



Speaking of Fire

Summer 2010

A publication from YOUR Shawnee Township Fire Department

Volume 2 Issue 1

2526 Ft. Amanda Rd. Lima, OH 45804 | (419)222-2986 | www.shawneetwpfire.com

Adult Fire Education- Do you know what to do?

Chief Todd Truesdale

We train our kids what to do in a fire to stay low, get out, and go to their meeting place just to name a few things. Now as adults we tend to forget some of these lessons or may have never had them. The best advice any fire professional can give is to get out of the structure and call 911 for the fire department. When exiting we have had people think in the past to leave the exit doors open to keep the smoke from building up in the structure. This really allows the fire to get oxygen and breathe more life and size into the fire. So please do not leave the doors standing wide open or break out windows for this purpose.

If you escape the building go to a pre-selected meeting place and **DO NOT RE-ENTER** for any reason. This is where planning is paramount. Know your meeting place, stay there and NEVER return to the structure. Residents who return into the structure usually do not make it back out. When the fire department arrives tell them if someone is missing and their last known location in the building. Let the professionals go in and get them. This is the safest for everyone involved including us. Sometime in the near future discuss with your family your meeting place, use it, and stay there.

As a closing thought, I would challenge each and every one of you to not only think about getting out of a fire at home, but to apply those concepts to where ever you go- restaurants, stores, shopping centers, etc, etc... Do you know where the exits are?

How will you exit during a fire in one of these places?

Summer can be fun, but be safe too

Platoon Chief John Norris

The days are longer, the nights are shorter, and temperatures are much warmer. Summer is definitely here. While you are having summer fun with cookouts, enjoying summer activities and, working around your house, let's just review a few safety tips to help you and your family enjoy your summer tragedy free.

- When having fun outside riding bikes, scooters, ATV's, horses and motorcycles, please wear your helmet.
- Use layers of protection to guard your swimming pool: have a fence to limit access, use a pool alarm when unattended, and **NEVER** allow children to swim without adult supervision.

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Chief Truesdale may be contacted by calling the Fire Dept. business line (419) 224-2636 or by emailing chief@shawneetwpfire.com.

More beneath the Surface with Fire Hydrants

Platoon Chief John Norris

Every day people drive by, walk past, and probably don't even notice one of the most important items in their neighborhood- a fire hydrant. STFD aggressively services and maintains the townships approximate 750 hydrants annually. "It ultimately falls on our shoulders. We are the ones that access these to obtain a water source in the event of a fire, so we take it upon ourselves to make sure that water source remains able to be accessed", stated Asst. Chief Tim Mosher (in charge of overseeing the departments hydrants). The department performs maintenance, flows and pumps every hydrant in the spring, and then maintenances and checks to make sure hydrants are dry in the fall.

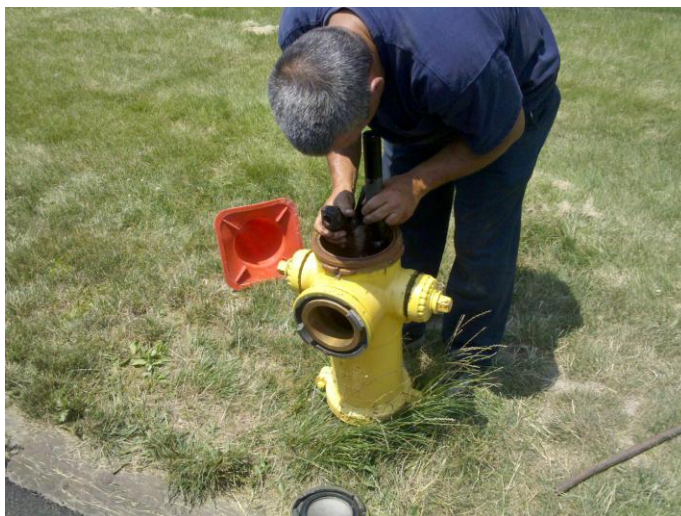
Asst. Chief Mosher can be contacted by calling the fire department's business line (419) 224-2636 to answer any question regarding fire hydrants.

Hydrants exist in approximately 75% of Shawnee Township including the incorporated areas of Fort Shawnee. In these areas, 5 different types of fire hydrants have been installed over the years. Each hydrant in our township can flow generally 1000 gallons per minute and cost approximately \$2000.00, and another \$1500.00 to install them.

With proper maintenance like we perform here annually, hydrants have a lifespan of approximately 15-20 years. Currently, Shawnee Township has a \$90,000.00 replacement plan in progress for 27 hydrants that are either very old, or have proved to be problematic. In addition, 2 new hydrants are being installed in areas that have too few in place. On average about 15 hydrants need repaired a year, and 3-4 were struck by vehicles and damaged. Hydrants are connected approximately 5 ft. below ground to the main waterline and are designed to break away in the event of being stuck by a vehicle.

While we service and maintain the hydrants, residents can help us by doing or noting any of the following:

- Keeping plants, shrubs, bushes, trees, and landscaping a minimum of 3 ft from any hydrant.
- Reporting to the Fire Department any hydrants noticed to be leaking, missing caps, or being accessed by anyone other than Fire Department Personnel.



A Lima Utilities worker repairs a hydrant recently in Shawnee Township.

STFD 50th Anniversary a Success

On May 15th, 2010 the Shawnee Township Fire Department held its 50th Anniversary Celebration. Approximately 200 people enjoyed the department tours, demonstrations, give-a-ways and saw firsthand the high quality services the department offers.



Summer Can be fun, but be safe too... From page 1

- Five gallon buckets are often used while cleaning and present a serious drowning danger to young children. **Never** leave a bucket or any standing water unattended and store buckets empty and upside-down.
- **NEVER** burn Charcoal grills inside. Burning Charcoal produces deadly Carbon Monoxide Gas that is colorless and odorless.
- When cooking outdoors with a gas grill, check the air tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders, or food grease. Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing. If you ever detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas at the tank and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed. **NEVER** cook indoors with a propane grill, nor store it inside.
- To prevent serious injuries while using a trampoline, allow only one person on at a time, and do not allow somersaults. Use a shock-absorbing pad that completely covers the springs and place the trampoline away from structures and other play areas. Kids under 6-years-old should not use full-size trampolines.
- When you clean out your cabinets, look at the labels on the products. If you see the words "Caution," "Warning," "Danger," "Poison," or "Keep out of Reach of Children," be very careful. These products should be locked up when you are not using them.
- Summer also means yard work. When mowing, keep small children out of the yard, and turn the mower off if children enter the area. If the lawn slopes, mow across the slope with the walk-behind rotary mower, never up and down. With a riding mower, drive up and down the slope, not across it. **NEVER** carry children on a riding mower.

Keeping you safety conscious will hopefully make for a tragedy free summer. Have fun.

Some information
courtesy of the Home
Safety Council

Mapping Software receives an Upgrade

The AccuGlobe Software the Shawnee Township Fire Department uses received an upgrade in recent weeks. When the software was obtained back in 2009 with grant monies, the department was informed by the licensing company DDTI based in Columbus, Ohio that the upgrade would be coming in 2010. As of last month, that installation was completed.

Part of the upgrade of the software includes an easier to use touch screen interface. This allows fire personnel to touch bigger buttons on the screen while the vehicle is in motion. Also incorporated is a 3D “fly over” turn by turn directions image. Most importantly is the ability for dispatch to “push” data to the mobile laptops in the vehicles even as one incident is being routed. Prior installations of this software only allowed for a “one at a time” data send to the laptops. Now while enroute to one call, if another emergency call is sent from dispatch to the units, that info is not lost. It is stored in a queue, awaiting fire personnel to access it at a later time. “This is just another step for our department to stay up with technology as it evolves, and use it to our advantage”, stated Chief Todd Truesdale.

The upgrade cost the department no additional money as it was included with the prior purchase in 2009 with grant money obtained for the township by the Fire Department.

For the Record

May/June 2010 Calls
EMS- 111

Fire- 61

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