

DCFC NEWS U CAN USE

Welcome to the Delaware City Fire Company Newsletter

Volume 1, Edition 9

Hello Again,

I would like to welcome you once again to the Delaware City Fire Company "News-U-Can-Use" News-Letter. This internal program continues to be an outreach 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!!!

Respectfully,
Jamie Rosseel,
Fire Chief



Contact Information:

Address:

815 5th Street
PO Box 251
Delaware City,
DE
19706

Emergencies: 911

Phone: 834-9336

Hall Rentals: 392-
1783

Fax: 834-9126

www.dcfc15.com

President:

Wally Poppe

Chief:

Jamie Rosseel

Ladies President:

Nancy Migliavacca

As some of you might already know, it takes a special type of person to give back to their community. We are very fortunate to have several members who also serve as Officers in some of the County and State Fire Service Associations.

Our current 2nd Vice President Mike McMichael serves as the Secretary of the State Emergency Medical Services Association. Mike is also a Past President of this Association. Mike travels up and down the state on a daily basis attending meeting after meeting. He also is currently serving as one of the Co-Chairman of the Annual Firefighters Conference.

Our EMS Supervisor John Atkinson is serving his 2nd term as President of the County Ambulance Association. John is also involved in many County and State committees. Our Secretary Deb Watson and member Nancy Brannock serve as Treasurer and Secretary respectively, positions they have held for numerous years. Our Engine Captain, Bill Kiger, was recently installed as a Director in this Association.

Director David Carpenter was also recently installed as a Director in the County Chiefs Association.

The husband and wife tandem of Jim and Deb Watson serve the parent organization of the County, the Firefighters Association. Jim was re-elected as a Trustee and Deb re-elected as Secretary. Both are also involved with the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Eastern Division and the Cumberland Valley Firefighters Association, traveling the Eastern States representing our fire company and the State of Delaware.

Past President Jasper Lakey is very active in all of the Associations in the County and regularly attends their monthly meetings. Jasper also travels up and down the state attending various State and other County meetings.

We are extremely proud of these members and all of our members that continue to strive to give all of you the best possible Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services they can. We are Volunteers that take the pleasure and pride in lending a helping hand when needed.

I wish all of you, all of the dedicated men, women and their families of the Delaware City Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Respectfully,
Wally Poppe
President



Season's Greetings!

Wow, the Christmas season is here already. We're sure everyone is busy preparing for the perfect holiday. So with this in mind, we would like to share with you "The 12 Days of Holiday Safety" tips to protect your family this season.

Day 1—Talk to your kids about safety. Teach them not to touch electric lights, cords or decorations.

Day 2—Read an article on Safetyathome.com on ladder safety before you hang decorations.

Day 3—Examine your lights for wear—kids can help point out unlit bulbs, but they shouldn't handle the strands.

Day 4—If you have a live tree, set a family tree-watering plan and let your kids participate if they are old enough.

Day 5—Check your holiday decorations to make sure that they are not a choking hazard.

Day 6—Turn pot handles inward when cooking to avoid being grabbed by kids.

Day 7—Review your fire escape plan. Do any of your holiday decorations block any essential exits?

Day 8—Learn what a UL Mark looks like and teach your kids to find them on products.

Day 9—If you are using candles and matches during the holidays, check to be sure they are stored in a locked cabinet or well away from children.

Day 10—Test your smoke alarm. Need new batteries? Replace them.

Day 11—Recycle wrapping paper into cards or tags and use again.

Day 12—Recycle your live tree at a recycling center.

We hope you keep these safety tips in mind as you continue your preparations and would like to wish everyone a very Safe & Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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

We are always looking for volunteers! Stop in and see what we are all about or visit us at www.dcfc15.com. We are more than just a Volunteer Fire Company; we are friends and families working together for our community!

Let us never forget our fallen sister, Michelle Newton Smith who was tragically taken away from all of us on December 22, 2008. We miss your smile, we miss your outgoing personality, we miss your friendship and most of all we miss you!



In Loving Memory

Firefighter
Michelle Smith
Delaware City
Fire Company



Snow Shoveling Safety Tips



Snow shoveling is no different than any other physical activity. For your own safety, ask your doctor if he feels snow shoveling is safe for you.

Shoveling snow can be a serious health safety risk if you have a history of heart related illness. High blood pressure and high cholesterol are risk factors as well.

Cigarette Smokers get short of breath quite easily. Shortness of breath will make your heart pump faster, increasing your risk of heart attack.

If you are a senior citizen or you are simply out of shape, it would be wise to hire someone to do your shoveling for you. Concern for your own safety is nothing to be ashamed of.

Before starting to shovel, be sure you have warmed up properly. Try using the same type of stretching you do before your regular exercise routine.

Start slowly, work at a steady pace and take frequent breaks. Shoveling snow rapidly for long periods at a time will compromise your safety.

When you are shoveling snow be sure to remain hydrated. Dehydration can cause dizziness and fainting as well as more serious health issues.

Choose a small shovel, so you are not lifting as much snow. Snow may appear light and fluffy, but it can get quite heavy when it starts to melt. A curved handle shovel is designed to take the strain off your back.

Plastic shovels weigh less than metal and snow is not as likely to stick to them. These factors add less weight to your load. Spray the blade with a lubricant to keep snow from sticking.

Stand with your feet apart slightly and bend your knees as you lift. Twisting your body while lifting can cause injury. Your feet should point in the direction you are lifting and throwing in.

If it is cold outside, wear multiple layers for insulation, and so that you can shed layers if you become overheated. Be sure to cover your extremities to guard against frostbite.

Avoid drinking caffeinated beverages and energy drinks. These can elevate your heart rate, increasing your risk for heart attack.

Free Smoke Detectors and Batteries

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.

Delaware City Fire Company Recycles

Have used printer cartridges you don't know what to do with? Drop them off at the Delaware City Fire Company. The fire company earns money for each cartridge returned. Consider helping out not only the fire company, but the environment as well.

Delaware City Fire Company Responses:

Our year for Fire/Rescue/EMS Responses is between November 1st till October 31st.

Fire/Rescue Responses for November:	46
Fire/Rescue Responses for Year 2010-2011:	46
EMS Responses for November:	133
EMS Responses for Year 2010-2011:	133



Keep Fireplaces & Wood Stoves Clean

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces. Leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplace, otherwise you may cause creosote buildup that could lead to a chimney fire.
- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.

Safely Burn Fuels

- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire
- Use only seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup.
- Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris in your fireplace or wood stove.
- When building a fire, place logs at the rear of the fireplace on an adequate supporting grate.
- Never leave a fire in the fireplace unattended. Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home.

Protect the Inside of Your Home

- 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.
- Provide proper venting systems for all heating equipment.
- Extend all vent pipes at least three feet above the roof.

(Courtesy of the United State Fire Administration Office of Fire Management Programs)



Beef & Beer Comedy Night

Delaware City Fire Company Memorial Hall

Saturday, January 29th, 2011, 7PM – 1AM

\$30 a person/\$55 a couple

**Price includes – Roast Beef, Potato Salad, Cole
Slaw, Beer, Wine & Soda**

**Dancing after Comedy Tour – Music provided by DJ
Albert**

Call 302-838-1383 for tickets

Comedy provided by Comedy Blast, Inc.