



# Speaking of Fire

Fall 2009

A publication from YOUR Shawnee Township Fire Department

Volume 1 Issue 1

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*“Our Job is to provide  
Emergency Services-  
that is what we do best.”*

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## A Message from the Chief

*Chief Todd Truesdale*

I would like to welcome everyone to our first electronic newsletter. We have planned to release an electronic newsletter on our website and available via email upon signing up for a while now. These newsletters will be sent out approximately every other month. We are going to use this electronic medium to try to keep you informed of current events and important safety issues that we feel will benefit everyone in and outside our community. Our department goals are to provide a professional, compassionate service to whomever we come into contact with. I hope you find this information beneficial and please feel free to contact me at any time with any suggestions, concerns, or input. We always preach safety to our membership and we want to do the same with our community of Shawnee Township. Stay Safe!!!

Chief Truesdale can be contacted by either calling the Fire Dept. business line at (419) 224-2636 or via [chief@shawneetwpfire.com](mailto:chief@shawneetwpfire.com)

## New Trucks Have a Purpose and a Plan

*Platoon Chief John Norris*

Most people would agree, if you call 9-1-1 in Shawnee Township, within minutes, some of the best firefighters and paramedics show up in a big red shiny truck.

The trouble is, keeping those “big red shiny trucks” coming, has become more and more problematic. “Our guys take care of our townships trucks and it shows. The problem is that they are highly technical pieces of equipment that are aging. Aging equipment starts to break down and fail over time. In this business that just isn’t acceptable” stated Chief Truesdale.

“Vehicle maintenance is the ONLY area in our budget that is over its projected amount”, stated Chief Truesdale. “Our job is to provide Emergency Services-that is what we do best, but to provide these

Please see *New Trucks* on page 3

## Carbon Monoxide- A Silent Killer

*Platoon Chief John Norris*

What is the most common fatal poisoning in most countries that could be present in your home? -Carbon Monoxide.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), unintentional Carbon Monoxide (CO) exposure accounts for 15,000 emergency room visits and 500 deaths per year.

Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless, yet highly toxic gas that is a product of combustion. Carbon Monoxide at the right concentration can even be highly explosive. In the blood, CO binds with hemoglobin (the oxygen transporting mechanism in your bloodstream) to form carboxyhemoglobin which prevents binding of oxygen to the hemoglobin and causes tissues to be oxygen starved, and eventually death occurs. Since Carbon Monoxide is odorless, colorless, tasteless, and non-irritating, it is hard for people to detect usually. Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide exposure mimic flu like symptoms which include: headache, nausea, and fatigue. These symptoms if overlooked can progress to: dizziness, confusion, convulsions, unconsciousness, respiratory arrest (stoppage of breathing), and even death.

In the home, the buildup of carbon monoxide can arise because an appliance itself is faulty, more often however, it is related to misuse, poor installation or maintenance, blocked and leaky flues or inadequate ventilation. Some of these problems can also arise when the occupant deliberately obstructs the ventilation or flue to prevent draughts.

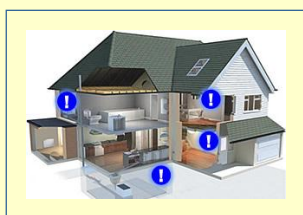
So, what do you do to protect your family? The Shawnee Township Fire Department recommends:

- Proper installation, operation, and maintenance of fuel-burning appliances in the home is the most important factor in reducing the risk of CO poisoning.
- Make sure appliances are installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and the local codes. Most appliances should be installed by professionals.
- Always follow the appliance manufacturer's directions for safe operation.
- Have the heating system (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually by a trained service technician.
- Examine vents and chimneys regularly for improper connections, visible cracks, rust or stains.
- Operate portable generators outdoors and away from open doors, windows, and vents that could allow CO to come indoors.

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*Unintentional CO exposures account for 15,000 emergency room visits and 500 deaths per year-*  
*Source Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*

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The Shawnee Twp Fire Dept. recommends a carbon monoxide detector on every floor of your home, including the basement. A detector should be located within 10 feet of each bedroom door and there should be one near or over any attached garage

## Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries

More than 90 percent of homes in the United States have smoke detectors installed, but one-third is estimated to have dead or missing batteries according to the U.S. Fire Administration. "It's a good habit to be in", stated Asst. Chief Mosher, head of the Shawnee Township Fire Department's Inspection bureau. "When you change your clocks, change your batteries. This will help ensure your detector works when you need it most." In the United States, the time change occurs this year on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 a.m. when people in this area revert to Standard Time from Daylight Savings Time.

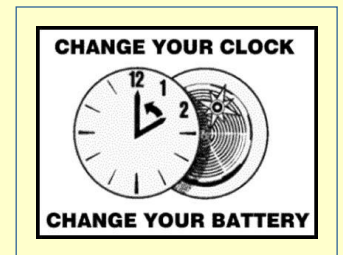
Most of the United States begins Daylight Saving Time at 2:00 a.m. on the second Sunday in March and reverts to standard time on the first Sunday in November.

### *New Trucks from page 1*

services, we need specialized vehicles and these vehicles are getting old, and outdated. We needed a plan."

In the early months of this year, shortly after his swearing in as Chief, Truesdale provided his plan of vehicle replacement for now, and 25 years into the future. "These trucks are expensive, and not getting cheaper year by year", cited Chief Truesdale. "With the EPA guidelines on vehicle emissions starting in 2010 (production starting in late 2009), we need to purchase now, to save the taxpayers approximately \$25,000.00 per truck in meeting these new guidelines. The Plan has begun with the purchase of a new Ambulance, and a new Heavy Rescue Unit. These trucks will replace a 1998 Ford Ambulance, and a 1993 Freightliner Heavy Rescue the department currently operates. The purchase of these vehicles was completed by utilizing the department's new EMS billing fund. "This is exactly what this fund is for. It allows for the department to be able to keep its fleet up to date without adding a burden to the department's operating budget, or asking the taxpayers for additional funding", added Chief Truesdale. While only being used for "EMS equipment, supplies, and personnel costs", utilizing these monies allows the chief the flexibility he needs to keep the fleet operating effectively. For additional cost savings, Chief Truesdale wanted to thank his men for working hard to find the right truck for the department, but keeping "fiscal responsibility" in mind by finding "demo" units. "These guys worked hard and did a great job. They found trucks that will suit our township well into the future, and also ones that were demo units providing additional savings off the final figures". [Demo units are considered new stock units built by manufacturers to show their products at trade shows and ultimately are sold afterwards at greatly reduced prices]

The department expects delivery of a 2007 Rescue One from Mercy Sales and Service (Saginaw, MI) in late September as well as a 2008 Braun Ambulance from Life Star (Van Wert, OH) in late September to start phase one of Chief Truesdale's Comprehensive Vehicle Replacement Plan. In later issues we will detail more of Chief Truesdale's Plan.



*November 1st, 2009 -  
CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES*

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"These guys worked hard and did a great job. They found trucks that will suit our township well into the future, and also ones that were demo units providing additional savings off the final figures."

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*Carbon Monoxide- A Silent Killer from page 2*

- Purchase and install on every floor of your home a battery powered CO detector or plug in type CO detector with battery back-up on every floor of your household.

If you feel you may have Carbon Monoxide in your household, or your CO detector has alarmed, contact 9-1-1 for the Shawnee Township Fire Department to respond. Our firefighters can come to your residence with special monitoring

equipment to test your house. If you think you have Carbon Monoxide in your residence, exit the building prior to calling.

The elderly, small children, and pregnant women have a greater risk to falling victim than the middle aged person in good health.

If you have questions regarding CO, detectors, or CO poison, contact the Shawnee Township Fire Department at (419) 222-2986.

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## Ladder 5 is In-service

You have probably noticed, there is a new ladder truck driving around the township.

On the heels of a crash that totaled the department's ladder truck, not to mention left firefighter Dick Oder critically injured, Shawnee Township Firefighters have been without a ladder truck since that fateful day in February.

Thanks to foresight, and planning by previous trustees in purchasing replacement insurance policies on key pieces of equipment, and

maintaining those policies by current trustees the department placed a 2009 Smeal 100ft Ladder truck into service in July of this year. Of the total cost including the vehicle and equipment totaling \$853,343.00, the costs to taxpayers in the township was **\$550.00**. This vehicle replaces the 1991 Grumman Aerialcat and has a life expectancy of approximately 25 years.

Firefighter Oder is well on his way to recovery.



### Shawnee Township Fire Department

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## For the Record

Total Calls for August  
EMS- 76

Fire- 7