there actually was a new fire and sent firefighters, but in the wrong direction.

Soon the fire had spread to neighboring frame houses and sheds. Superheated winds drove flaming brands northeastward.

When the fire engulfed a tall church west of the Chicago River, the flames crossed the south branch of the river. Helping the fire spread was firewood in the closely packed wooden buildings, ships lining the river, the city's elevated wood-plank sidewalks and roads, and the commercial lumber and coal yards along the river. The size of the blaze generated extremely strong winds and heat, which ignited rooftops far ahead of the actual flames.

The attempts to stop the fire were unsuccessful. The mayor had even called surrounding cities for help, but by that point the fire was simply too large to contain. When the fire destroyed the waterworks, just north of the Chicago River, the city's water supply was cut off, and the firefighters were forced to give up.

As the fire raged through the central business district, it destroyed hotels, department stores, Chicago's City Hall, the opera house and theaters, churches and printing plants. The fire continued spreading northward, driving fleeing residents across bridges on the Chicago River. There was mass panic as the blaze jumped the river's main stem and continued burning through homes and mansions on the city's north side. Residents fled into Lincoln Park and to the shores of Lake Michigan, where thousands sought refuge from the flames.

Philip Sheridan, a noted Union general in the American Civil War, was present during the fire and coordinated military relief efforts. The mayor, to calm the panic, placed the city under martial law, and issued a proclamation placing Sheridan in charge. As there were no widespread disturbances, martial law was lifted within a few days. Although Sheridan's personal residence was spared, all of his professional and personal papers were destroyed.

The fire finally burned itself out, aided by diminishing winds and a light drizzle that began falling late on Monday night. From its origin at the O'Leary property, it had burned a path of nearly complete destruction of some 34 blocks to Fullerton Avenue on the north side.

Once the fire had ended, the smoldering remains were still too hot for a survey of the damage to be completed for days. Eventually it was determined that the fire destroyed an area about four miles (6 km) long and averaging 3/4 mile (1 km) wide, encompassing more than 2,000 acres (810 ha). Destroyed were more than 73 miles (120 km) of roads, 120 miles (190 km) of sidewalk, 2,000 lampposts, 17,500 buildings, and \$222 million in property—about a third of the city's valuation. Of the 300,000 inhabitants, 90,000 were left homeless. Between two and three million books were destroyed from private library collections.

After the fire, 125 bodies were recovered. Final estimates of the fatalities ranged from 200–300, considered a small number for such a large fire. In later years, other disasters would claim many more lives: at least 605 died in the Iroquois Theater Fire in 1903; and, in 1915, 835 died in the sinking of the Eastland excursion boat in the Chicago River. Yet the Great Chicago Fire remains Chicago's most well-known disaster for the magnitude of the destruction and the city's recovery and growth.

Almost immediately, reform began in the city's fire standards, spurred by the efforts of leading insurance executives and fire prevention reformers such as Arthur C. Ducat and others. Chicago emerged from the fire with one of the country's leading fire fighting forces.