



Merry Christmas and Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

Bloom Township Fire Department adds new vehicles to the fleet. In 2009, we have added two new vehicles to the department. We purchased a new medic (ambulance) and a new fire engine. These additions will allow us to continue to provide the services you expect.



Engine Rescue 551



Medic 551

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED "YOUR" FIREFIGHTERS AT THIS YEAR'S MEMORIAL DAY FISH FRY!

H1N1 Flu and Your Fire Department

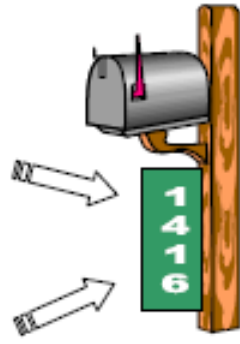
The fire department is taking the flu very seriously. We are doing everything we can to help minimize the spread of this virus.

If you need to call for emergency medical services and are having cold and flu like symptoms, please let the 911 dispatcher know. They will relay this information to us so we can be prepared to handle your emergency.

For more info about the flu, check out the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

The flu shot has been offered to all members of the department. Some of our members are volunteering to help with the immunizations throughout Fairfield County.

DOES YOUR MAILBOX HAVE A GREEN HOUSE NUMBER SIGN THAT IS VISIBLE AT NIGHT TO A FAST MOVING EMERGENCY VEHICLE?



PLEASE, WE NEED YOUR HELP

At night it is very difficult to locate residences that do not have any numbers on their mailbox. Each house should have a reflective green 9-1-1 address sign. These signs improve our emergency response time because we can find your house quicker, day or night. The signs and numbers are available at the Fire Station in Lithopolis for only \$10.00. Stop by and pick one up today. Help us reach our goal of a green sign for every house in Bloom Township.

Check out our Website

Please visit us at www.bloomtwp.org and click the fire department link.

We have a Facebook page. Look us up and become a fan!



NOAA Weather Radios

For inclement weather, floods, civil disturbances, dangerous spills or leaks and other hazards, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency suggests each homeowner have a NOAA weather radio. The radios may be purchased with several options at local department or electronics stores.

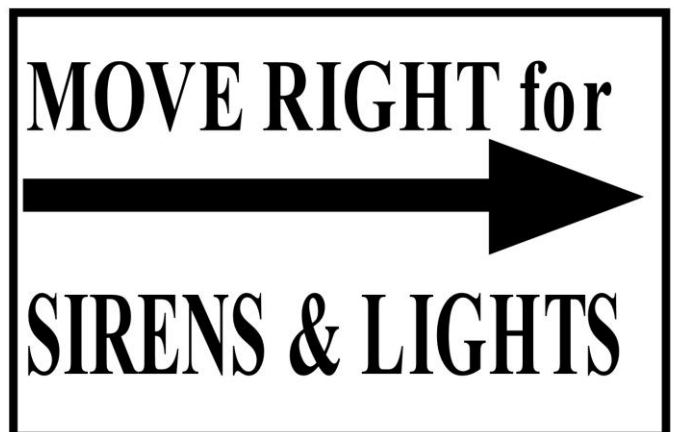
For more information, please visit the Fairfield County EMA website at <http://www.co.fairfield.oh.us>, select emergency management link and then click the Weather Radio link.

EMERGENCY VEHICLES NEED ACCESS

The Bloom Township Fire Department recognizes its commitment to educate the public in ways to better serve the residents of Bloom Township.

As we replace aging vehicles in our fleet and the need to design larger apparatus to better serve the public, it has become clear that many driveways in our community pose an issue to a prompt and safe response to our customers at the time of an emergency. Many driveways are lined with trees, bushes and other obstructions that will slow and possibly damage our equipment.

We are requesting that every resident check for obstructions on their property that could lead a slow response and correct the problems. Below are pictures that illustrate the differences in height and width of a passenger vehicle, fire engine and medic unit. Please note our vehicles are 8 feet wide and about 11 feet tall.





CO Alarms and Smoke Detectors

Knowing the abilities and limitations of these valuable tools can save your life and those you love.

Christmas trees and trimmings, candles and fireplaces, beautiful winter nights with the warmth of family and your home are all that add to this festive season.

We would like you to take a minute to recognize some of the precautions that need to be taken this season to prevent illness or catastrophe.

Thankfully, there are two valuable tools that we see each year increasing in the number of homes: CO monitors and smoke detectors. Both are lifesavers and both need to be understood. The information herein is general from several sources. This information should only be a supplement to your alarm/ detector manual.

CO Monitors

What is CO? CO is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas, produced by incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels, including gasoline, oil, and wood. When carbon monoxide gets into the body, the carbon monoxide combines with chemicals in the blood and prevents the blood from bringing oxygen to cells, tissues, and organs. The body's parts need oxygen for energy, so high-level exposures to carbon monoxide can cause serious health effects with death possible from massive exposures. Symptoms of exposure to carbon monoxide can include vision problems, reduced alertness, and general reduction in mental and physical functions. Carbon monoxide exposures are especially harmful to people with heart, lung and circulatory system diseases.

CO alarms provide around-the-clock monitoring of CO levels in the area of the monitor. The alarm will provide early warning of elevated and unacceptable chronic levels of CO.

CO Monitors may be battery or plug in type or a combination. They only detect CO. They will not detect other gases or smoke in the area.

These monitors should be placed near a living area where most people spend their time and can be easily heard. The monitor should not be placed near a door or window, in a garage, furnace or cooking area, as this will not allow the monitor to collect an accurate and pertinent reading.

At this time, CO monitors should be replaced in about 5 years (see owners manual) and batteries changed at change of clock.

Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors are a very simple and inexpensive tool that saves thousands of lives and millions of dollars of property each and every year.

Smoke detectors should also be placed near a living area where most people spend their time and can be easily heard.

Smoke detectors obviously sense smoke in a particular area where the detector is placed. Each floor and each area of bedrooms should have a smoke detector.

More than any tool, smoke detectors, when properly upkept gives the greatest opportunity for fire survival.

Most manufacturers state that smoke detectors should be replaced within 10 years of first activation, but see your detector's manual to be certain.

In the event of a CO or smoke alarm, please call 911 and allow the fire department to check the area and resolve the problem.

File of Life

The Bloom Township Fire Department has available the "File of Life" to our residents free of charge. This program involves a medical information packet designed to provide emergency personnel with necessary medical data to begin immediate treatment.

Benefits to Fire/EMS

Instantly know medical history of patient.

Corrective treatment can begin at once.

Benefits to hospital emergency staff

On arrival, data is immediately available to medical staff.

Benefits to each individual

Peace of mind knowing they will have prompt and quality care.

Easy access to potentially life-saving information

Protecting Your Valuables

Fire and other disasters can be devastating to your home and family. Firefighters are trained to attempt to minimize damage and to protect your property the best we can.

As a homeowner, there are some steps you can take as well.

The most important valuable you have in your home, your family, can be protected by a practiced escape plan. This plan can be reviewed with all members of your family and should include how to exit a smoke-filled environment, rules for not taking pets or toys and where to meet after exiting the home. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are also valuable tools in protecting your loved ones. However, most people don't know that the life expectancy of a smoke detector is typically 10 years and the average life span of a CO monitor is 2-5 years.

We all know that material possessions can be replaced, but there are steps we can take to protect those possessions or make it easier to replace them. Most insurance companies will tell you to make an inventory of possessions, including photos. A copy of the inventory should be kept in an alternate location. Homeowners should also consider a lockable fire and water resistant box for important documents and valuables. These may be purchased online or at local retailers. Finally, most homeowners and businesses keep many of their photos, financial and personal documents and information on their computer hard drive. It is a good idea to continuously make backup copies of these documents and keep these backups offsite from the original. There are actually several online sites that automatically backup your hard drive for an annual fee.

For more information on disaster preparedness, you can visit the National Archives website at www.archives.gov and read *A Primer on Disaster Preparedness, Management and Response: Paper-Based Materials*.

Cell Phones and 911

When using your cell phone to call 911 for an emergency, please remember to let the 911 dispatcher know your exact location, including the **COUNTY** you are in. This one piece of information can save minutes in the response time to your emergency.

Walking Safety- Night Visibility

With the days getting shorter, many people are walking and running in the dark. Most folks may not realize just how difficult it is to be seen at dawn or dusk by drivers.

Reflections on reflectivity: Wearing reflective clothing is a good defense against invisibility, but you need to be sure that the reflective areas are large enough and you are exposed from every angle. Do oncoming cars see you, but not those at side streets? Will that little reflective logo on your shirt be enough - especially if you hide it under a jacket?

Reflective Shoes: Most running shoes now have reflective stripes and many tout their "360 degree reflective" features. A pair of Asics I have even appear to have reflective soles! If you are walking, shoes don't have such features, consider a pair of reflective shoelaces or put some reflective tape on your shoes.

Reflective Clothing: Your best option for finding reflective clothing is in a running store or a bicycling shop, or the running and bicycling sections of large sporting goods stores.

Reflective Outerwear: In the winter, wearing an extra vest or a reflective jacket can also help keep you warm.

CPR Classes at the Firehouse

The Bloom Township Fire Fighters Association will offer public CPR classes. Bloom Twp. residents are encouraged to attend a Heartsaver Adult/Child AED class. The classes will be schedule quarterly at the firehouse in Lithopolis. Class size is limited. If you are interested in attending a class, please call the firehouse at 614-837-5530 or email bloomfire@sbcglobal.net . There is a class fee.

March 20, 2010 at 1pm

June 6, 2010 at 2pm

September 4, 2010 at 1pm

November 6, 2010 at 1pm