



St. Charles Countryside Fire Protection District

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District Spring Newsletter

State of the District – 2009 in Review

The District had 1059 emergency response calls in 2009. The vast majority (704) were for emergency medical service. Other major incident groups were fires (26), hazardous conditions (55), service calls (38), good intent calls (98), and false alarms (131). The District contracts with the city of St. Charles to respond to these calls. Of all the calls responded by the city's fire department, 21.3% were for the District. 435 calls were responded in less than 7 minutes. However, 624 calls were responded in 7 minutes or more. Average response time for all calls was 7.5 minutes.

In addition to meeting its obligation to respond to emergency calls, the District has actively pursued an education and training program. Quarterly newsletters, web site postings and CPR training have been offered to the community.

Financially, the District remained sound in 2009, but the expenses of the District for the first time are outpacing its revenues. This trend has no end in sight. Since the District contracts for fire and emergency medical care to serve its residents, it has no control over the operating expenses. Revenues increase by about 2% per year, where expenses are increasing 13%. It is projected that if revenues or expenses do not change, the District will not be able to meet its financial obligations by 2012. The District is exploring other revenue sources, such as grants and federal funding.

Springtime Weather - Emergency Preparedness

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency cautions us that thunderstorm, tornadoes, high winds and flooding are common in Illinois in the spring. Being prepared is important to reducing anxiety and impact that occur during severe weather events. Family planning is important to being prepared. Preparation should consist of reviewing family safety, gathering important documents, family information, and supplies. Family members should be reminded of the dangers. Go indoors at the first signs of severe weather. Preparing a disaster kit can be an important means of providing essential supplies after a storm. Minimum kit items should include several days of water, non-perishable food, first aid supplies, flashlight with fresh batteries, sanitation items, and blankets. A battery operated radio is essential as well. Care should be given to include medications or special items needed for infant, elderly, or disabled family members. These items can be stored in a sturdy backpack or waterproof tote. A comprehensive list of items can be found at local and state websites. The District can be contacted to assist with family severe weather preparedness. Visit our web site for important links for more information.

Prairie Burns – Do It Right

Burning of prairie grasses and weeds is common in the District. It does increase the risk to our neighbors and public property. All burning must be conducted in accordance with District, County and State laws. Permits from both the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEMA) and Fire Department are required prior to initiating burns. Permits are free but are required. Remember to allow plenty of time to research and obtain required permits. In some cases certificates of insurance may be required, lengthening the time frame to meet requirements. The IEMA permit should be obtained first and can be obtained at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/air/permits/openburn/index.html>. The Fire Prevention Bureau can be contacted at 630-377-4457 to obtain the required local permit.

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