



Smoke Signals

SMOKE SIGNALS is published monthly for Volunteers, Staff and Friends of IVFD.
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**April
2017**

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Chief's Message

By Dennis Hoke: Fire Chief, Paramedic, EFO dennishoke@ivfire.com



We just finished another calendar year. Last month I talked about our accomplishments. So what do we intend to do this year? This is an important question. I believe that a fire district (and really in life) you have to have a path. Like the cliché, "If you have no idea where you are going, than any path will get you there." When I first started with IVFD, I set some lofty goals. I think we have been successful in reaching most of them.

"To make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve by providing premier emergency service with the resources that we have been entrusted with."

I have said this every year, "the coming year will be pivotal", 2017 will be no different. This year we will be asking the voters to agree to pay for career Firefighters/EMTs on three shifts. The request is for \$0.50/\$1,000 of assessed property value. This will allow us to hire 4 firefighter/EMT's, 3 on shift and a float. What will that this do for the District and the customers we serve? We need to be prepared to answer this in public because it's the voters who will decide.

One of the things I review often is our Mission Statement and our Strategic Plan. I use both when I plan for the future. Our mission statement (below) should be the basis of decisions and planning.

Shift based firefighters will improve our

response time by having dedicated drivers and EMT's for immediate response augmented by shift base volunteers. We struggle to provide shift coverage especially with members who can drive whatever apparatus that is needed. On scene staffing for a structure fire is dismal during the day when most volunteers work or go to school. Night time staffing is a little better when more volunteers are available.

The new Firefighter/EMT's will also have project assignments such as pre-fire planning and helping with fire inspections. They will have station projects that will reduce the work load on the volunteers. Duty Officer responses will be reduced when the career personnel are at full performance level. This is just a few of the benefits we will gain with career staffing.

2017 will see another tender placed in service and an old tender sold. The refurbished military chassis conversion has proved to be a very cost effective program, saving the District over \$150K each. We continue to look at the fleet and how we can improve. We are also looking at how we can replace a type 6 engine each year. I would like to replace 8901 but I don't see this happening for at least three years. We also need to look at high mileage staff vehicles in 2017.

The fire stations are in the right locations but Stations 5 and 6 are in poor condition. We are currently working with the Deer Creek Grange and Josephine County to construct a new Station 5 on their property with a 99 year lease. I met with the County and they will support a driveway easement for the property. Hopes are we can complete this project in 2018.

The training facility is still in the works. There are lots of hurdles but this is the most important endeavor we can undertake. We have to have adequate training fa-

cilities and props to meet our mission. Deputy Chief Gavlik works this issue almost full time.

We have applied for a grant to add a radio repeater in the Cave Junction area to improve our communications throughout the District. We have also applied for vehicle repeaters. This will allow you to use your portable radio to activate a much higher power vehicle radio in our poor radio coverage areas.

As we look at the short term future, we must also look 10-15 years out. What will IVFD look like in 2030? I will be working with the staff to develop a 15+ year master plan. Again it's developing a path for the future.

I am excited about what the future holds for IVFD. We are a strong organization, with dedicated volunteers representing the Firefighters, Support and CERT. We know we need more volunteers, especially firefighters. We continue to recruit. You can help by spreading the word about this organization and where we are going. I think people want to be part of a progressive organization that has values similar with their personal values. You made a choice to be part of IVFD. I appreciate that. Help me spread the word about IVFD and also urge voters to vote in the May election.

Until next time... Let's be safe out there.

Dennis



Tech Tips

By David White, Systems Administrator,

Make Cortana respond to voice commands

For a hands-free operation, click on the Cortana search bar, select Notebook from the left menu, choose Settings, and enable the 'Let Cortana respond to "Hey Cortana"' option.

Now repeat the phrase anytime to activate Cortana.



Logistics

By Kris Sherman;
Division Chief Logistics

Well spring is here and we need to get our wildland gear out and make sure it is serviceable condition. We also need to check over the brush trucks, make sure all the gear is still on the trucks, check the pumps and plumbing for leaks, and that the trucks are in good running order.



On a more serious note we have had 3 school bus accidents in the last month, two in our fire district and one in our mutual aid area. Luckily there were no serious injuries in these accidents.

Just the other day I stopped for a school bus and oncoming traffic failed to **STOP!** I was amazed, then I thought maybe the laws have changed so I looked them up. Nope, the laws have not changed! I was able to copy them off and here they are. Read them learn them and share them with everyone you know.

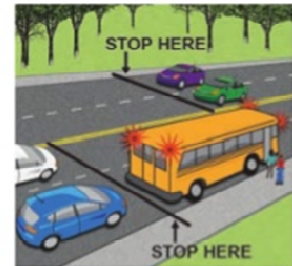
The last thing we need is another school bus accident.

School, Church or Worker and Public Transit Buses

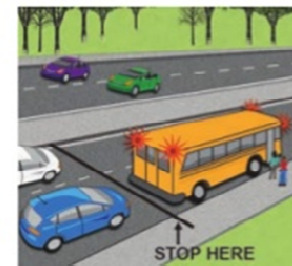
School Buses

School buses have flashing amber and red lights near the top of the bus on the front and rear. They may be equipped with a stop arm that extends from the bus near the driver's window when the red lights begin to flash.

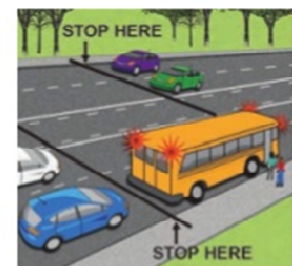
Flashing amber lights warn traffic that the bus is about to stop on the road to load or unload children. Prepare to stop. When the red lights flash, stop before reaching the bus and remain stopped until the driver turns off the flashing red lights.



If you are on a divided highway with two roads separated by an unpaved median strip or barrier, you must stop only if you are on the same side of the road as the bus.



A painted median strip or turn lane does not create two separate roads. In this case, all lanes of traffic must stop.



Church or Worker Buses

Flashing amber and red lights are permitted on church and worker transport buses. If the bus turns on flashing amber or red lights, you must treat these lights the same as you would a school bus.



Training and Safety

By Jeff Gavlik: Deputy Chief

Have you thought much about why you are here and where you would like to be in the next three to five years? It would seem that there is less thought about future planning in our current generations as compared to previous generations. More and more people are simply living from day to day without a thought as to how they can make tomorrow a better day or how they can change their present situation in the years to come. When did the phrase "saving for a rainy day" go out of style, or where did the desire to find a life-long career go? Our Fire Explorer program is aimed at the valley youth to give them an opportunity to explore what emergency services can offer them and help set them up for success in their future careers. However, there is a lack of interest and commitment currently within the Illinois Valley amongst our youth. Where does that modeled behavior come from? Are we as parents, personal influencers or community representatives doing our part to instill the necessary goals and values into those around us to help them become successful future leaders?

When I was younger, I would save up my money for something that I really wanted. There was a sense of accomplishment that went along with achieving that kind of goal and because it usually took awhile to obtain, it created a desire in me to want to take care of the item purchased. Planning for your future works in a very similar manor. If you work hard and are willing to do what others won't do, you will rise to the surface of success and be noticed and as long as your ego doesn't get in the way, you will have an appreciation for the level of accomplishment you have obtained.



Maybe you're not sure what you want to do for a career yet, or maybe you have already accomplished many things but are looking for something more fulfilling in helping others. Become a volunteer firefighter and see how the doors of life can be opened up to a realm of nearly endless possibilities! Maybe you're in high school looking for a way to get your college education paid for, come check out our Student Program; or perhaps your looking for a positive influence for your children in teamwork, community service and life skills; find out more about our Fire/EMS Explorers program.

Our children are one of the best resources we can invest into, and the Illinois Valley Fire District would like to invest our time into their future also. Please consider becoming a volunteer today or checking into the many programs that we have to offer.





Operations & Prevention

By Kamron Ismaili; Division Chief Operations and Prevention

From the U.S. Fire Administration

Wildland fires destroy hundreds of homes and acres of land every year across the country. Fire-safe landscaping is an effective tool that creates an area of defensible space between your home and flammable vegetation that protects against devastating fires.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) encourages you to keep fire safety at the forefront by learning how to landscape and maintain your property to minimize possible fire damage and slow fires if they start. Remember, fire safety is your personal responsibility. . . Fire Stops With You!

DEFENSIBLE SPACE WORKS

During the 2003 raging California fires, a number of homes were saved as a result of the owners' careful pruning and landscaping techniques that protected their homes. In a fire situation, the dead trees and shrubs surrounding your home act as a fuel for fire. Removing flammable vegetation reduces the threat of fire. Follow these basic rules to create defensible space that works.

- Remove all dead plants, trees and shrubs from the site.
- Reduce excess leaves, plant parts and low-hanging branches.
- Replace dense flammable plants with fire-resistant plants.
- The choice of plants, spacing and maintenance are crucial elements in any defensible space landscaping plan.

TIPS FOR A FIRE-SAFE LANDSCAPE

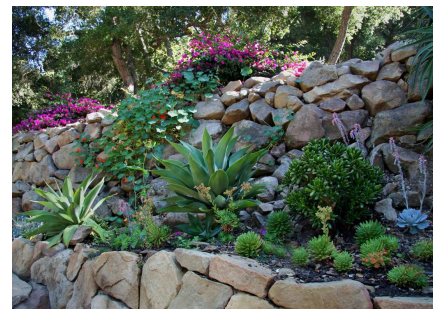
- Create a defensible space perimeter by thinning trees and brush within 30 feet around your home.
- Beyond 30 feet, remove dead wood, debris and low tree branches.
- Eliminate small trees and plants growing under trees. They allow ground fires to jump into tree crowns.
- Space trees 30 feet apart and prune

to a height of 8 to 10 feet.

- Place shrubs at least 20 feet from any structure and prune regularly.
- Plant the most drought-tolerant vegetation within three feet of your home and adjacent to structures to prevent ignition.
- Provide at least a 10 to 15 foot separation between islands of shrubs and plant groups to effectively break-up continuity of vegetation.
- Landscape your property with fire-resistant plants and vegetation to prevent fire from spreading quickly.

CHOOSE FIRE RESISTANT MATERIALS

- Check your local nursery or county extension service for advice on fire resistant plants that are suited for your environment.
- Create fire-safe zones with stone walls, patios, swimming pools, decks and roadways.
- Use rock, mulch, flower beds and gardens as ground cover for bare spaces and as effective firebreaks.
- There are no "fire-proof" plants. Select high moisture plants that grow close to the ground and have a low sap or resin content.
- Choose plant species that resist ignition such as rockrose, iceplant and aloe.
- Fire-resistant shrubs include hedging roses, bush honeysuckles,



currant, cotoneaster, sumac and shrub apples.

- Plant hardwood, maple poplar and cherry trees that are less flammable than pine, fir and other conifers.

MAINTAIN YOUR HOME AND SURROUNDING PROPERTY

- Maintain a well-pruned and watered landscape to serve as a green belt and protection against fire.
- Keep plants green during the dry season and use supplemental irrigation, if necessary.
- Trim grass on a regular basis up to 100 feet surrounding your home.
- Store flammable materials, liquids and solvents in metal containers outside the home at least 30 feet away from structures and wooden fences.
- No matter where you live, always install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Consider installing the new long life smoke alarms.

Through the Lenses

Of: Dale Sandberg, Jason Bayless, and Ned Booth—IVFD Media Department





SMOKE SIGNALS is a monthly newsletter published by the Illinois Valley Fire District for volunteers, staff and friends.

To get a copy please stop by our administration office at 681 Caves Hwy.





March 23, 2017

To: The Editor

I note Raymond Smith's letter in the March 22 edition with interest. I must agree with him about the need for trust. Personally, I have yet to make a decision on the law enforcement levy.

However, I have made a decision concerning a very important levy that will be on IV voter's ballots in the May 16, election. I am referring to the Illinois Valley Fire District levy. I have attended many of the District's Board Meetings, and I have observed a group that is very frugal with the taxpayers money. I have seen the District successfully seek and receive grants of funds, and when the opportunity arises, acquire used equipment and refurbish it for use in the course of dealing with emergencies. These are the people who are rescuing us from house fires, wildland fires, and auto accidents. We really, really need IV Fire, both its paid staff and its volunteers. The District needs additional staff and volunteers with good equipment and specialized training to save us and our properties. Last year the District responded to 1374 calls.

Through innovative and creative work, IV Fire has managed to improve the effectiveness of its fire protection; such that the fire insurance industry recognized the improved effectiveness and reduced fire insurance rates for most of the homes and business in the valley. In most instances the savings from the reduced fire insurance cost will more than pay a home owners cost of the levy.

In order to insure that this effectiveness is maintained, and the insurance industry continues the lower insurance costs, IV Fire needs the ability to add four new firefighter/emergency medical technicians. This will allow IV Fire to respond to your emergency situation more quickly if you have a fire or medical emergency in the middle of the night. These four firefighters/emergency medical technicians will allow for staff and/or volunteers to come from their homes in the middle of the night before starting out to your emergency.

The levy is for \$0.50, which in reality is only a \$0.25 increase because the \$0.25 levy passed 5-years ago is expiring this year. That levy was for fire equipment, and that is exactly where the District spent the money. This is money that will be spent only for your benefit since the IV Fire District is totally separate from Josephine County and its Board of Commissioners.

The IV Fire District is one governmental organization we can trust. Therefore, please support the IV Fire levy when you a filling out your ballot.

Sincerely,

Bob Schmidt

Cave Junction

The Firehouse Cook



By Pramada Kisiela:

It's Still Soup Season

Split pea soup is filling, very nutritious, and extremely easy to make. Split pea soup contains not only protein, but potassium, Vit A, B and others, and many trace minerals as well as cholesterol lowering fiber. I finally found the secret to making good split pea soup - new split peas! It's best to buy only the amount of dried split peas you plan to use in a year, look for ones that have a nice bright green color. Many legumes, even if old, can still cook up soft, but for some reason older split peas (sitting around in the cupboard for a few years) do not cook into nice creamy split pea soup. So try this soup with newly purchased split peas for best results. There is no need to soak them so no

need to plan way ahead for this soup. Do not use a pressure cooker as cooking split peas foam up a lot and will clog the vent. It helps to skim off the foam, and it is important to cook in a much larger pot than you think you need.

2 1/2 cups dried green split peas (about a 1# bag)

1 small onion chopped

2 medium or 3 small carrots, diced or small rounds

1 medium to large red or yellow potato diced

2 celery sticks and extra feathery tops chopped

2 cloves garlic (optional!)

2 bay leaves

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 t. each marjoram or basil, turmeric and cumin powder

One inch chunk of peeled minced ginger root

1 - 1 1/2 teaspoon Hickory Smoke flavoring

2 to 3 T good oil or clarified butter

Method:

Wash split peas well and put in a large pot with 8 cups water, the bay leaves and the minced ginger, bring to a boil, then turn down to medium until halfway tender. Watch very carefully as they love to foam over, and stir to prevent sticking, especially in the beginning.

In a smaller pot, heat the oil/clarified butter and add the chopped or diced vegetables, salt, and the spices. Stir on medium high until just slightly starting to cook, and add to the cooking split peas. Cook until all the vegetables are tender and the split peas have broken down into a creamy soup. Important: You may need to add water as it cooks! Add the smoke flavoring

(I use Wright's, all natural and adds a tasty smoke flavor) to taste.

Try topping with cottage cheese or diced smoked cheese

Side dishes to round out a meal:
Baked potato
Grilled or toasted cheese sandwich
Sauerkraut
Fried Apples
Steamed Broccoli



If you have left over, it freezes well and you can have home made soup another day.





Administration

By Jamie Paul, Executive Administrator

April Birthdays



Dale Sandberg	10
Brian Mavity	24



Anniversary Dates

Celebrating Years of Service..

Kris Sherman	Since 2003
Kathy Koontz	Since 2004
Thomas McCauley	Since 2013
Austin Elesky	Since 2013
Larry Smith	Since 2013
Jason Bayless	Since 2014
Toby Wallace	Since 2015
Sally Beck	Since 2016
Larry Hammersmith	Since 2016
Lea Hammersmith	Since 2016

Joys & Concerns

Hugs and prayers for speedy recoveries go out to Robin Paulson and Lt. Kris Ismaili. They both had extremely difficult surgeries recently but seem to be bouncing back!!
GET WELL SOON!!

TIME FOR A CHANGE

Some changes are going on in the Administration Office at this time. If you haven't already come in and met our new secretary Paula please stop by. She is doing a wonderful job!!

In case you haven't noticed lately Robin Paulson hasn't been in the office. She has resigned her position as the Executive Administrator and I have accepted that position. I know I have big shoes to fill and hope I can live up to her standards. Good Luck Robin in your future pursuits!! Don't kiss on that grand-baby too much....

The District is going forward in asking the voters to support a levy to staff 4 firefighters/EMTs to help the staff and volunteers workload and better serve our community.

There are some fact sheets in the front office if you want to familiarize yourselves with them. These are common questions you could get asked as we put more and more information out on the Levy.

April Volunteer Events:

- Ready, Set, Go 8
- Prepare fair and safety house 15
- Easter Egg Hunt 16



April 16th

Don't forget the IV Lions club Easter Egg hunt at Jubilee Park. 8901 will be there to start the rampage at 1:00. Come on out and enjoy this family event!!



Plant a Tree for Arbor Day

