

THE VILLAGE TRUMPET

A PUBLICATION FROM THE HAZARDVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

On behalf of the entire Hazardville Fire Department, please enjoy a safe, happy, healthy holiday season and all the best in 2010. We are proud to help protect this community and look forward to our continued service in the year ahead.

OH, CHRISTMAS TREE!

Christmas trees, aglow with shimmering lights and baubles, are the focal point of many of our holiday festivities. Unfortunately, according to the United States Fire Administration, they account for 200 fires, 6 deaths, 25 injuries and \$6 million in property damage each year. By following a few simple safety guidelines, you can help to ensure a safe, happy holiday season.

When choosing a live Christmas tree, make sure the needles are fresh and green. On a healthy, hydrated tree, the needles should bend – not snap – between your fingers. To maximize water absorption, cut two inches off the bottom of the tree prior to placing it in a stand. Place the tree in a cool spot, away from heater vents, fire places and other heat sources that may dry it out too quickly. Water the tree



regularly, and be sure to either dispose of it or recycle it properly after the season has passed. When purchasing an artificial tree, look for a “fire resistant” label.

Indoor lights should be properly tested for safety by a recognized laboratory and have fused plugs, while outdoor lights should be certified for exterior use. Check each strand for burnt out, missing or damaged bulbs, and make replacements with the same wattage bulbs only. If necessary, hang lights with insulated staples or run them through hooks (no nails or tacks). Be sure to turn off holiday lights when you go to bed or are leaving the house.

All tree trimmings should be made with non-combustible or flame resistant materials. Last but not least, make sure that you have working smoke detectors throughout your home to alert you and your family in the event of a problem. Now, sit back and enjoy all the splendor of the season, knowing you have done your part to make it merry.

CAN YOU FILL THESE BOOTS?



With 33.8 square miles and more than 45,000 residents to protect, The Fire Departments of Enfield, which includes the Hazardville Fire Department, is always in need of courageous men and women to serve as volunteer firefighters. We invite you to join forces with us for a life-changing experience — not only for you, but for the individuals and families whose lives you will touch along the way.

Volunteer firefighters are trained to work under the direction of company officers to perform rescue, fire extinguishment, ventilation, salvage, overhaul, extrication and medical-aid duties. Duties are outlined more specifically at www.hazardvillefire.org.

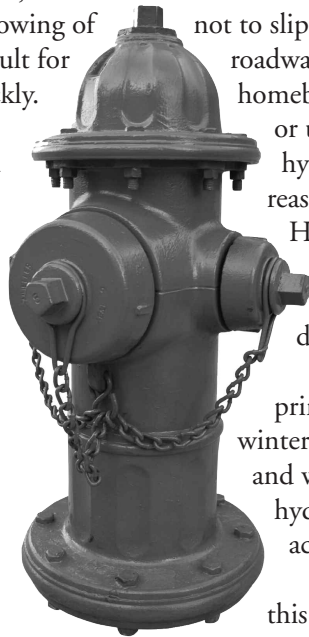
If you are interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter, please visit us online for more information and an application or call (860) 749-8344. Volunteers enjoy many rewards and incentives, the greatest of which is a sense of belonging to a brotherhood/sisterhood that is unlike anything you have ever known before.

KEEP FIRE HYDRANTS *Visible* AND *Accessible*

During the winter months, snowstorms and the plowing of snow often make it very difficult for fire hydrants to be found quickly. Precious time is lost while firefighters work to locate and shovel out snow-covered hydrants.

You can help solve this problem by keeping the fire hydrant closest to your residence or business free of snow. We need a three-foot clearance on all sides of the hydrant in order to ensure accessibility in time of need.

As you shovel out your nearby hydrant, be sure to keep safety in mind. Do not



stand in the street, and be careful not to slip and fall into the roadway. Those who are homebound, disabled, elderly or unable to clear their hydrants for any other reason are urged to call the Hazardville Fire

Department. We will send someone out to do the job for you.

While snow is the primary concern during the winter, the overgrowth of grass and weeds can also make fire hydrants difficult to see and access at other times.

Please be sure to keep this in mind year round.

Visit Us **ONLINE**

Visit the Hazardville Fire Department online at www.hazardvillefire.org for information about our many programs and services, an up-to-date listing of events and activities, seasonal fire safety and prevention tips, a complete roster of our members, a glimpse into the rich history of our department and much more!



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