

Tinley Park Fire Prevention Bureau

Keeping Tinley Park Safe for over 40 years (1974 - 2017)

Fire Alarm Newsletter

Winter 2017



Fire Department & Prevention

Station #1

17355 South 68th Court
Phone: (708) 444-5200
Fax: (708) 444-5299

Station #2

7825 West 167th Street

Station #3

9191 West 175th Street

Station #4

7801 West 191st Street

EMERGENCY PHONE

911

Village of Tinley Park

David G. Seaman, Mayor
Patrick E. Rea, Village Clerk

Trustees:

Brian S. Maher
T.J. Grady
Michael J. Pannitto
Jacob C. Vandenberg
Brian H. Younker
Kevin L. Suggs
www.tinleypark.org



ARE YOU PROTECTED FROM CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING?

Since we have started publishing this newsletter for you, the fire alarm subscriber, the focus of this newsletter has been how your fire alarm systems can be more effective and reliable. This newsletter will focus on not only your life safety equipment, but the life safety equipment that you find in your home designed to protect your family and friends. Recently, a member of our organization suffered a tragic loss of two family members as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning. These family members were at home sleeping and were fatally overcome by this poisonous gas. The circumstances regarding the source of the high levels of carbon monoxide is unknown at this time, but you must wonder if tragedies like this can be prevented.

Each year in America, carbon monoxide poisoning claims approximately 500 lives and sends another 15,000 people to hospital emergency rooms for treatment. There are simple steps you can take to protect you and your family from deadly carbon monoxide gas. Please, I am asking each of you who read this newsletter to take a few moments to ensure that your carbon monoxide detector works or go to your home improvement store and purchase one for the safety of your family. The following are frequently asked questions regarding this potentially fatal hazard. Please share this information with others; it may save a life.

What is carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because it is impossible to see, taste or smell the toxic fumes, CO can kill you before you are aware it is in your home. At lower levels of exposure, CO causes mild effects that are often mistaken for the flu. These symptoms include headaches, dizziness, disorientation, nausea and fatigue. The effects of CO exposure can vary greatly from person to person depending on age, overall health and the concentration and length of exposure.

Where does carbon monoxide come from?

CO gas can come from several sources: gas-fired appliances, charcoal grills, wood-burning furnaces or fireplaces and motor vehicles.

Who is at risk?

Everyone is at risk for CO poisoning. Medical experts believe that unborn babies, infants, children, senior citizens and people with heart or lung problems are at even greater risk for CO poisoning.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM CO POISONING

- Install at least one UL (Underwriters Laboratories) listed carbon monoxide alarm with an audible warning signal near the sleeping areas and outside individual bedrooms. Carbon monoxide alarms measure levels of CO over time and are designed to sound an alarm before an average, healthy adult would experience symptoms. It is very possible that you may not be experiencing symptoms when you hear the alarm. This does not mean that CO is not present.
- Have a qualified professional check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting and chimney systems at least once a year.
- Never use your range or oven to help heat your home and never use a charcoal grill in your home or garage.
- Never keep a car running in a garage. Even if the garage doors are open, normal circulation will not provide enough fresh air to reliably prevent a dangerous buildup of CO.

When purchasing an existing home, have a qualified technician evaluate the integrity of the heating and cooking systems, as well as the sealed spaces between the garage and house. The presence of a carbon monoxide alarm in your home can save your life in the event of CO buildup.

If your carbon monoxide alarm goes off, call 911 immediately and evacuate all occupants.

Keep Fire Hydrants Clear and Earn Community Service!

Last winter Tinley Park had a heavy snow season. Many of our hydrants were buried. Please help the Tinley Park Fire Department keep fire hydrants clear of snow or anything around the hydrant that may obstruct its view and operation. Thankfully we had a number of teens help keep many of the hydrants clear in their neighborhoods. The Village of Tinley Park will give one hour's worth of community service for every hydrant cleared. Please contact Pat Carr for the details at his email: pcarr@tinleypark.org. Thank you for your assistance.



Who can forget last winter? It was a very cold, snowy and long winter. The Fire Department responded to many alarms that were caused by frozen sprinkler and other system water pipes. When pipes freeze the potential damage can be very costly and the threat to life safety increases immeasurably. A properly heated building greatly reduces the potential for your fire sprinkler system to freeze. When pipes freeze and then thaw, breaks in the system can occur causing significant water damage. More importantly, the fire sprinkler system is compromised and if in the event of a fire, it will not work. Please ensure that the entire building (including vacant spaces) has been provided with adequate heat for the winter season. The temperature in the building should be **no less** than 60°. For more information, please email Fire Inspector Steve Lorendo at slorendo@tinleypark.org.

Helpful Hints—Help Us, Help You!!

In 2015, there were 313 violations for not providing the proper fire alarm and fire protection/sprinkler test documents. For the year 2016, there were 218 violations for missing test documents; this is a reduction of 30%. We would like to continue this trend to see these violation numbers drop every year. By fire code, all fire alarm systems and fire protection/sprinkler systems are required to be tested annually by a qualified contractor. Here are some tips about these systems:

- Ask your fire alarm and/or fire protection contractor to remind you when your system is due to be tested.
- RPZ and backflow prevention devices are also required to be tested annually. These systems test reports do not qualify as a fire protection/sprinkler test report. If we receive these test reports, we will forward them to the Public Works Department.
- We encourage you to send all test reports to our firedocs@tinleypark.org e-mail. Better yet, ask your contractor(s) to send you a copy of your reports with a copy to us via firedocs@tinleypark.org.
- We change the batteries in our Keltron radio panels at a maximum of three years. Check the age of your batteries in your fire alarm control panel occasionally. If they are over three years old, you may want to update them.
- Please keep the area around your fire alarm control panel and your fire protection system clear. You never know when fire personnel or your contractor will need access to your fire alarm control panel and/or fire protection system.

Fire Prevention Bureau Highlights!!

- Fire Chief Ken Dunn retired after 45 years on the job.
- We conducted our 4th annual 5K Fun Run/Walk again with 600 runners and a \$23,000 donation to Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Burn Camp "Camp I Am Me".
- We received re-accreditation from IAS in October.
- Our Public Education Department was also very busy during the months of September and October with school visits, CPR classes, Babysitting classes, senior resident talks, and our annual Open House on October 8th. We were able to get fire safety messages out to over 13,000 children, and 1,300 adults!

SAVE THE DATE!!

Annual Firemen's Dance
January 21, 2017
TP Convention Center

Discover Tinley
April 8, 2017
Tinley Park
Convention Center

5th Annual
Run for Your Life Safety 5K
May 7, 2017
80th Avenue - Metra Station

Meet the Staff



Peter Marianovich
Fire Inspector and Fire Department Engineer

Peter has been an Inspector with the Fire Prevention Bureau for two years working in public education as coordinator of the CPR program and fire extinguisher training. He is also an Engineer on the Tinley Park Fire Department with over 25 years of service and has lived in Tinley Park for 30 years with his wife and son. Providing life safety education is something Peter is passionate about.