

HFD MEMBERS BENEFIT FROM HANDS-ON TRAINING

In an effort to ensure that all members have the education and skill necessary to perform their duties in a professional and well-structured manner, the Training Division of the Hazardville Fire Department (HFD) coordinates frequent training drills. These drills include OSHA-required sessions, as well as experimental labs that provide members with a hands-on opportunity to explore new techniques and tactics. The two drills featured in the photos below focused on extrication.



HFD members engage in Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.) training.

Using the Hurst equipment located behind the fire station, members practice the fundamentals of auto extrication.

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THE VILLAGE TRUMPET

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COMMIT TO SAFETY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Nothing is more important than keeping your little ones safe. Yet every minute, 17 children go to the emergency room with unintentional injuries – that's 9.2 million accidents that didn't have to happen every year.

It's often small decisions – a candle left burning, a dry Christmas tree or child left alone even for a moment – that have life-changing consequences. When it comes to holiday dangers, the numbers are more startling than you might think.

- Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of more than 400 Americans, injure 1,650 more, and cause in excess of \$990 million in damage.
- Candle-related fires are one of the most common holiday home hazards, averaging more than 12,000 each year. They result in 136 deaths, more than 1,000 injuries and \$450 million in direct property damage.
- About 5,800 people – two to three every hour – are treated in emergency departments for fall-related injuries sustained as the result of holiday decorating.
- Christmas trees, both natural and artificial, are the item first ignited in an estimated average of 240 reported home structure fires per year. These fires cause an estimated average of 13 civilian deaths, 27 civilian injuries and \$16.7 million in direct property damage per year.

By taking simple steps, we can change these statistics together. Committing a minute to safety can be as quick and easy as testing your smoke alarm, taking pillows out of the crib, or simply using a cabinet lock. Imagine if every parent committed just one minute to safety every day? Thousands, perhaps millions, of injuries could be avoided. Parents today have a powerful opportunity to raise a safer generation of children, and it can all start by committing just one minute to safety.

We sincerely wish you all a *safe*, happy holiday season.
— Your Fire Commissioners and Firefighters

FIREFIIGHTERS SPRING INTO ACTION WITH NEW ATV

Last spring, the Hazardville Fire Department (HFD) had the good fortune of purchasing an all terrain vehicle (ATV) for emergency use just in the nick of time. The ATV was delivered on April 11 and was put to good use the very next day when a call came in to rescue a woman along the Scantic River who was suffering from a medical issue. Members of the Department were able to respond very quickly and efficiently. Had the ATV not been available, however, rescuers would have needed to hike in and transport the woman out on a stretcher, a process which would have taken considerably longer.

Members of the HFD, including Captain Jamie Hurley; Lieutenant Ryan Cunningham; and Firefighters Scott Tingley, Jason Carlton, Sean Clifford and Jim Hubburd, received training on the proper use of the ATV during emergency conditions. The course included one hour of pre-class prep work, two hours of classroom training, and seven hours of practical training. Participants were introduced to a wide variety of obstacles, giving them valuable insight into the capabilities and limitations of the ATV. A scenario involving patient recovery and transport was included as part the training.

The new ATV purchased by the HFD has already proven to be a valuable asset.



'TIS THE SEASON TO BE... *Heating!*

Heating season is once again upon us, and these days, many people are relying on alternatives such as space heaters to help reduce their oil bills. Unfortunately, research conducted by the National Fire Protection Association shows that heating equipment is involved in more than 60,000 reported U.S. home fires. Of this, 79% of the resulting fatalities, 66% of the injuries and 52% of the property damage are directly related to the use of stationary or portable space heaters, including wood and pellet-burning stoves. Before you light another fire or plug in that heater, take a few moments to review a few simple safety tips and precautions aimed at keeping you, your family, and your home safe.

All stationary heating equipment should be installed by a qualified professional, according to local codes and manufacturer's instructions. For fuel-burning space heaters, only the correct kind of fuel, as specified by the manufacturer, should be used. Such

equipment must be vented to the outside in order to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Heating equipment, chimneys and vents should be cleaned and inspected annually.

Fireplaces should have a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying out. Wood stoves should bear the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Burn only dry, seasoned wood, and start fires with newspaper or kindling (never use flammable liquid). Always allow ashes to cool prior to removal and then store them in a tightly-covered, metal container at least 10-feet away from your home or other nearby buildings.

Flammable materials, such as paper, bedding or furniture, should be kept at least three feet away from heating equipment. A three-foot "kid-free" zone should also be maintained around open fires and space heaters. Always turn off portable space heaters when you leave the room or go to bed.

Thankfully, home heating fires are largely preventable when you follow

the rules and take precautionary measures. Nevertheless, occasional problems or accidents do arise. To alert you and your family of the threat of danger, smoke alarms should be installed throughout your home – ideally in each bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level. To maximize protection, interconnect the alarms so that when one sounds, they all sound. Test smoke alarms at least once a month. Also take the time to develop a home escape plan that includes two ways out of every room and a meeting place in front of the home. Practice the escape plan twice a year to ensure that every member of your household is familiar and prepared.

The Hazardville Fire Department strives to reduce the incidence of home heating fires within our community and prevent fire-related fatalities. You can help us accomplish these goals by doing your part within your home. For more information, please give us a call at (860) 749-8344.

SPOTLIGHT ON... *Tom Carriere*

As a child growing up on the South Shore of Boston, Tom Carriere had two dreams – to become a firefighter and to become the *Six Million Dollar Man*. While it would have been difficult to live up to Lee Majors' role in this popular 1970s television series, he did fulfill his other dream. He joined the Hazardville Fire Department (HFD) earlier this year and has already become an integral member of the team.

Tom, a physical therapist at Saint Francis Hospital, moved to Enfield in 1996. He and his wife, an Enfield native, have three children. Back in 2006, Tom felt himself being called to firefighting. He joined another local department, but soon realized that committing the necessary time would be difficult with his children being so



Tom Carriere

young. Ten years later, he began to reconsider the possibility. His friend Peter Smyth, an HFD firefighter, encouraged him, and after a conversation with Chief Jack Flanagan, Tom decided to take the plunge.

A self-proclaimed "adrenalin junkie," Tom says he has always been

committed to helping others. Whereas he was already in the healthcare field, becoming a volunteer firefighter seemed like the perfect way for him to become more involved in his community. Today, Tom couldn't be happier with the decision he made. He feels right at home at the HFD and attributes this to his fellow members' support and willingness to help one another. He commends the Department for its spirit of team work.

Like all HFD members, Tom is committed to undergoing frequent training so that he is well-versed and prepared for whatever he may encounter during a call. He recently came in on his day off to receive training on nozzles and other devices. Chief Jack Flanagan is very pleased to have Tom on board and says that his goal is to recruit 15 more volunteer firefighters, like Tom, to join the Department.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: *Steps Every Family Should Take*

Relatively speaking, the damage caused by storm Sandy here in north central Connecticut was minimal. For our neighbors on the coast, however, this weather event was disastrous. As we hold the many people affected by Sandy in our thoughts and prayers, may we also use this as an opportunity to realize the importance of emergency preparedness. Disaster – be it natural or otherwise — can strike any place, any time. Having a disaster plan in place could significantly impact the safety, security and comfort of your family.

During a disaster, it could take days for officials and relief workers to reach everyone. Families should be prepared ahead of time with an emergency supply kit that includes, among other things, a three-day supply of food and water, a can opener, a battery-powered or hand-cranked radio, flashlights and batteries, blankets or sleeping bags, medications, first-aid supplies, diapers and formula for infants, food and water for pets, food, duct tape, a wrench or pliers, matches in a waterproof container, and copies of important family documents. Encouraging children to help in creating the emergency supply kit can

give them a much-needed sense of security and empowerment.

Families can also prepare for emergencies by familiarizing themselves with evacuation routes and local shelters, deciding how to take care of pets and posting emergency phone numbers. Since it is possible for family members to become separated during a disaster, develop a plan to reach one another. Decide on a meeting place and, in the event that members cannot get to that place, identify an out-of-area friend or relative who can help coordinate family members' locations and information. Each member of the family should learn the phone number and address for this person. Families should review their emergency plan and quiz children on important details every six months.

We cannot possibly prepare fully for every situation, but having an emergency plan and supply kit in place will reduce fear and anxiety and enable you to think more clearly during a crisis. This, in and of itself, will have a major impact on your family's safety and well-being.

More information about emergency preparedness, including a complete list of important supplies, can be found online at www.ready.gov.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED: *Will You Answer the Call?*

Firefighting is a most noble calling – an opportunity like none other to serve and protect your community. Here at Hazardville Fire Department (HFD), we are always in need of additional volunteers to join our team of firefighters.

The HFD relies on the support of volunteers to be able to properly respond to its high volume of emergency calls. You may be surprised to hear that in just the first six months of this year, our Department responded to a total of 410 calls, including 22 fires, 192 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 33 hazardous conditions situations, and 89 service calls. While some of the remaining calls turned out to be false alarms, residents took comfort in knowing that we were there for them should circumstances have been different.

Without the support and dedication of our volunteer firefighters, the HFD couldn't possibly respond to this vast number of calls. Additional volunteers are always needed to help ensure the safety of the Hazardville district. Please consider joining our team in helping to respond to the calls of our community. In the process, you might just find *your calling*.

Again, please visit us online at www.hazardvillefire.org/volunteer.htm to learn more about the responsibilities, training, rewards and incentives associated with becoming a volunteer firefighter. For more information or an application, please call **(860) 749-8344**.

OUT AND ABOUT



The Hazardville Fire Department (HFD) recently participated in Library Day at the Enfield Public Library. Community members had the opportunity to experience the smokehouse and explore the fire trucks.



During Fire Prevention Week in October, members of the HFD visited the Little Angels Pre-School, where they addressed various fire safety topics. They taught students about dialing 911, crawling low in smoke, and knowing two ways out of any room. Students also enjoyed going outside and sitting in the fire truck.