



O'Fallon Fire Protection District

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PROUDLY SERVING:

Upcoming Events

Fire Safety Day

October 7 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
The Shops at Laura Hill

Santa Stops

The first three weeks of December
Locations TBD by Santa

Santa at the Station

December 1, 2 and 3
Fire Station #5
7140 South Outer Rd. 364

CPR Classes

Complimentary CPR/AED classes are available for District residents on the third Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. Nonresidents may attend for \$25. Visit ofallonfire.org for registration details.

Visit facebook.com/OFallonFire for event details.



Training Put To The Test

The first day of school turned frightening for students from Fort Zumwalt North Middle School when their school bus veered off the road on the way to school. Fortunately, local first responders from around the area were prepared.

This summer, emergency response agencies from around the area participated in a simulated school bus crash training program.

"Every year we come together with local police, ambulance and other fire districts to practice working together on a situation exactly like the one we experienced during the bus crash. This training made a dramatic impact on the effectiveness of the response," says OFPD Chief Tom Vineyard.

In a little more than an hour the scene was cleared with 29 students safely on their way back to school on another bus or with their parents. Two students and the bus driver were transported to local hospitals with minor injuries.



O'FALLON FIRE PROTECTION

Committed to protecting our community

District Details

From Jan. 1, 2018 until July 1, 2018 OFPD provided emergency and rescue services to:

2,471 Total Incidents
106 Fires
1,436 Emergency Medical Service incidents
76 Hazardous condition situations
601 Citizen assist occurrences
246 Fire alarms
6 Weather related incidents

Firefighters assisted with
848 Smoke alarms
38 Car safety seats

OFPD hosted a variety of fire safety and community events for
893 Adults
2,138 Children

OFPD Paramedics In Action

In the event of cardiac arrest, minutes matter, and quick medical attention can make a lifesaving difference.

Since implementing paramedic-level emergency medical care earlier this year, O'Fallon Fire Protection District (OFPD) firefighter/paramedics have been dispatched to multiple medical responses, including two recent instances where a resident was not breathing and in full cardiac arrest.

"In both of these incidents our team was the first to arrive and begin advanced life support care to get the resident's heart back into a rhythm and restore the flow of oxygen," OFPD Chief Tom Vineyard says. "When paramedics from the St. Charles County Ambulance District (SCCAD) arrived, everyone worked together to stabilize the victim and prepare them to go to the hospital."

OFPD works with SCCAD to use the same medical protocols, processes and equipment. This enables crews to work together and provide seamless patient care. During a medical emergency, many essential tasks must be performed as quickly as possible – often all at once. During a heart attack, for example, emergency responders simultaneously

start CPR, set up the heart monitor, begin securing an airway, start IV medications if needed, and talk with anyone else at the scene to learn the victim's medical history and assess the situation to learn what happened.

"We keep seeing an increase in the emergency medical calls we receive, and we expect this trend to continue in our community," Vineyard says, adding that OFPD is on pace to have at least 150 more emergency medical responses this year than in 2017.

Beyond heart attacks, OFPD firefighter/paramedics have responded to a variety of medical and trauma calls where paramedic skills were utilized, including diabetic emergencies, difficulty breathing and drug overdoses.

"Our firefighter/paramedics are continually training to prepare for the next time one of our residents needs our help," Vineyard says.

OFPD began providing paramedic-level emergency care on many of its fire trucks in early 2018 as a result of the implementation of the Proposition Safety plan.

Meet the Board
Why is it important
for the District to
meet national staffing
standards?

Matt Gober

Our fire district is growing and the demand for emergency services has doubled since 2000. To continue to deliver the highest level of service to our residents, it's essential that we meet National Fire Protection Association staffing standards so that crews can respond to emergencies as efficiently and effectively as possible. We never want to compromise or cut corners when it comes to keeping our community safe.



Matt Simmons

Safe staffing levels are so important when it comes to keeping residents and responders safe. Its benefits are well documented and include significant decreases in time and dollars lost due to injuries, or worse, line-of-duty deaths. Because of the “2 in, 2 out” system we use, a four-person crew is able to immediately take action, instead of waiting for a second truck to arrive. Any delay in fighting a fire or search and rescue can be devastating; a four-person crew is able to stop the fire sooner and hopefully diminish the magnitude of its destruction.



William “Bill” Laughlin

Fighting a fire or responding to a medical emergency can be very complex, and often requires crews to perform several essential tasks simultaneously. In an all-hands-on-deck situation, a fourth firefighter can make a big difference, especially when you consider OSHA's Respiratory Protection regulation, which means that at least four firefighters must be on scene before taking action. A four-person crew can respond immediately while still providing a safe working environment for everyone.



The O’Fallon Fire Protection District is led by a three-member board of directors that is elected by the community. Board members serve 6 year terms.

LOOK.
LISTEN.
LEARN.
Be aware.
Fire can happen anywhere.

October is Fire Prevention Month

During a typical home fire you many have as little as a minute or two to escape when you hear your smoke alarms. As part of Fire Prevention Month we are teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association to remind all residents to look, listen, learn and be aware of how to quickly and safely escape a home fire.

“Today’s homes burn faster than ever before, which makes it even more important to know two ways out of every room and make sure you have working smoke alarms throughout your house,” says OFPD Chief Tom Vineyard.

LOOK for where fires can start.

Cooking, heating equipment and smoking are the leading causes of home fires and home fire deaths.

Cooking: Stay in the kitchen and pay attention when cooking

Smoking: Only smoke outside, make sure used cigarettes are completely extinguished in water or sand.

Heating Equipment: Keep space heaters and candles away from anything that could catch fire. Keep your fireplace and chimney clean.

LISTEN for the
sound of a smoke alarm.

Smoke alarms save lives and give you and your family time to escape. They also cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half.

Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, even the basement.

Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear the sound of the alarm.

Test your smoke alarms every month and replace them if they are more than ten years old.

LEARN two ways
out of every room.

When seconds matter knowing two ways out of every room in your home can be life saving knowledge.

Practice your home escape plan with everyone in the family.

Make sure all exits from the home are clear and accessible.

Closed doors can slow down the spread of fire, we recommend sleeping with bedroom doors closed.



Prop. Safety Update

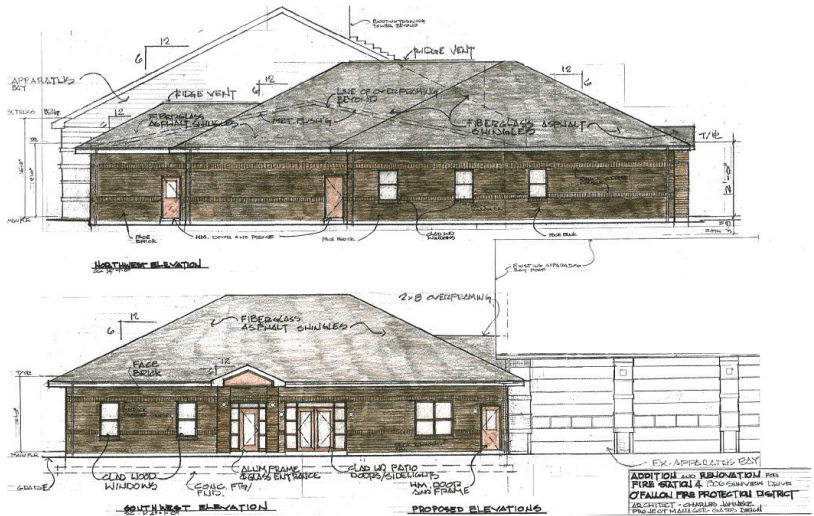
Construction on the new living quarters at Fire Station #4 at 1305 Sunview Drive is underway. When it is completed, this modernized fire station will be able to house up to five firefighters, accommodate training activities and provide for safer firefighter gear storage.

“The station was built more than 20 years ago, when our community was smaller and we had more of a volunteer firefighter structure. When the board evaluated all of the options for a station that would best meet the needs of our community now and in the future the most cost effective option was to build a new station in the current location,” says Chief Tom Vineyard.

Fire Station #4 remains open during construction and the new building is scheduled to open in February 2019.

What is Prop. Safety?

In 2016, the community approved funding to begin providing paramedic level emergency medical care and to meet national staffing standards by hiring additional firefighter/paramedics. This funding, in conjunction with the approval of a bond issue for facilities and equipment that was passed in 2011, provided a solid foundation for the future of emergency services in our area.



O’Fallon Firefighters Are
ALWAYS up for a Challenge

OFPD firefighter/paramedic – Heather Gump and Captain Chris Jones – recently participated in the 2018 Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge in Sioux City, Iowa.

Gump placed first in the female division during the June event, and is currently ranked third in the female division nationwide. Jones finished fifth during the June event, and is currently ranked ninth in the nation among participants 40 and older.

The Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge encourages firefighter fitness while demonstrating the rigors of the profession. Each participant dons full bunker gear and the Scott 5.5 Air-Pak breathing apparatus while racing against the clock and their opponent to complete five tasks, including climbing a five-story tower, hoisting, chopping, dragging hoses and rescuing a 175 lb. “victim.”

“At OFPD we strive to be the best of the best, in everything we do,” Gump says of her first-place finish. “The Firefighter Combat Challenge is a brutal event, requiring a lot of intense training, but seeing my name at the top of the scoreboard made it all worthwhile.”

The Scott Firefighter Combat Challenge – as seen on ESPN for more than a decade – attracts hundreds of U.S. and Canadian municipal fire departments to more than 25 challenge sites, and is now expanding to countries around the world.

“We’re so proud of Team O’Fallon and their performance during the Firefighter Combat Challenge -- it’s quite the accomplishment,” OFPD Chief Tom Vineyard says. “We put a lot of emphasis on training at OFPD, and our crews work very hard on their own to stay in peak physical shape. It’s great to see their hard work paying off!”

