

Hartsdale Fire District

Winter 2005 Newsletter

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!

STAY WARM AND SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February, and trails only cooking equipment in home fires year-round.

Facts & Figures

- In one recent year, an estimated 54,900 home heating equipment fires were reported to U.S. fire departments, resulting in 220 civilian deaths, 1,120 civilian injuries and \$502 million in property damage.
- Two of every three home heating fires in the U.S. in that year, and two of every three related deaths, were attributed to portable and fixed space heaters and related equipment.



- Only 20% of the home heating equipment fires in that year began with central heating units.
- Common causes of space heating home fires are: lack of regular cleaning, leading to creosote build-up, in wood-burning devices and associated chimneys and connectors; failing to give space heaters space by installing or placing them too close to combustibles; basic flaws in the construction or design of wood burning heating equipment; fuel spills or leaks involving liquid- or gas-fueled heating equipment.



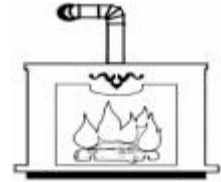
Source: NFPA's *Home Heating Fire Patterns and Trends*

Is Your Home Fire Safe?

Not sure? Call the Hartsdale Fire Department and we will stop by and do a home fire safety check. We will check for common hazards, as well as ensure that you have enough smoke detectors and fire extinguishers, and they are in the correct locations. We will also help you formulate a home escape plan. Call today for an appointment!!!

Safety Tips:

- When buying a new space heater, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory, and be sure to have fixed space heaters installed by a qualified technician, according to manufacturer's instructions or applicable codes. Or make sure a qualified technician checks to see that the unit has been properly installed.
- Keep or maintain a 36-inch clearance between space heaters and anything that can burn.
- Have wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys, chimney connectors and all other solid-fueled heating equipment inspected annually by a professional, and cleaned as often as inspections suggest. Use only wood that is properly seasoned to reduce creosote build-up.
- Make sure your fireplace has a sturdy screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room. Allow fireplace and woodstove ashes to cool before disposing in a metal container.
- Have any gas-fueled heating device installed with proper attention to ventilation. Unvented gas space heaters should not be used inside any room in your house. NFPA codes prohibit use of liquefied petroleum gas heaters with self-contained fuel supplies.
- Test smoke alarms monthly; install a carbon monoxide alarm in a central location outside each sleeping area.



**To report a fire or emergency call
911 or 949-2324**

For all other business call 949-2325

TEACH SOMEONE YOU LOVE FIRE PREVENTION

Babysitters Graduate

In October 2005, The Hartsdale Fire District graduated 21 new babysitters from its annual Baby Sitters Course, bringing to 993 the total number of babysitters graduated over the past 33 years. As a public service, a list of the current babysitters is available to you and can be picked up by stopping at Fire Headquarters at 300 West Hartsdale Ave.



When you hire a babysitter who has been trained by the Hartsdale Fire District, you can be confident knowing that they have completed 20 hours of specialized training in how to care for your child and deal with emergency situations. Special thanks to our outside staff instructors: Susan Stevenson of Creative Beginnings Nursery School, Barbara Vente R.N. from White Plains Hospital, Police Officer Peter Dandreano from Greenburgh Police, Antonino Teresi from Chef Central, and Dr. Ed Conway, Chairman of Pediatrics at Beth Israel Medical Center, who was honored for his 15 years of service to the babysitters program.

Coming and Going !

We would like to congratulate Deputy Chief Bill Raftery and Firefighter/Mechanic Ray Bailey on their recent retirements from the Hartsdale Fire Department. They both had given over 34 years of distinguished service to the fire district, and we wish them well in their retirement.



We would also like to welcome our two newest additions to the career department. The District recently hired Tim Mentrasti and Seth Granville. They are both currently attending the Westchester Career Chiefs Training Academy, also known as "Probie School", at the Fire Training Center in Valhalla. We look forward to their graduation and their joining us "on the street" serving the residents of Hartsdale. Hopefully they are starting a career that will be as long, safe and rewarding as those enjoyed by Bill and Ray.

Volunteer Profile

To continue our series of Volunteer Profiles, this issue we meet Paul Liberatore. Paul has been serving the Hartsdale Volunteer Fire Company for 4 years. He currently holds the position of Captain and Company President. Previously he held the position of Lieutenant. Paul is a lifelong resident of Hartsdale.

He is a graduate of Archbishop Stepinac High School and he recently graduated



from Pace University with a degree in Criminal Justice. Paul is by far one of our most active volunteers.

Safety Alert Coffee Maker Re-calls

Several models of automatic drip coffee makers have been re-called by their manufacturers recently for hazards including overheating and fires. The largest re-call involves 1.75 million Bunn 10 cup coffee makers, models GR-10B, GR-10W, B-10B, B-10W, and BT10-B, whose plastic components could ignite as a result of an electrical problem. If you have one of these models, unplug the appliance and call Bunn at 800-385-2652, or go to www.regcen.com/bunnrecall.



Also re-called are 529,000 KitchenAid 10- and 12- cup coffeemakers sold from January 1999 to December 2004, which could overheat and catch fire. Included are 10-cup models KCM1200B, KCM3000B, KCM120WH, and KCM300WH; and 12-cup models KCM2000B, KCM4000B, KCM200WH, KCM400WH, KCM400ER, and KCM400BU. If you have one of these models, unplug the appliance and call KitchenAid at 800-990-6255 or go to www.kitchenaid.com/repair.



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