

DCFC NEWS U CAN USE

Welcome to the Inaugural Edition of the Delaware City Fire Company Newsletter

I would like to welcome you to the 1st edition of the 2009-2010 newsletter from the Delaware City Fire Company. This is an out-reaching effort on behalf of the fire company to keep you informed of the activities and functions of your volunteer fire company.

As we are in the midst of the upcoming holiday season, I would like to take this opportunity to offer a few helpful hints to follow at your household. When purchasing your Christmas tree, be sure to pick a fresh tree and keep plenty of water around the base. Please be smart with the lights that you decide to use on the tree—do not use lights with worn insulation, broken plugs and loose sockets. Be careful when hanging several light strings together, do not overload and be sure to turn them off each night before going to bed.

In addition, please make sure your home is furnished with working smoke detectors. Unfortunately, communities nationwide experience tragic home fire injuries/deaths each year during the holiday

season due to non-operable smoke detectors. Non-working smoke detectors rob residents of the protective benefits that these home fire safety devices were designed to provide. The most commonly cited cause on these non-working smoke alarms: worn or missing batteries. Please stop in at your local volunteer fire station if your household needs any accessories to make your smoke detectors operational today!

On behalf of your fire company family, I would like to wish your family a Happy & Safe Holiday Season!!

Jamie Rosseel
Fire Chief



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To Our Communities that we Serve & Protect:

Welcome to the inaugural Delaware City Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary E-News Letter the "DCFC News U Can Use". It is our intention to bring to each of you the news and happenings of your local fire Company.

First and foremost, all of us at the Delaware City Fire Company would like to wish you and your families a Happy, Safe and Joyous Holiday Season.

Your volunteer fire company has a long and rich history dating all the way back to 1887 and we continue to add to it each and every day.

We are very fortunate to have members from our town and communities that make up your Volunteer Fire Company! Your friends and family, your neighbors and co-workers make up a group of dedicated individuals who are there for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year! When you're together during the holidays we ask that you say a simple "thank you" to those that you know who serve in your Delaware City Fire Company!

In closing, we ask if you could spread the word of our e-news letter to your neighbors, friends and families, we would greatly appreciate it. If there is anything that we can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact me at wpoppe@dcfc15.com.

Respectfully yours,
Wally Poppe, President



A Note from State Senator Bruce Ennis:

Following the resignation of the late Senator James T. Vaughn, Sr., I was fortunate to succeed him following the special election for State Senator held on November 3, 2007. I have many of you in the Delaware City area to thank for your vote of confidence in that election. As you are aware, the 14th Senatorial District spans from Delaware to south of Little Creek with over 34,000 registered voters.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

During my tenure as a State Senator and through my interactions with the residents, elected officials and the Delaware City Fire Company officers and members, I have been pleased to see the level of enthusiasm and commitment shown for public safety and quality of life of their fellow neighbors and for future generations. The moment that issues begin to arise within the Delaware City area, the Delaware City Fire Company has worked to help address those concerns head on. It is with the determination and fortitude that the Delaware City Fire Company, through its leadership and membership, will continue to play an important role in the future of Delaware.

I would be remiss not to mention the post commitment of deceased members of the Delaware City Fire Company including the death of Michelle L. Smith on December 20, 2008, who was tragically killed in the line of duty; Harry Bright, Sr. on December 23, 2008, after 70 years of service; Adolph W. Poppe, Jr. on December 27, 2008; and more recently John F. Boyer, on October 30, 2009 after 63 years of service. In respect of their service, I made sure to attend at least a portion of their funeral services held in Delaware City and the vicinity.

As your State Senator, I have the privilege of working with elected officials of Delaware City and those of the Delaware City Fire Company on your behalf and in dealing with issues involving state and federal agencies, and on legislative and civic matters. I look forward to our continued partnership even during those times that we are experiencing an unprecedented downturn in the state and nation's economy.

The recently announced loss of the Valero refinery at Delaware City and its 550 jobs is a hard blow to the 14th Senatorial District, and the State as a whole. It is hard, especially with the holidays upon us, to see our friends and neighbors losing good paying jobs that have supported their families and helped the State as well. Our heartfelt prayers go out to the families as they face the challenge of the refinery closing.

Season's Greetings!

The Ladies Auxiliary would like to take a few minutes to introduce our organization to you. We were re-organized in 1958 and our purpose then as it continues to be now is to promote a spirit of friendliness among the Ladies & Firefighters of the community and to assist the firefighters in their various activities. Our current membership consists of 40+ members under the leadership of our current officers: Nancy Migliavacca (President), Marilou Stewart (Vice-President), Nancy Thompson (Secretary), Christine Reeder (Assistant Secretary) and Sharon Rosseel (Treasurer). Our most significant source of fundraising is the catering that we offer at our beautiful banquet hall. We also do various other fundraising activities—vendor & craft shows, sub sales, basket bingos and soup sales just to name a few. Our organization is very active and always in need of new members. If interested in joining our organization see one of our members as we would like the opportunity to personally introduce you to us. Until the next newsletter, we would like to leave you with this "Recipe for Friendship" - Take 2 cups of patience, 1 heart full of love, 2 handfuls of generosity, 2 cups of loyalty, 1 cup of understanding, and a dash of laughter. Mix all ingredients well. Sprinkle generously over a lifetime and serve to everyone you meet.

From Our Kitchen to Yours—Delaware City Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary

Check out what the Delaware City Fire Company can offer you

- A state of Delaware Pension plan—based on 10 years of service to be vested
- State of Delaware Income Tax Credit—based on yearly active status
- Funeral Service Benefits—Based on years of eligibility
- Free fire, rescue and emergency medical services training provided
- State of the art firefighting equipment and apparatus
- State of the art exercise equipment
- College scholarships—Delaware Volunteer Firefighters Association & New Castle County Firefighters association—application process with both organizations
- Community partnerships—Fire company and ladies auxiliary actively participates in:
 - Relay for Life
 - Special Olympics Plane Pull and Run to the Plunge
 - Pediatric Cancer Walk



(Continued on page 4)

A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to insure a safe happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Preventing Christmas Tree Fires—movie segments demonstrating how fast a live Christmas tree can become fully engulfed in flames. Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly grass.

Selecting a Tree for the Holiday—Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree—Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree—Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by making it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Holiday Lights

Maintain Your Holiday Lights—Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets—Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires—they should not be warm to the touch. **Do Not Leave Holiday Lights Unattended.**

Holiday Decorations

Use Only Nonflammable Decorations—All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

Never put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace—It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.

Artificial Christmas Trees—If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Candle Care

Avoid Using Lit Candles—If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree—Do not go near a Christmas Tree with an open flame—candles, lighters or matches.

Finally as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help and remember to practice your home escape plan.

www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/holiday.shtm

Delaware City Fire Company will be having Poker Nights the 4th Friday of each month beginning January 22nd. Poker nights will run from 7PM—12AM.



Delaware City Fire Company 2009 Responses:

Fire/Rescue Responses: 488

Fire/Rescue Responses for November: 49



EMS Responses for 2009: 1380

EMS Responses for November: 103

Please properly display your house numbers. Some helpful hints to help us to reach you in case of an emergency:

House: The best place is near the front door and within the radius of the porch light. Above the front door is usually a good spot. Any location close to the door and above eye level is good.

Mailbox: (street): The number needs to go on the side that faces traffic. Show it horizontally. It's good to post it on the non-traffic side also.

The mailbox door is a bad place. Don't put the number on the non-traffic side unless you have it on both sides.

Street Curb: The number should be painted about two feet from the driveway in the direction of the house. Most paintings are inexpensive. If the driveway has a curb of its own, this is fine as long as the number faces traffic.

Avoid having it down the road from the driveway. Please don't park your car in front of the number. Keep it clean from leaves and dirt to maintain visibility.

It's better to have the number in all three places—house, mailbox and curb. If one number is obstructed, we can see the others.



In conjunction with the Delaware Volunteer Firefighters Association the Delaware City Fire Company offers free smoke detectors and batteries.

Brochures describing recommended installation practices are also available in English and Spanish. Persons requiring assistance with installation or replacement are encouraged to stop in or call us at 834-9336

Congratulations.....

The officers and members of the Delaware City Fire Company would like to congratulate the following members who have taken active leadership roles in the *New Castle County Firefighters Association*: Secretary Debbie Watson and Trustee Jim Watson, and in the *New Castle County Ambulance Association*; 1st Vice President John Atkinson, Treasurer Debbie Watson, Secretary Nancy Brannock and Director Chris Moores, in the *Delaware State Fire Chiefs Association*, Director Wally Poppe and in the *Delaware State Ambulance Association*, Secretary Mike McMichael and Asst. Secretary John Atkinson.

Our softball team had a 3rd place finish in the 26th Annual Seaford Fire Department Softball Tournament that benefits the Chester Crozer Burn Foundation. They followed that up with a runner up finish in the Annual Cecilton, MD Fire Company Softball Tournament.

During the past year, your Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary captured the following awards at the Annual Firefighters Conference:

- 2nd Best Appearing Fire Company without Music
- 2nd Best Appearing Honor Guard
- 2nd Best Appearing Fire Prevention Float
- Best Appearing Engine (Engine 15-5 for the 2nd year in a row)
- Best Appearing Ambulance (B-15)
- 6th Best Appearing Ladies Auxiliary

Also, EMS Supervisor, John Atkinson was recognized by the Delaware State Chiefs Association for his heroism during the tragic accident that claimed the life of our member Michelle Smith and Fire Policeman Jasper Lakey was honored as the Delaware State Police New Castle County Fire Policeman of the Year.

