



# Summerfield Fire District News

## Special Reminder:

Change your smoke detector battery when you change your clock on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.



The Summerfield Fire Department is proud to announce that Mr. David Redmon is the new Assistant Chief for Station 29. David began volunteering here in 1993 after he had volunteered for Oak Ridge for 10 years.

Santa Claus will be here December 14, 2008 2pm-4pm

**Summerfield Fire Department**  
7400 Summerfield Road, Summerfield, NC 27358  
(336) 643-4341

[www.summerfieldfire.com](http://www.summerfieldfire.com)

## Message from the Chief:

I would like to welcome you to the Summerfield Fire District newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Members of the Department for the hard work, dedication, and courage shown to this Community.

It is my hope that this newsletter will continue to pursue and strengthen the relationship between our community and the Fire Department. This newsletter offers in a small way the opportunity to understand and explore the variety of services that this Fire Department

offers to the Community, as well as the evolving role of the Fire Service. As the Department continues to meet the ever changing needs of this Community, it is the mission of the Officers and Firefighters of this organization to serve the Community and Ourselves with Pride and Integrity. We are committed to being a superior emergency service organization that continually strives to improve the quality of services delivered to our customers, our citizens, visitors and the businesses

of Summerfield.

It is the intention of this Department's proactive vision to become more involved and partnered with the Community in an effort to promote public safety.

Please visit our web site [www.summerfieldfire.com](http://www.summerfieldfire.com) as an opportunity to increase your knowledge and awareness of the Fire Service, and the exceptional people who strive to provide the very best service to the citizens of Summerfield. If you have any questions, please contact our offices.

*Chief Chris Johnson*

## Reporting an Emergency

The Summerfield Fire Department responds to over 900 emergency calls each year. The following are tips to help you if you find yourself in an emergency situation.

### Call 9-1-1 if you:

- See fire
- Smell smoke or gas
- Have a need for immediate medical assistance.
- See or become aware of an immediate threat to life and/ or property

### Be prepared to provide:

- Location of the emergency incident
- Your name and contact number in case you are disconnected
- Type of emergency

Try to remain calm while talking to the call taker. Be ready for questions and to receive instructions. Do not hang up unless told to by the call taker.

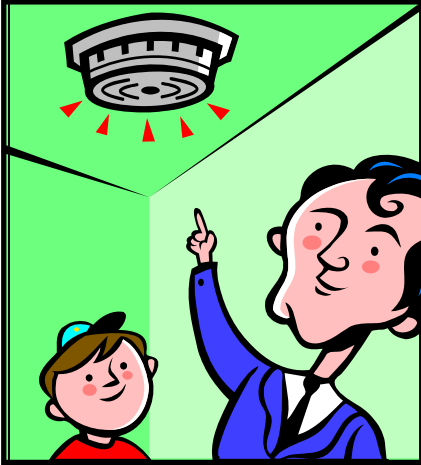
### When responders arrive:

- If you witness the incident stay on scene to provide emergency personnel with information.
- Sometimes areas can be dangerous so move or leave the area if asked to.

### Another way to help:

- Make sure the address is visible from the street. Reflective number signs can be made at the fire department for \$10.00

## A smoke detector must work to save lives



Smoke detectors could save your or your families life if a fire occurs. Many fire fatalities are result of someone breathing in poisonous gases and smoke. A smoke detector can be thought of as “**your nose at night**” to detect the smoke and awake you so you can escape safely.

### INSTALLATION:

Make sure you follow the manufacturer’s instructions when installing the smoke detector. Install them on the ceiling or on the wall 6-8 inches from the ceiling. Make sure you have at least one smoke detector for each level of your home.

### MAINTENANCE:

Smoke detectors are easy to maintain:

- Test each smoke detector monthly
- Replace the batteries each time you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time.
- Keep the smoke detector clean and free of dust.
- Replace the smoke detector after eight to ten years.

## Christmas Tree Safety

What's a holiday party or even the traditional Christmas morning scene itself without a beautifully decorated tree? Christmas trees account for 200 fires annually, resulting in 6 deaths, 25 injuries and more than \$6 million in property damage.

- When decorating your tree, always use lights listed by a testing laboratory.
- Any string of lights with worn, frayed or broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used.
- Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree, and make sure any lit candles in the room are placed well away from tree branches.
- Try to keep live trees as moist as possible by giving them plenty of water daily.
- Place your tree in a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over.
- Safely dispose of the tree when begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are highly flammable and should not be left in a house or garage, or placed against the house.



Source: NFPA's "Home Christmas Tree and Holiday Light Fires" report by Marty Ahrens, November 2007.

## FIRE ESCAPE CHECKLIST



- Do you have working smoke alarms in your home?
- Is there a smoke alarm in every sleeping room and outside each sleeping area?
- Is there a smoke alarm on each level?
- Do you test your smoke alarm at least once a month?
- Do you know the sound of your smoke alarm?
- How old are your smoke alarms?
- Does your family have a fire escape plan
- Do you know two ways out of each room?
- Do you know what to do when you hear your smoke alarm? (Get out and stay out)
- Are all exits clear of trash and toys?
- Has your family picked a meeting place outside the home where everyone can go when they’ve escaped a fire?
- Does everyone know how to call the fire department once safely outside?
- Do you and your family practice your escape plan at least twice a year?

Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week website:  
[www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org)

# Winter Safety Tips

Cold winter weather is fast approaching, and when it comes a variety of health and safety hazards both indoors and out. To help ensure everyone in our community stays safe and warm this season, the members of The Summerfield Fire District offer's the following tips and suggest you post them where they can be seen by your family members and co-workers.

## DRIVER SAFETY

- Keep emergency gear in your car, including a cell phone, flashlight, jumper cables, sand or kitty litter, ice scraper/snow brush, small shovel, blankets, and warning devices. For longer trips take food, water, extra blankets, and required medication.
- If you must travel in bad weather, drive slowly and let someone know your route and anticipated arrival time.
- Try to go to the store *before* a storm hits.
- Carbon monoxide kills. Don't sit in a parked car with the engine running unless a window is open. Don't warm up your car in the garage. If your car is outside, make sure the exhaust pipe and the area around it are free of snow.
- If you are stopped or stalled, light two flares, and place one at each end of the car. Stay in your vehicle and open a window slightly. Wrap yourself in blankets. Run your heater for a few minutes every hour to keep warm.

## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

- Wear a bright piece of outer clothing if you have to walk in the street or road. Dark winter colors are often hard for motorists to see.
- Don't wear a hat or scarf that blocks your vision or makes it hard for you to hear traffic.
- Bending your knees a little and taking slower, shorter steps can greatly reduce your chances of falling.

## DRESS FOR THE COLD

- Wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight clothing, and wear mittens instead of gloves. Trapped, insulating air warmed by body heat is the best protection from the cold.
- Wear a hat and make sure shoes or boots have nonskid soles.
- Change out of wet clothes as soon as possible.

## HOME HEATING

- Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide alarm near your bedrooms and on each floor.
- Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headache, fatigue, nausea, dizziness, and shortness of breath.
- Have your *heating system* tuned up each year. If you heat your home with a *wood stove*, have the chimney connection and flue checked each year and make sure the stove is placed on an approved stove board to protect your floor from heat.
- Your *wood-burning fireplace* should have a sturdy fire screen in place. Make sure your chimney and flue are inspected each year and cleaned, if needed. Burn only untreated wood. Never burn paper or pine branches: pieces can float out the chimney and ignite your roof or your neighbor's as well as nearby trees.
- Do not use gas appliances such as ovens, ranges, or clothes dryers to heat your home.
- If you use a kerosene heater, never use gasoline, which can cause a fire or explosion. Use only water-clear 1-K grade kerosene. Never refuel the heater inside your home or when it is hot or in operation. Do not fill the tank above the "full" mark. Keep a door open to the rest of the house or open a window slightly to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide build-up.

## SNOW SHOVELING

- Dress warmly, paying special attention to feet, hands, nose and ears.
- Avoid shoveling snow if you are out of shape. If you have a history of heart trouble, do not shovel unless your doctor approves.
- Pace yourself and don't work to the point of exhaustion. Shoveling can raise your heart rate and blood pressure dramatically. Take frequent breaks.

## Apparatus Spotlight

The Summerfield Fire Department is always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested please feel free to stop by our station located at 7400 Summerfield Road for an application or more information if you may have questions.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.summerfieldfire.com](http://www.summerfieldfire.com)



The Summerfield Fire District has new equipment in service to assist us in reaching patients and removing patients from off road areas. In August 2008 we added the Polaris Ranger 6x6, two Trek Mountain Bikes, and the trailer to our fleet. The Ranger can be used to

remove the patients by placing them in a basket that will be strapped to the unit after placing the patient inside. The unit can also be used to extinguish woods fires in hard to reach places by using the 75 gallon tank and pump carried on the back of the unit. The mountain and dirt bikes offer a way to reach the patients quickly and begin providing care until the Ranger arrives to transport the patient out to the ambulance. With the usage of the walking and biking trails increasing we felt it was necessary to purchase the equipment in case some has a medical emergency while on one of the trails in our district

### SUMMERFIELD FIRE DISTRICT, INC.

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