



Hey Baby...Sitter!

American Red Cross Babysitter Course
February 26, 2005

Registration Form: Go to www.middletonfire.org or contact
Sergeant Natalie Taylor (245-7555; ntaylor@mfpd.org).



FIREline

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLETOWN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT • WINTER 2005 • VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

2004 was a
Very Safe and
Busy Year!
Celebrate the
Highlights!

0 Civilian Deaths due to Fire
0 Firefighter Deaths
5 minutes and 4 seconds: Average
Response Time
555 Child Safety Seats Installed or
Inspected
1,415 Runs Dispatched-
1,207 Fire, 208 EMS
2,393 Fire Inspections Conducted
14,322 Hours of training by
80 firefighters
Over \$97,000 Contributed to the
WHAS Crusade for Children

Danger Quiz
Home fires occur most frequently
in the:
A. Garbage can
B. Laundry room
C. Kitchen
D. Garage

Most MFPD fire runs occur between:
A. Midnight – 7 am
B. 7am – Noon
C. Noon – 7 pm
D. 7 pm – Midnight

What numbers need to decrease in 2005?
• Motor Vehicle Accidents – 157 in 2004
• Structure Fires – 63 in 2004
• False Alarms – 334 in 2004

MFPD's most common call is for:
A. Structure fires
B. Auto accidents
C. Unintentional fire alarm activations
D. Water pump outs

Answer to all: "C"

New Fire Station Planned to Open August 2005

Next time you are in the vicinity of 13012
Factory Lane, take a look at the new fire
station under construction. This area of

the fire protection district has grown
roughly 30% during the past three years.
And, expectedly, the number of requests
for help has increased by 31%. The nearly
10,000 sq. ft. station will be staffed with a
full-time crew and volunteer firefighters.

Open House: Saturday, October 15th.
Details to follow at www.middletonfire.org.



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PROTECTION DISTRICT
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FIREline

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Wrong Fuel, Wrong Result!



Recently, a home in the MFPD was seriously damaged when the portable kerosene heater was mistakenly filled with gasoline. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured. This near tragedy underscores the need to remain vigilant about heater safety.

According to a November 22, 2004 study from the National Fire Protection Association, two out of three reported home heating fires and associated deaths and injuries in 2001 involved portable and fixed space heaters and related equipment, such as fireplaces, chimneys and chimney connectors. Heating equipment can be used safely if you follow manufacturer guidelines and these rules and recommendations from NFPA:

- When buying a new space heater, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory, and be sure to have fixed space heaters installed by a qualified technician according to manufacturer's instructions or applicable code. Or, make sure a qualified technician checks to see that the unit has been properly installed.
- Have wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys, chimney connectors and all other solid-fueled heating equipment inspected annually by a professional, and cleaned as often as the inspections suggest.
- Nearly all space heaters require a 36-inch clearing from combustibles.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when turning a heater on or off.
- When buying heaters, look for devices with automatic shutoff features.

NFPA has been a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical, building, and life safety to the public since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating scientifically-based consensus codes and standards, research, training and education. For the complete text of their press release, go to: <http://www.nfpa.org/newsReleaseDetails.asp?categoryid=488&itemId=21864>.

Loyal to the Cause...

by Chief Donald Brooks



The next mayoral appointment is for the term that begins June 30, 2005.

Volunteers serve a vital role as firefighters. A number of community members who live in the Northeastern area of the district have expressed interest in joining the MFPD. The new station in that area provides you with an opportunity to join your neighborhood station. Contact Sergeant Ronald Maddux at 245-7555 or e-mail at rmaddux@mfpd.org for information about joining the Force forming at the new station or for any of the other MFPD stations. We are eager to welcome you to this special and elite team.

You may have noticed the construction of the new fire station on Factory Lane. Bad weather has slowed progress, but we hope to open the station in July or August of 2005. Firefighters will provide 24/7 protection for the fastest growing area of the fire protection district. We will redistribute existing equipment and hire additional people who, along with volunteer firefighters, will staff the station. An open house will be held soon after the station is complete.

An essential and important feature of the MFPD is the volunteers that serve throughout the organization. Notably, the fire district's Board of Trustees are elected and appointed community volunteers. The Board provides ongoing direction to the Department and ensures that the Department provides the service our Community needs and deserves. There are a couple of significant ways you can become involved with the Board.

First, attend Board meetings—these are open to the public and are enriched by the contribution of citizens. These meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and are located at our Station 1 (108 Urton Lane). Occasionally, the date and time change. When this occurs, we place a notice in the newspaper as required by law.

Second, two positions on the Board are filled by residents who are elected by the community to four year terms of service. (The remaining five positions are filled by firefighters and mayoral appointees). Our next property owner election will be held in 2006. You may also request consideration for an appointed position through Mayor Abramson's office. Please see the Metro government website, or contact me and I can get you the necessary information.



Safety Rules of the Road Quiz

You see and hear an emergency vehicle approaching, what do you do?

- A. Slam on your breaks and plug your ears.
- B. Speed up as fast as necessary to keep the emergency vehicle from passing you.
- C. Yield the right-of-way by immediately driving to a position as close to the curb of the road and out of an intersection. Wait there for the vehicle to pass.

If ticketed for failing to yield the right-of-way: Mandatory court date, \$126.50 for court costs, and judge decides additional fine.

A fire truck operating red lights passes you, what do you do?

- A. Follow as closely as possible to the truck in order to wave to firefighters.
- B. As soon as you can, pass the truck, flash your headlights and sound your horn as a warning to pedestrians and to other drivers that a fire truck is on its way!
- C. Follow no closer than 500 feet and do not park in the block where the truck has stopped to answer a call.

Why do fire trucks have red lights?

- A. It matches the color of the trucks.
- B. K-Mart got all the blue lights first.
- C. No particular reason other than it is the law.

Why might a fire truck that is operating lights and siren sometimes turn them off, turn around, and return to the station?

- A. The firefighters have taken the wrong truck—they're returning to get the right one.
- B. The firefighters remember that they left the iron on and they're returning to turn it off.
- C. The call has been cancelled.

There is fire hose lying across the road—what do you do?

- A. Close your eyes, press the accelerator to the floor and drive over the hose.
- B. Get out of your car and very carefully try to move the hose out of the road.
- C. Only drive over the hose if fire department or law enforcement personnel direct you to do so.

Answer to all: "C"