



## Firehouse Films Family Movie Night

November 26, from 7-9:30pm, Station 1, 108 Urton Lane

We're setting up the big screen, poppin' some corn and inviting the neighbors over for movie night! After a brief holiday safety demonstration, a popular family holiday movie will be shown in the station's gymnasium. Popcorn and drinks will be furnished. Please bring your own chairs, sleeping bags, or blankets for comfortable seating. Visit [www.middletonfire.org](http://www.middletonfire.org) after October 26<sup>th</sup> for more information.



# FIREline

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLETOWN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT • FALL 2004 • VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3

## Celebrating Community, Being Community!

The MFPD Annual  
Open House  
Saturday, October 9,  
12 to 4pm  
Rain or Shine!  
Station One:  
108 Urton Lane  
See you there!

It's that time of year again for kids and grown-ups to stop by their fire station to enjoy the afternoon with community friends while playing and pretending, eating and exploring various aspects of the fire service.

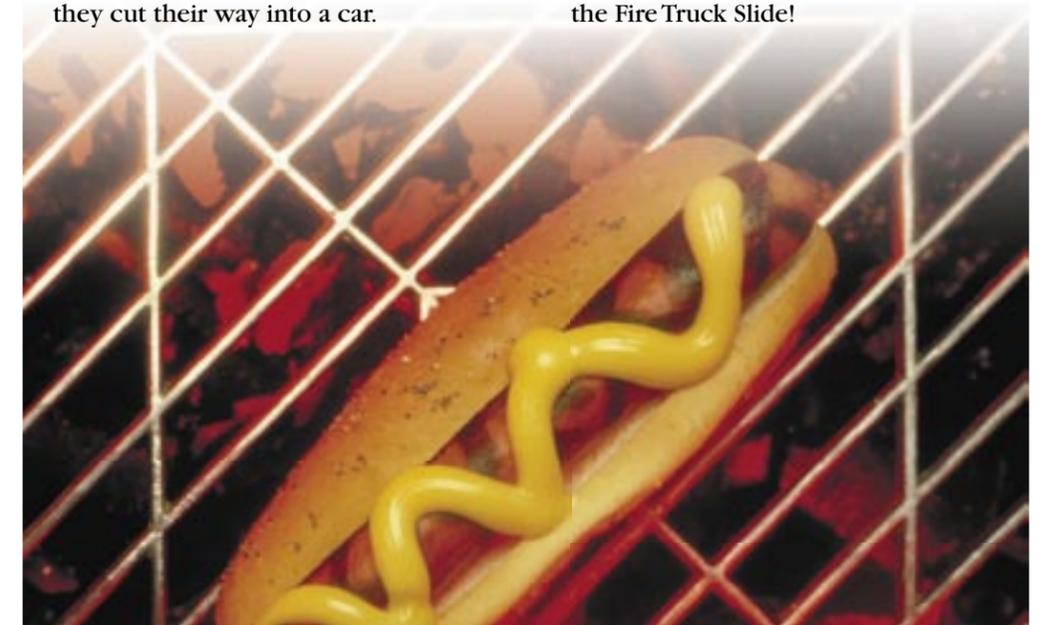
The highlights will include:

- Fire Trucks—kids (and grown-ups!) will enjoy exploring the nooks and crannies of the various trucks.
- Fire Fighting Gear—Coats, boots, and helmets for kids & grown-ups can be tried on. Be sure to bring the camera!
- Basket Rides—Weather permitting, ride 102' into the air in the basket of one of the area's biggest trucks.
- The Jaws of Life—Watch as firefighters demonstrate the steel crushing "Jaws" as they cut their way into a car.

- Hose Work—Cut loose with a fire hose charged with 150 pounds of water force. Will you be able to hit the target?
- Thermal Imaging Camera—See how this state-of-the-art technology allows fire fighters to literally see through smoke.

**Free Food!**  
**Hot Dogs, Soft Drinks, Chips**

- Fire Safety Educational Seminars—Learn how to use a fire extinguisher and protect yourself from the most common causes of home fires.
- A Fire Truck Slide—Kids who visit all the specified exhibits and get their passport stamped will earn a ride down the Fire Truck Slide!



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PROTECTION DISTRICT  
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### Test your smoke alarms!

Here's a hint: schedule your detector's battery replacements for the same day you change your clocks from Daylight Savings Time to Standard Time in the Fall. This year that will be Sunday, October 31, 2004.

# Fire Prevention Week!

You're familiar with the safety message—have you taken the basic steps to protect your family?

Roughly 70 percent of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are the great safety success story of the 20th century — but only when they're working properly. Just having a working smoke alarm in your home cuts your chance of dying in a fire nearly in half!

Because fire can grow and spread so quickly, having working smoke alarms in your home can mean the difference between life and death. But these life-saving devices are only effective when they're working properly. Smoke alarms with batteries that are dead, disconnected, or missing can not alert you to the dangers of smoke and fire. Follow these tips to ensure that your smoke alarms are installed correctly and tested regularly.

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement, making sure that there is an alarm outside every separate sleeping area.
- Test your smoke alarms once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm once a year, or as soon as the detector "chirp alarm" warns that the battery is low.
- Clean your smoke alarms according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace your alarm every 10 years—smoke alarms don't last forever. If you can't remember how old the alarm is, then it's probably time for a new one. Consider installing smoke alarms with "long-life" (10-year) batteries.
- Plan and conduct regular fire drills to ensure that everyone knows exactly what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. Hold a drill at night to make sure that sleeping family members awaken at the sound of the alarm. Some studies have shown that some children may not awaken to the sound of the smoke alarm. Know what your child will do before a fire occurs.
- For more information, read NFPA's smoke alarm fact sheet available at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

Adapted from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week Web site, [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org). ©2004 NFPA.

## Kitchen Fires

According to recent reports issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 75% of structure fires occur in residences, with kitchens being the leading area of fire origin. Middletown Fire has already responded to 8 kitchen fires this year. The coming holiday season is usually the busiest time for the kitchen. Here are some tips that can help you keep safe.

- If a pan catches fire - COVER IT - don't try to carry it out of the kitchen.
- Avoid wearing loose fitting clothes that can catch fire or snag a pot handle.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in or near the kitchen and know how to use it.
- Turn pot handles to a position out of reach of children.
- Remove curtains, kitchen items—anything combustible—from around the stove.
- Avoid having appliance cords dangling over the counter edge.



## Risk Watch Program comes to Middletown Elementary!

Teachers are heroes in so many ways—not the least of which is their important efforts to keep children safe. This year, Middletown Fire Protection District is pleased to partner with Middletown Elementary to implement the Risk Watch program for the 2004-2005 school year! Risk Watch is an injury prevention program that teaches children how to recognize and avoid dangerous situations. The safety topics covered include:

- Motor Vehicle Safety
- Fire Safety
- Choking Prevention
- Poisoning Prevention
- Falls Prevention
- Firearms Injury Prevention
- Bike & Pedestrian Safety
- Water Safety

Visit [www.riskwatch.org](http://www.riskwatch.org) to find out more information about this great program.

The plan is to expand the program to other schools in the Middletown Fire Protection District. If you would like to assist with the funding of this program or are interested in getting this program started in a school, please contact Sergeant Natalie Taylor at 245-7555 or by email at [ntaylor@mfpd.org](mailto:ntaylor@mfpd.org).



## Loyal to the Cause...

by Chief Donald Brooks

We believe in Middletown!

The three opportunities described throughout the newsletter to join with your community members for fun and service support that belief. Can you name them?

1. Open House: October 9<sup>th</sup>
2. Firehouse Films: November 26<sup>th</sup>
3. Risk Watch Program for school children

To these, I want to add one more important opportunity—I invite you to take the first step toward serving your community as a *volunteer firefighter*. This is rich and meaningful community service. You've probably been thinking about it for a while. Why not give us a call today? Contact Sergeant Ronald Maddux at 245-7555 or email him at [rmaddux@mfpd.org](mailto:rmaddux@mfpd.org). We are eager to talk with you.

Please note! Recently we received reports regarding a rash of bogus phone solicitors seeking donations to benefit various area fire departments—specifically the Jefferson County Fire Service or a similar organization. Middletown Fire Protection District and the Jefferson County Fire Service do not solicit by telephone. Anyone receiving such a call should contact the Louisville Metro Police Department at their non-emergency number at (502) 574-2111.

The year-end holidays will be here before we know it. We hope you'll take some time, like we will, to give thanks for the many blessings of the year and then hope and pray for a meaningful, joyous, and safe 2005. Peace.