

Fireline
Bloom Twp.
Firefighters Association



Be Safe As Things Cool Off

The time has come to prepare our homes for the approaching holiday season and changing weather conditions.

While most of us will be hanging lights and changing the décor of our homes for the upcoming holidays, it is also important to realize that we must safeguard our homes from potential hazards.

Here are some tips to make this season safe. For more product safety tips visit www.ul.com/consumers

Cooking- Many families look forward to the constant cooking and baking of the holidays. However, most home fires originate in the kitchen, so limit the distractions while cooking. Also review the “safe” area of the appliances with children.

Fireplaces- One spark, one ember in a dirty chimney can destroy a home. Chimneys that are coated with creosote can ignited easily and lead to devastating consequences. Have a chimney sweep clean your chimney before each season and ask their opinions regarding spark arresters and other safety tips.

Candles- Never leave candles unattended. Be sure to always use sturdy candleholders. Once a candle burns to low, replace it. Check candles used in your teenagers room for safety hazards. Keep candles away from combustibles. For traditionalist, please do not use real candles on your Christmas trees.

Extension cords- The big thing with extension cords is utilize the right cord for the job. Cords are rated for indoor/outdoor use as well as wattage needed. Also, you must be sure the cord is the right size. Also, do not cover the extension cord connection with rugs; this may cause overheating at the connection.

Carbon Monoxide alarms- Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a by-product of incomplete combustion. CO hazards can occur with malfunctioning or inadequately ventilated natural gas or LP appliances or heaters, vehicle exhaust, blocked chimneys, heaters or grills used in the home or in tents/ sheds, etc. CO alarms sound an audible alarm when CO levels rise to dangerous levels. Follow all manufacturer instructions with these devices. Some experts suggest replacing a CO monitor/alarm every 5 years.

Smoke Alarms- The importance of having working smoke alarms in every part of the house cannot be overemphasized, yet each day, people lose their lives in homes that do not have smoke alarms or have smoke alarms that are not properly maintained. Each home should have smoke alarms on each floor and outside each sleeping area. Change your batteries when you change your clocks.

For more information on heater and holiday safety see page 2

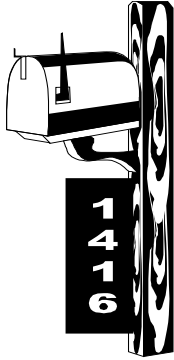
VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

The members of the Bloom Township Fire Department encourage everyone to exercise their right and responsibility to vote.

It is important however, to know that the Bloom Township Fire Department or any of its member organizations **DO NOT** publicly endorse **ANY** candidate for **ANY** office.

For information on the current levy on the ballot, please see page 3.

**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.

Bloom Township Fire Training

Members of the Bloom Township Fire Department took part in fire behavior lab training at the Ohio Fire Academy in September.

Violet Township's Kenn Taylor and Bloom Township Chief Gill conducted the training, where each member of the fire department was given the opportunity to enter the fire behavior lab. The FBL teaches firefighters how to recognize and prevent dangerous fire conditions within a safely controlled environment.



Holiday and Heater Safety

Heating Safety

Have your central heating serviced before the big chill. It is a good idea to have this done around Labor Day, but if you haven't had it done yet it is not too late. Not only is it safe, with increasing energy prices, it may lead to more efficiency.

Portable heater use should comply with the manufacturers recommendations. Some safety tips that should be reviewed annually are;

- Never use gasoline in a kerosene heater.
- Fill your kerosene heater outside.
- Never touch or move your heater while it is in operation or hot.
- Keep all heaters a minimum of 4 feet from any combustibles.
- Keep heaters on the floor, never on furniture.
- Turn your space heater off when you leave or go to sleep.
- Be sure to ventilate according to manufacturer.
- Have a Carbon Monoxide/CO monitor in place.

Holiday Safety

According to the United States Fire Administration, fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage.

Follow these tips to keep your holiday seasons joyful:

Christmas trees-

- Keep away from any heat source.
- Keep tree stand filled with water.
- Do not put up too early or leave up longer than 2 weeks.
- Do not discard tree or branches in fireplace.

Lights/decorations-

- Inspect for damaged wires/ sockets.
- Do not overload outlets.
- Use only UL rated outdoor lights outside.
- Turn off lights when you leave home.
- Do not discard wrapping in fireplace/ heater.

Bloom Township Fire Department Meet The Members



Kevin A. Benedict Firefighter/Paramedic

A 9-year veteran of the fire service began serving with Bloom Township as a volunteer in 1999. Since he began his career in the fire service, Firefighter Benedict has served for multiple fire departments in the community as well as a combat zone firefighter in Baghdad, Iraq.

Prior to his appointment to full time firefighter at Bloom Township, he was most recently employed with Basil Joint Fire District in Baltimore Ohio where he served as a full time Firefighter and EMT- Paramedic.

Firefighter Benedict is the proud father of 2 children, Lexi Benedict who is a 6th grade student at Bloom Carroll middle School, and K.J. Benedict a future B.C. Bulldog!



Eric Taft Firefighter/Paramedic

Eric Taft was born in Columbus Ohio and grew up in Groveport where he graduated from Groveport High School in 1996. Eric's Father, Thomas Taft is a retired Firefighter from Madison Township and Eric's Mother, Sherryl Taft works from home. Eric is married to Maria and has a 3 year old daughter Audrey.

Eric graduated from the Ohio Fire Academy in 2003. Eric also Graduated from Eastland career center in 2003 receiving his EMT Paramedic certification. Eric began his employment with Bloom Township in 2006 as a volunteer and has successfully worked his way to full time employment. He was a full time firefighter with Greenfield Township before coming to Bloom Township. Eric also works part time for the Violet Township fire department and The Ohio Fire Academy where he creates audio and video presentations while working closely with the training staff.

Proposed Tax Levy Replacement and Decrease From the desk of Terry B. Gill Fire Chief

I am writing you to thank the long time residents for your support through the years as well as welcome all the new residents. I now ask for your continued support by passing a 2.5 mill permanent levy. This levy will replace a 2.75 mill levy due to expire in 2009. In these times we understand the need to save money that is why if you own a \$200,000 home we are only asking for an additional \$0.80 a month (\$9.60 a year) to continue our exceptional service to our residents.

Is this a new levy?

No, this levy replaces an existing levy passed in 2004. It is a reduction of twenty-five hundredths (0.25) mill. This means we will be asking for a 2.5 mill levy to replace our existing 2.75 mill levy that will expire in 2009. The new levy will not begin until the first day of 2010 and will last for a continuing period of time. The decision to make this levy permanent was made to allow the fire department to meet long-term goals in improving service to our residence.

How much will it cost me?

It will only cost the owner of a \$200,000 home an additional \$9.60 a year or \$0.80 a month to support our levy.

Why is this levy important?

The levy that expires in 2009 generates 25% of our current operating budget. That is why this levy is very important in maintaining our current and future level of services to our residents.

For more information, please call Chief Gill at 614-837-5530

Bloom Township First to be Covered by Sirens

Bloom Township, in conjunction with the Fairfield County EMA has become the first Township in the county to be covered by tornado early warning sirens.

The locations of the new sirens are Cemetery Rd. near Carroll, Collegeview Acres, Slate Run subdivision, and the township hall at Greencastle. The siren in Lithopolis has also been replaced by A Village of Lithopolis and Bloom Township cooperative effort.

File of Life

The Bloom Township Firefighter's Association continues to provide 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.

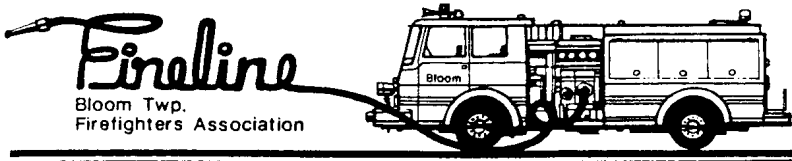
Benefits to each individual

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

Easy access to potentially life-saving information

FILE OF LIFE	
	Name: _____
	Address: _____
Doctor: _____	Phone#: _____
EMERGENCY CONTACTS	
Name: _____	Phone#: _____
Address: _____	
Name: _____	Phone#: _____
Address: _____	

For more info or to obtain the "File of Life", please contact us at 614-837-5530 or email us at bloomfire@sbcglobal.net



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