

# Fire Lines

News from Greater Brighton Fire

## Letter from the Chief

Dear Resident:

Over the past year your Fire District has been very active in pursuing various grants to help assist us in serving you. Under the coordination of Division Chief John Schissler, the Fire District applied for and received more than \$1 million in grant awards in 2008!

These grants will provide for the replacement of aging equipment, additional training, and the hiring of three career Firefighter/EMT's. All of these significant improvements would not have been possible without the grants awarded.

The Fire District serves an area of 164 square miles from five fire stations. Each station has at least three Firefighter/EMT's assigned each day. These career personnel are augmented by a volunteer reserve staff. In 2008, the District responded to more than 3,600 medical and fire incidents.

We also maintain a Fire Prevention Bureau staff that includes a Fire Marshal, Fire Protection Engineer, Fire Inspector, and Public Safety Educator. In addition, our fleet mechanic maintains our vehicles and motorized equipment.

In the last year, our personnel have participated in the various community events throughout the District. Firefighters also volunteered at the Help for Homes project, raised money for Muscular Dystrophy, and contributed to a food bank, to name a few ventures.

As always, please stop by any fire station and the firefighters will be happy to show you around and answer any questions you may have. We are here for you!

Mark A. Bodane  
Fire Chief

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## Traveling Safely with Children

Choosing a car seat for your child can be one of the most difficult things you will do. It's complicated, frustrating, and lets face it, they are expensive.

The reality is that your child needs a proper safety seat to be as safe as possible while riding in a vehicle. However, the most common factor that influences a parent's decision on a carseat is fabric design. Note: This has nothing to do with safety! So if you are in the market for a carseat, here are some pointers on how to select the right seat for your child.

First, every seat that is being sold has to meet the same safety standards as set forth by the Federal government. That means they all have to be crash tested at the same speeds and with the same weight crash test dummies. Translation: A \$100 seat is just as safe as a \$300 seat if used properly.

The difference in price for most of those expensive seats has more to do with materials used and fabric type than it does actual safety. That's not to say that those pricey carseats aren't nice. Sure they are comfy for your child and they have some fun features, but just because they cost more does not mean they are safer.

So how do you know if you have the right seat for your child? First, check the labeling on the seat itself. Make sure your child is within the weight and age limits for that particular seat. If it is either a convertible (can face forward or backward) or combination seat (use with our without 5-point harness) make sure you are within the limits for the way you are using that seat.

You should also fit test the seat to your car. If you have a car with a very small back seat and know that you won't be able to fit two large

seats for your two children in there, then you'll need to find a seat that will be safe for your child and will fit into your vehicle. Not all carseats fit well in all cars. Places like Babies 'R Us will almost always let you try a seat in your car prior to purchase, you just have to ask.

Finally, when you have made the plunge and bought that dreaded carseat, you have to install it properly for your child to be safe. You can always make an appointment to have a certified technician help you if you have trouble getting it installed. Please call 303-659-4101 to make your appointment.



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## Carbon Monoxide

Due to the recent tragedies from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, many people are trying to figure out just what CO is. In short, carbon monoxide is a gas that is produced by incomplete combustion. Anytime a fuel burns, whether in a wood stove, car, furnace, water heater or campfire, CO is produced.

The next question is, why is CO so harmful? It is harmful because it displaces the oxygen in your blood and you can't see it or smell it. When you inhale CO, those molecules attach to your red blood cells more readily than oxygen molecules. Your blood then delivers the CO to cells that are expecting new oxygen. When the oxygen doesn't arrive, the cells start dying. The other problem is that CO remains in your system. Therefore, small amounts of CO over a long period of time are just as dangerous as large amounts over a short period.

Some common symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to that of the flu or food poisoning. You'll feel dizzy, restless, have mental confusion, severe headaches, fatigue and fainting. Your skin may also turn bright red. Eventually CO poisoning can cause death.

The best way to protect your family against this deadly gas is to install CO alarms in your home. The best placement for a CO alarm is near bedrooms, and this is the #1 priority if you only put

one alarm in your home. Ideally, you should have a CO alarm on each level of your home as well. Carbon monoxide mixes with air fairly evenly, so plug-in models are as good as models that are integrated into smoke alarms. You also need to properly maintain your alarms. If your alarm has a battery backup, you should change the batteries at least once per year to make sure they are good.

If the alarm activates, you and your family should leave your home immediately and call 9-1-1 from outside your home. Grab pets as well, if you can do so quickly.

Calling 9-1-1 is especially important if you have any symptoms of CO poisoning. If you experience the symptoms mentioned earlier, and your alarm has not gone off, or you don't have an alarm, you should seek medical attention.

**Any safety technology such as a smoke alarm or CO alarm is only useful if it is properly maintained.**



## Your Family's Fire Plan: Is it Realistic?

The first question is, do you have a plan for your family if a fire occurs in your home? If the answer is yes, the second question is, is your plan realistic? For instance, do you expect your older child to get a toddler out safely?

The truth of the matter is that fire is hot, it is dark and it is really scary. I don't expect you to say this to your kids, but your family's plan should be based on the reality that fire moves fast and it's probably the most frightening thing that can happen to your family in your home. Also, your plan and the plan your kids have might be quite different.

A good way to get a feel for your child's grasp on fire reality is to ask them what they would do if there was a fire and they couldn't get out of their bedroom. You might be surprised by the answer.

The fire department expectation is that they open the window and throw toys and clothes out to make a pile of items that will alert the firefighters that they are there.

However, when we visit schools every October we get several kids who think they will throw their mattress out the window and jump on it, or they'll tie their sheets together and go out onto a roof, then a car, and then the driveway.

This last statement is always the most disturbing because most kids tell us their parents told them that's what they should do. If you have told your child something similar to this, you may want to rethink your reasoning. If safety is your first concern, then what if the roof is icy? Or what if there just happens to be no car there, or worse yet, what if the

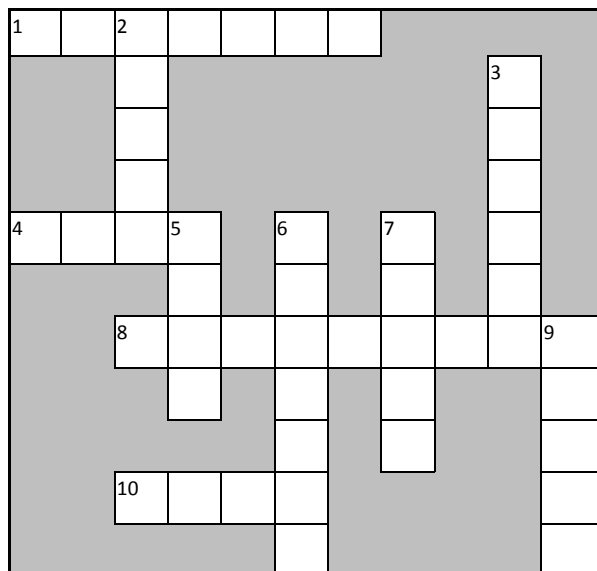
fire started in the garage and the roof they are climbing onto is ready to collapse?

There are other options to keep your family safe. Practicing escaping the house at the first alert of a smoke detector is the best way. You can also use the checklist on page three to try to prevent a fire in your home. Finally, check your smoke detectors often and keep fresh batteries in them.

A working smoke detector increases a family's chance of survival in a fire by 50%.



## Kids Section...Fire Safety Crossword



**ACROSS:**

- 1. These help keep your home warm, but children should not play by them.
- 4. This is used for light, and you should never drape anything over it.
- 8. You should change these in your smoke alarm every 6 months.
- 10. This is hot and dark, and if you have one in your house you need to get outside.

**DOWN:**

- 2. This sounds a warning if there is smoke.
- 3. This is what you should do if there is a fire in your home.
- 5. You and your family should practice an escape \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6. Kids should never play with these.
- 7. These plug into the wall and kids should never play with them.
- 9. A fire makes a lot of this, which makes it hard to breathe and to see.

See if you can get all the answers to the fire safety crossword. All the words have to do with fire or safety.

Across: 1. heaters, 4. lamp, 8. batteries, 10. fire. Down: 2. alarm, 3. escape, 5. plan, 6. matches, 7. cords, 9. smoke

## Family Home Hazard Inspection Checklist

You can play an important role in prevention and safety in your home. Search your home for dangers and if you have any "NO's" make sure you correct them.

- |   | YES | NO  |
|---|-----|-----|
| 1. Can you see your house numbers from the street?  | ___ | ___ |
| 2. Do you have the emergency phone numbers on your telephone?   | ___ | ___ |
| 3. Do you have your address on your telephone?  | ___ | ___ |
| 4. Does everyone in the family know the number to call for an emergency?  | ___ | ___ |
| 5. Do you have at least one fire extinguisher in your home?   | ___ | ___ |
| 6. Do you know how to put out a grease fire? How?   | ___ | ___ |
| 7. Are all the electrical cords in your house in good condition? <i>Unplug before checking!!</i>                          | ___ | ___ |
| 8. Do you have only one cord in an outlet?  | ___ | ___ |
| 9. Does your family have a plan to show how each one of you would escape from any room in the house in case of fire?      | ___ | ___ |
| 10. Does your family practice regular fire drills?  | ___ | ___ |
| 11. Can you find the nearest exit in the dark? Try it!  | ___ | ___ |
| 12. Do you have a meeting place so you will know everyone is outside and safe?  | ___ | ___ |
| 13. Do friends staying overnight know your family escape plan?  | ___ | ___ |
| 14. Do you practice Stop, Drop and Roll?  | ___ | ___ |
| 15. Do you test your smoke alarms at least once a month?  | ___ | ___ |
| 16. Do you change the batteries in your smoke detectors twice a year?   | ___ | ___ |
| 17. In the kitchen, is the stove clean and uncluttered, and does an adult stay close the whole time something is cooking? | ___ | ___ |
| 18. Are matches and lighters locked up and away from children?  | ___ | ___ |
| 19. Are paints, gasoline and other flammable liquids stored away from heat, flame and sparks and outside the house?       | ___ | ___ |

## Summer Fun: Barbecue and Summer Safety

What better way to welcome the warm months than to fire up the grill and throw on some steaks. The winter snowstorms are all but over for now and in comes spring.



sure everyone has on a helmet, even toddlers in trailers.

Before you fire up your grill for the first time, be sure to check under and in it for any small animal nests or beehives. A covered grill is a perfect place out of the weather for small animals to make a home during the winter.

With the warm months looming before us, many families are gearing up for all the fun the warm days will bring.

Whether you are going for a family bike ride or inviting friends over for a summer barbecue, make sure you are being safe. When you go on that family bike ride, make

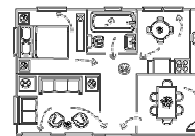
If you and your family enjoy water sports, be sure everyone in the water has on a life vest. Life vests are not one-

size-fits-all. They are made for specific weights, especially where children are concerned. Read the tags before you allow your child in the water to make sure he/she is within the proper weight limits for the vest you have.

Have a safe and fun summer!



**Keep your grill at least 3 feet from any structure or flammable area while cooking.**



Having an escape plan can save precious time during a fire

**GREATER BRIGHTON  
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

425 South Main Street  
Brighton, CO 80601

Phone: 303-659-4101  
Fax: 303-659-4103  
Email: [comments@gbfpd.org](mailto:comments@gbfpd.org)

Watch for information about our annual open house events in September. You can visit your local fire station and meet your firefighters.

Check us out on the web:  
[www.gbfpd.org](http://www.gbfpd.org)



## CPR and First Aid Classes



The Greater Brighton Fire Protection District and Platte Valley Ambulance will be offering CPR and First Aid classes to the public on the second Saturday of January, April, July and October of each year.



**Cost:** \$30 CPR, \$20 First Aid (\$50 for both) Fee includes your certification card upon completion of the class.

**When:** 2009 classes will be July 11th and October 10th

**Where:** July 11—Platte Valley Medical Center Conference Room  
October 10—TBD

**Time:** 8 am - 5 pm  
CPR will be held in the morning from 8 am - 12 pm and First Aid will be from 1 pm - 5 pm. You can sign up for one or both of the classes.

To register, please call 303-659-4101. Pre-payment is required by cash or check. Class size is limited.



## Happy July 4th!

Since the 4th of July is just around the corner, I wanted to take a minute to talk about fireworks.



Most families get some type of fireworks for use at home on July 4th. Please remember that within the City limits the only allowed fireworks are those that do not leave the ground and do not include a loud pop or bang.

Also, don't let your young children help you light the fireworks. It seems this should be common sense, but injury statistics reported every year say otherwise.

Remember to keep water nearby while lighting any fireworks and completely douse all used fireworks and lighting materials before discarding. By making some simple decisions and thinking

**Fire departments respond to more than 50,000 fire set by fireworks every year.**

ahead, you and your family will have an awesome and safe July 4th!