



PATTONVILLE

— FIRE DISTRICT —



NEWSLETTER ♦ FALL & WINTER 2019 EDITION

GIVE US A CALL - NO EMERGENCY NECESSARY!

At Pattonville Fire Protection District, we believe that prevention and education are the best forms of protection. This philosophy has led us to offer multiple services to our community prior to an emergency with the hope of reducing or minimizing injuries and property damage through public education and community risk reduction programs. All the following services are available upon request. Please call 314-739-3118 for more information or to schedule an appointment today!



CPR & First Aid Training – We offer American Heart Association hands only CPR &/or First Aid classes for our community for groups of ten or more.



Car Seat Checks – Our paramedic/firefighters will install, inspect and educate our residents on the child safety seats in their vehicle(s).



Safety Speeches – Our Paramedic/Firefighters will give safety speeches to groups of all ages about fire safety, first aid, as well as audience-specific topics.



Engine House Tours - Call to schedule an engine house tour and meet your Paramedic/Firefighters prior to an emergency. We are happy to give engine house tours to everyone young and old!



Blood Pressure Checks - If you would like to have your blood pressure checked for any reason, just come by any Pattonville Fire Protection District engine house and we will be happy to help you out!



Fire Extinguisher Training - Would you feel comfortable using a fire extinguisher in an emergency? Schedule training for you and your friends or neighbors and get the opportunity to use an extinguisher on a REAL FIRE!

Fall Prevention Visits - There are common causes of falls, some of which are preventable. Call us to have a Paramedic/Firefighter conduct an in-home assessment and help you make minor changes that will assist in preventing falls and save you a trip to the hospital!



CALL! DON'T FALL!
Fall Prevention Program



Smoke and/or Carbon Monoxide Detector Checks & Installations – Every Spring, your Paramedic/Firefighters go door-to-door to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. If you are having an issue or are concerned please call and ask us come check the detector, change the batteries or potentially replace the detector, all at no cost.



PATTONVILLE FIRE DISTRICT - A THIRTY THOUSAND FOOT VIEW ...

When you include all the numerous types of emergencies and service requests that Pattonville Fire Protection District responds to, we believe that we offer more value than any other fire department in the area. But if you look solely at our daily operations and the way our District is structured, we are pretty typical of most other fire departments nationwide. In fact, if you were to attend any of the large conferences held annually throughout the country, you would find numerous people speaking about the same operational positions that exist among their fire departments. To help you better understand our operations, I'd like to offer what I call the *Thirty Thousand Foot View of Pattonville Fire District Operations*.

As the face of our District are the Paramedic-Firefighters who interact with our community on a daily basis and respond to all of the 911 calls and requests for help. We presently have 59 professional Paramedic-Firefighters split into three separate battalions, commonly referred to as shifts. Each battalion is led by a Battalion Chief. The Battalion Chief is responsible for many things including scheduling, responding to calls, taking command of incidents, dealing with issues as they arise (equipment breakdowns, etc.) and supervising the members of his/her battalion. Each battalion is split among our three fire stations and has three Captains, one for each station. The Captains report directly to their respective Battalion Chief. The Captain is responsible for engine house cleanliness and maintenance, equipment readiness and upkeep, training, logging of emergency calls, initial incident management and supervising the members assigned to their fire station. Along side the Captain is the Primary Engineer. The Primary Engineer is responsible for all things related to their fire engine or ladder truck. He/she is the person who drives the truck and pumps water from the truck at fires. Riding with the Captain and Engineer are at least two Paramedic-Firefighters. Their job is basically to do everything the Captain tells them to do. They are the people doing extrication at vehicle accidents, assisting with medical calls and dragging fire hose into burning buildings. At Fire Stations #1 and #3, there are also two Paramedic-Firefighters assigned to work on an ambulance. These are their permanent assignments until seniority allows them to bid into a position on a fire truck.

As backups to all the specific positions, the Fire District has fully trained Acting Battalion Chiefs, Acting Captains and Acting Engineers. This allows certain members, with the proper training, to "move up" to the next higher position and function in that role as needed. This is

typically used to cover for vacations or other absences. In addition, the Paramedic-Firefighters assigned to our fire trucks may work on an ambulance to cover for vacations or other absences among the ambulance personnel. The District also employs two or three "floaters". The floaters are fully trained Paramedic-Firefighters that move among all three battalions and all three fire stations to cover for vacancies.



Within the administration, we have the Fire Chief who is responsible for oversight of all functions of the fire district. Our Assistant Chief, among many other things, is responsible for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division, personnel matters and scheduling. Our Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal is the code enforcement officer of the District and is responsible for building plan review, permit issuance, and building inspections. There is also a Fire Inspector that works in this division and assists the Fire Marshal. Our Deputy Chief of Training and Operations is responsible for the continual training of all Fire District employees as well as the general operation of the District (how we respond to calls, standard operating guidelines, etc.). We have a Captain who serves as our Community Affairs Officer and is responsible for promoting the Fire District's mission and vision through government, as well as building relationships with other leaders and organizations within our community and throughout the region. The Community Affairs Officer oversees the District's public relations and community outreach programs.

At the highest tier of our organization is the Board of Directors. This three-member board consists of community residents that are elected to lead the overall management of the District. They ensure that the services we provide fully meet the needs of our community. They are also responsible for the promotion of our existing members and the selection of new employees.

This is merely a glimpse into the way that we operate in order to keep our community safe. While it is probably a lot to take in, hopefully it provides a better understanding of our structure. As always, please feel free to contact the Fire District Headquarters at any time if you have any questions or need nonemergency assistance. As always, STAY SAFE!

- Dave Dotson, Fire Chief



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS...

As the year draws to an end, there are several projects that we are actively working on. We recently signed a contract with Jacobs, a nationally recognized architectural firm, for the renovation of Engine House 2 located at 3365 McKelvey Road in Bridgeton. The process of reviewing their proposals began in late October. We hope to have conceptual renderings of the renovation plans for you in our next newsletter. We also received a grant from the St. Louis Community Foundation to purchase an industrial pumper. This truck is specially designed to be used in the event of a fire at the Bridgeton Landfill. It will also serve as our backup pumper to be used when any of our primary trucks are being repaired. Our apparatus committee is working diligently to finalize the construction specifications so that the factory can begin building this new fire engine.

We are saying goodbye to Engineer-Paramedic Steve Walls and Paramedic-Firefighter Pete Kaiser. These men have served our community for many years and we wish them each a happy and healthy retirement!

We ask that you join us in welcoming our new Paramedic-Firefighters D'Marco Shivers and Matt Bernhardt to the Pattonville community and family.

These individuals are well qualified and will be great assets to help in keeping our community safe.

Over the next few weeks we have many events planned such as our annual Breakfast with Santa Toy Drive, several fire extinguisher classes and cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes, as well as Santa's yearly visits to the neighborhoods within our community. Please see the other articles within this newsletter for the specific dates and times of these events.

As your Fire District Board of Directors, we wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!

- Chairman Bill Esterline
- Treasurer Bob Soutier
- Secretary Bob Biondo

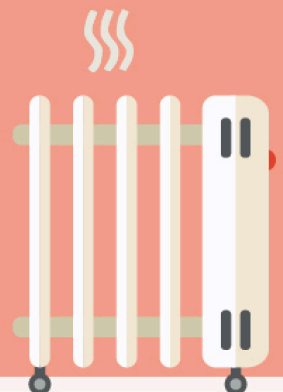


Heating Safety



Heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths

- **Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment**
- **Never use your oven to heat your home**
- **Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year**
- **Remember to turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed**
- **Only plug one heat-producing appliance into an outlet at a time**



Brought to you by the Pattonville Fire Protection District and the International Association of Fire Fighters



Source: National Fire Protection Association

LEARNING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES - OUR NEW EMPLOYEES' FIRST YEAR ...

While every professional firefighter in St. Louis County receives a high quality education and many certifications from the St. Louis County Fire Academy, an employee's first year at Pattonville Fire District is all about learning the meaning of *Whatever It Takes*. In their inaugural year of service, new employees are trained in the specialties of Swift Water Rescue, Boat Rescue and become Hazardous Materials Technicians. Knowledge and proficiency in these disciplines are vital to the protection of our community as we have multiple ponds, creeks and areas prone to flash flooding as well as Creve Coeur Lake and the Missouri River. There is also a lot of industrial manufacturing and packaging that goes on in our commercial areas of Earth City and Maryland Heights. This creates the need for our Paramedic-Firefighters to be prepared to respond to a hazardous materials incident.

Swift Water Technician training is physically grueling. Students are required to complete a timed three-hundred meter swim prior to entering the class. After a day of classroom instruction, the trainees go to Six Flags in Eureka, MO, where they practice rescue swimming techniques in the Thunder River amusement park ride. It is truly a unique experience to jump into Thunder River and be whisked away by the current. After becoming comfortable enough to survive in the rapids, they begin applying the rescue techniques they learned on live victims in the water.

Boat Rescue training is conducted in moving water. The most recent class, held in early October, was

conducted on the Missouri River in Jefferson City. Students spent four days learning how to operate our rigid hull rescue boat and the inflatable rescue boat (IRB). The focus of this class is on how to operate and properly maneuver the boats to rescue victims from the water, as well as procedures for searching for victims in and around water areas.

In the Hazardous Materials Technician training, the Paramedic-Firefighters spend eighty hours over two weeks learning how to identify, isolate and mitigate various types of HAZMAT incidents. This class consists of a significant amount of classroom and hands-on instruction. Students get acclimated to putting on and working in fully encapsulating protective suits that separate them from the outside atmosphere.

On top of learning the special disciplines that your Paramedic-Firefighters provide, the new employees go through a myriad of other, less formal, training scenarios. They have to learn their way around the district and take map tests to ensure they know where they are going when an emergency call arises. They also have to learn a multitude of protocols and guidelines on how we operate at different types of emergencies.

The first year at Pattonville is always intense, but we believe this on-the-job training helps ensure that your Paramedic-Firefighters are ready to do *Whatever It Takes* whenever an emergency happens. To our eight newest members that completed all of these requirements, congratulations on a job well done!





EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: ENGINEER-PARAMEDIC STEVE WALLS...

In this edition of the newsletter we shine the employee spotlight on Engineer-Paramedic Steve Walls. Steve began his career in emergency services in 1979 serving as a Paramedic in North St. Louis County with Christian Hospital Ambulance Service. In 1987, he entered the integrated fire and emergency medical services at the Webster Groves Fire Department, then followed his North County roots back to Pattonville Fire District in 1988. Steve retired from Pattonville in September.

In his over 40 years of service, Steve served in the rolls of Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, Acting Captain and Primary Engineer. Throughout Steve's career he has been a proud member of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

In his free time, Steve enjoys watching the St. Louis Blues, working out, playing hockey and spending time with his wife, Pam, of 35 years and his four granddaughters.

Steve said that the largest change that he saw in his 40 years of service was the evolution of the equipment.

Firefighter's gear has gotten lighter but offers better protection, allowing us to work both faster and safer. This in turn affords us the opportunity to find trapped fire victims faster and put the fire out more quickly, saving more of the resident's belongings.

Steve shared some words of advice for anyone that wants to get into an emergency services career. *"Learn something new every day. Be sure to respect your peers and build strong relationships."*

We wish Steve a happy and healthy retirement and thank him for his service to the Pattonville community for the past thirty-one years! Congratulations on your well earned retirement!



A NEW RESCUE-PUMPER IS NOW PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY ...

Late this summer, Pattonville placed in service a brand new, fully customized rescue-pumper fire truck. It replaced a fire engine that is nearly fifteen years old and had reached the end of its service life. The new rescue-pumper is designated as unit number 4824 and is stationed at Engine House #2 located at 3365 McKelvey Road in Bridgeton. It responds with four Paramedic-Firefighters at all times.

Rescue-Pumper 4824 is equipped with the best and most technologically advanced firefighting, rescue and life-saving equipment that the industry has to offer. It has a compressed air foam system that mixes air and foam concentrate into the firefighting water. This allows the fire to be extinguished more quickly and with less damage to the burning building and contents. It also has a fully automated, computer-controlled, 1500 gallon per minute fire pump system that was invented by former Pattonville Paramedic-Captain Jason Cerrano.

With the addition of this apparatus, we now have the equipment necessary to rescue victims from complex entanglements and precarious entrapments. Among many other items, Rescue-Pumper 4824 carries heavy hydraulic rescue tools used to tear apart wrecked vehicles; shoring struts and cribbing used to brace overturned vehicles and secure unstable objects; air bags used to lift incredibly heavy objects under which victims may be trapped; various types of saws that can be used to cut holes in buildings or cut apart metal and steel objects; a high-powered fan used to remove smoke or other contaminants from inside a building; 750 gallons of water and over 2000 feet of fire hose and accompanying nozzles; assorted hand tools and ground ladders; and a compliment of life-saving medical equipment and supplies.

In all, Rescue-Pumper 4824's capabilities and carried equipment qualifies it as a regional life-saving asset that may respond to a multitude of emergency rescue situations throughout St. Louis County. As the Pattonville Fire District, we want to give you, our community, a most sincere THANK YOU for providing us with the resources necessary to purchase this apparatus! It has truly allowed us to attain a new level of doing *Whatever It Takes* to protect and save lives!





ARE YOU HAVING A HEART ATTACK ???

A heart attack occurs when the flow of blood to the heart is blocked. The blockage is most often a buildup of fat, cholesterol and other substances which form a plaque in the arteries that feed the heart. The plaque eventually breaks away and forms a clot that blocks the flow of blood to an area of the heart's muscle. The interrupted blood flow can damage or destroy part of the heart muscle resulting in a weaker ability of the heart to pump oxygenated blood out to the body.

Heart attack symptoms may vary. You may only experience one or two individual symptoms, and not everyone experiences them to the same degree of severity. A heart attack can be deadly and lead to complete cardiac arrest. It is crucial to call 911 immediately if you think you may be experiencing any symptoms.

Paramedic-Firefighters with the Pattonville Fire District routinely respond and treat residents experiencing heart attacks. All of our ambulances and fire trucks carry equipment to perform an electrocardiogram (ECG) and can transmit the results to a cardiologist at our area hospitals directly from your home or business. Our Paramedic-Firefighters are trained to administer life-saving medications to someone experiencing a heart attack and will quickly deliver the patient directly to a cardiac catheterization lab (cath lab) for immediate treatment. The doctors and nurses in the cath lab will insert a camera and other instruments through a vein and into the heart to remove the clot and restore the flow of blood to the heart's muscle. The sooner that this corrective treatment can be performed, the lesser degree of damage that the heart sustains.

COMMON SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF A HEART ATTACK



Chest pain that may be described as a pressure, tightness, pain, or a squeezing or aching sensation in your chest or arms. The sensations may spread to your neck, jaw or back.



Nausea, indigestion, heartburn or abdominal pain.



Shortness of breath &/or difficulty breathing.



Cold sweat.



Fatigue.



Lightheadedness or sudden dizziness.

Frequent heart attack warning signs:



FOR MEN AND WOMEN

- ▶ Chest discomfort lasting several minutes
- ▶ Upper-body discomfort, including in one or both arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach
- ▶ Unusual shortness of breath
- ▶ Breaking out in cold sweat, often accompanied by nausea and light-headedness

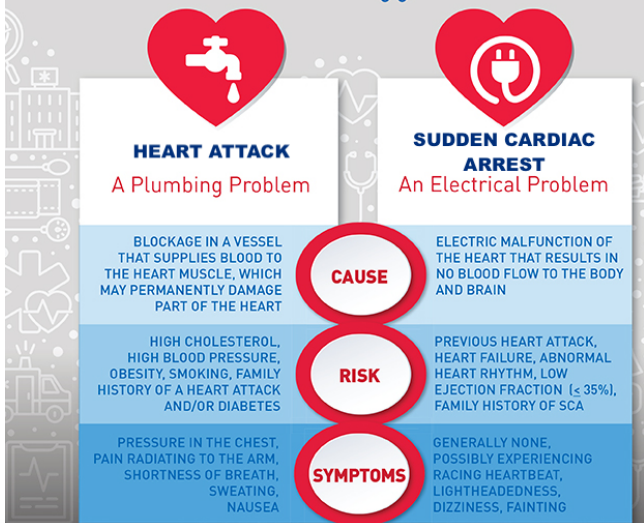


**FOR WOMEN
IN ADDITION TO ALL ITEMS LISTED IN THE LEFT COLUMN:**

- ▶ Pressure, fullness, squeezing pain in the center of the chest, spreading to neck, shoulder or jaw
- ▶ Light-headedness, fainting, sweating, nausea, or shortness of breath without chest discomfort
- ▶ Upper abdominal pressure or discomfort
- ▶ Back pain
- ▶ Unusual fatigue
- ▶ Lower chest discomfort

IF YOU EXPERIENCE SYMPTOMS OF A HEART ATTACK, CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY.

HEART ATTACK and SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST:
What's the difference?





Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Toy Drive

Saturday, December 14th ❄️ 10 AM - 1 PM

Pattonville Fire Station #1 ❄️ 11555 St. Charles Rock Road ❄️ Bridgeton, MO 63044

Free . . .



Don't forget
your camera
to take a photo
with Santa!

PARKING INFO:

Parking will be at
New Life Church
11570 Mark Twain Lane.
A shuttle to the firehouse
will be provided.



- 🎅 Meet Santa Claus
- 🎅 Refreshments
- 🎅 Fire Station Tours
- 🎅 Meet your Pattonville
Paramedic—Firefighters
- 🎅 Toy Drive Collection

Please bring a new, unwrapped child's toy to donate to our toy drive collection. Toys will be distributed to underprivileged local children as Christmas gifts.

There will be a chance to win a Home Fire Safety Basket!
1 Fire Extinguisher
1 Carbon Monoxide Detector
2 Smoke Detectors



PATTONVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
13900 ST. CHARLES ROCK ROAD
BRIDGETON, MO 63044
(314) 739-3118
WWW.PATTONVILLEFD.COM

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PRESORT INC.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BILL (WILLIAM) ESTERLINE ♦ CHAIRMAN
besterline@pattonvillefd.com

BOB SOUTIER ♦ TREASURER
bsoutier@pattonvillefd.com

BOB BIONDO ♦ SECRETARY
bbiondo@pattonvillefd.com

PAID FOR BY THE PATTONVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT; 13900 ST. CHARLES ROCK ROAD; BRIDGETON, MO 63044
TREASURER BOB SOUTIER

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN (SANTA’S SCHEDULE FOR 2019)...

Pattonville’s Paramedic-Firefighters will be helping Santa Claus collect Christmas wishes from all of the boys and girls in our community. Please refer to the schedule below for the dates that Santa will be in the different neighborhoods of our fire district. Santa plans to be in the neighborhoods beginning at 6:00 pm, and he hopes to reach each and every child along his routes. If Santa is unable to make the trips due to emergencies, extreme cold or other inclement weather conditions, we have makeup dates built into Santa’s schedule. Be sure to check our website and social media outlets for an announcement if Santa has been forced to reschedule his route for another evening. If there are any questions about rescheduled days, please contact 314-739-3118.

- December 2: Chatham, Fleetwood & Bennington
- December 3: Old Pattonville, Welland, Midview & Taplin
- December 4: Harmann Estates
- December 5: St. James & St. Gerard
- December 6: Avery & Lockport
- December 7: Rose Acres & The Glens
- December 9: Jacobson Court & Old St. Charles Road & Bostons Farm
- December 10: Makeup day
- December 11: Spanish Village & Monter
- December 12: Bridgeway, Taylor & Terry
- December 13: Whitehall Manor & Roger Williams
- December 16: Holy Angels & Naomi House
- December 18: Makeup day

- December 19: Harmony, Avery, DePaul Hills & Cypress Village
- December 20: Makeup day

