



## St. Charles Countryside Fire Protection District

112 North First Avenue  
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St. Charles, Illinois 60174  
(630) 762-3900  
[www.sccfpd.org](http://www.sccfpd.org)

## Summer 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.

### Summer Preparedness

With summer just around the corner, the SCCFPD wants to remind you to stay safe while enjoying the warmer, longer days with family and friends. Following are some quick reminders to maximize summer safety for the entire family:

Water Safety - One of the leading causes of death for children under 4 remains drowning. Parents need to remain attentive to their children at all times when around pools, lakes, rivers and any body of water. Become more prepared for drowning by learning CPR. The SCCFPD provides free classes for district residents every other month. More information on classes can be found at the District web page, [www.sccfpd.org](http://www.sccfpd.org) or by calling (630) 762-3900.

Outdoor Cooking - To make sure cooking is done safely, inspect all equipment before starting. Use appropriate cooking utensils and be careful with loose clothing around flames. Only approved products – not gasoline -- should be used to start charcoal grills.

Fireworks – Although local stores and roadside vendors sell sparklers, smoke bombs and other incendiary display items, these products are nonetheless dangerous. The hot end of sparklers burns in excess of 500 d Fahrenheit. Every year, hospital emergency departments treat children and adults for serious injuries resulting from fireworks. Contact the fire department at (630) 377-4458 if you have any questions about a display device.

Heat Emergencies - Being alert for heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke is important to getting medical assistance early. Symptoms of heat cramps include excessive sweating, fatigue and thirst. Heat exhaustion is characterized by dizziness, weakness or nausea. Heat stroke is a life-threatening situation requiring immediate medical treatment. High fevers, irrational behavior, dry skin, and confusion are common symptoms of heat stroke. Left unrecognized and untreated, heat stroke can lead to death. Alcohol, dehydration, and high humidity can contribute to heat emergencies, especially for more susceptible populations -- very young children, older adults and people with preexisting conditions. Be sure to look in on your neighbors during periods of high heat and also be attentive to those who work outside or engage in sporting activities.

Emergency Response – In emergency situations, call 911 and don't be surprised if both an ambulance and fire engine respond. Treatments that used to be available only in the emergency room are now being delivered in your living room, business or roadways. These higher levels of care (heart rhythm monitoring, defibrillation, medication, respiratory assistance, etc.) require more equipment, intensive training and more personnel. For example, twenty years ago training

required about 200 hours; today, new standards of care now require more than 600 hours of training. A sophisticated team approach is needed to deliver these higher levels of medical care.

The St Charles Countryside Fire Protection District provides a range of training for District residents. CPR, fire extinguisher, and fire safety training is available through District programs. Check the website for upcoming opportunities to learn skills to keep your family safe. [www.sccfpd.org](http://www.sccfpd.org)

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