

Fire Lines

News from Greater Brighton Fire

Inside this issue:

Grilling and Fireworks Safety	2
Bicycle Safety	2
Kid's Section, find the hazards	3
Home Hazard Checklist	3
Potted Plants	3
Emergency Preparedness Classes	4
Chemical Roundup Informa-	4

Letter From The Chief

Dear Resident:

So far this year we have had a number of significant residential fires. I want you to know that the men and women of your fire district do an outstanding job of handling emergencies. They train on a regular basis for the many different situations that will be encountered. I am very proud to be part of this organization and work with these dedicated individuals.

You may see fire engines and crews visiting buildings throughout the fire district

from time to time. The firefighters are in the process of conducting pre-fire planning of every business structure in the district. This is an important part of our job – to prepare for emergencies before they happen. Having a pre-fire plan for buildings provides firefighters with vital information they need to provide better response and protection.

The District recently completed a fire station location study. The purpose of the study was to identify the best locations of future fire stations based on response

times. While constructing additional fire stations is not planned in the near future, it is important to identify and secure locations before growth resumes.

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

Board of Directors

- Julie Blair - President
- Scott Gerhardt - Vice-President
- Tom Janich - Treasurer
- Arlin Riggi - Secretary
- Frank Serafini - Assistant Secretary

Recap of 2007 and early 2008...

In 2007, Greater Brighton Fire Protection District responded to a total of 3,526 incidents. This can be anything from fires to a fire alarm that turns out to be a malfunction.

Fire calls in 2007 increased by 7.5% from 2006, EMS calls increased by 17.5% and rescue type calls increased by 49%. Fire crews were also able to achieve the goal of a 5

minute response time at least 90% of the time within the city limits and a 9 minute response time at least 90% of the time for locations outside the city limits.

For more information on all call statistics, please visit our website at www.gbfpd.org and see our entire 2007 annual report.

In April of this year, GBFPD received a new

Smeal Pumper that is housed at Station 53 (120th and Buckley). The pumper holds 1000 gallons of water and has a 1500 gpm pump. The \$356,000 apparatus was delivered in April and was put into service on the evening of May 8, 2008.



A Wetting Ceremony was held to christen the new apparatus and as a welcome to the fleet.

Summer Celebrations

The 4th of July marks a change in the weather and for many people, it means spending more time outside. Maybe it means having family barbecues or big gatherings with friends.

If you are planning a summer barbecue, we would like to encourage you to follow some simple tips to help you enjoy your barbecue safely.



If you have a charcoal grill, purchase the proper starter fluid and keep it and matches out of reach of children. Never add starter fluid after coals have ignited.

If you have a propane grill, check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before starting it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will reveal any escaping propane by releasing bubbles. If you determine your grill has a leak, turn off the propane tank and the grill. If the leak stops, have the grill looked at by a service professional before using it. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.

If you smell gas while grilling, move away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.

Keep all barbecue grills at least 5 feet from structures and bushes or shrubs. Designate the grilling area as a “No Play Zone” and keep all kids and pets away until grill and equipment are completely cool.

If you plan on having a 4th of July celebration that includes fireworks, please be safe. Keep in mind that the City of Brighton has an ordinance that any fireworks that leave the ground or include a report (pop/bang) are unlawful. Children should be at a safe distance while fireworks are being ignited; and NEVER let children use lighters or matches to light fireworks, no matter how responsible you think they are.



In 2006 there were 9,200 injuries and 11 deaths from unsafe use of fireworks..

Summertime should be a fun and happy time for families when the weather is warm and there are more hours of daylight and families can spend time together. Make sure your family only has good memories this year.

Firefighters respond to approximately 50,000 fires caused by fireworks each year.

What is wrong with this picture?



Obviously, there are more than a few things wrong with this picture, but the most important thing is that he is not wearing his helmet. He does, however, have it strapped to the bike. Either it was getting in the way of his talking on the phone, or he truly thought it would protect his bike if he put it there.

Every year in the U.S. bicycling-related injuries result in approximately 800 deaths and 1.2 million visits to physicians. Children ages 5-14 years of age have the highest injury rates. The majority of fatalities from bicycle accidents are due to traumatic brain injury. Helmets prevent serious injuries, decreasing the risk of a brain injury by 88% and head injuries by 85%.

Unfortunately, helmet use continues to be low among chil-

dren. Everyone should be wearing a helmet when riding bikes, scooters, rollerblades or skateboards. Even adults are not exempt, and as parents or caregivers, we should be an example to young children.

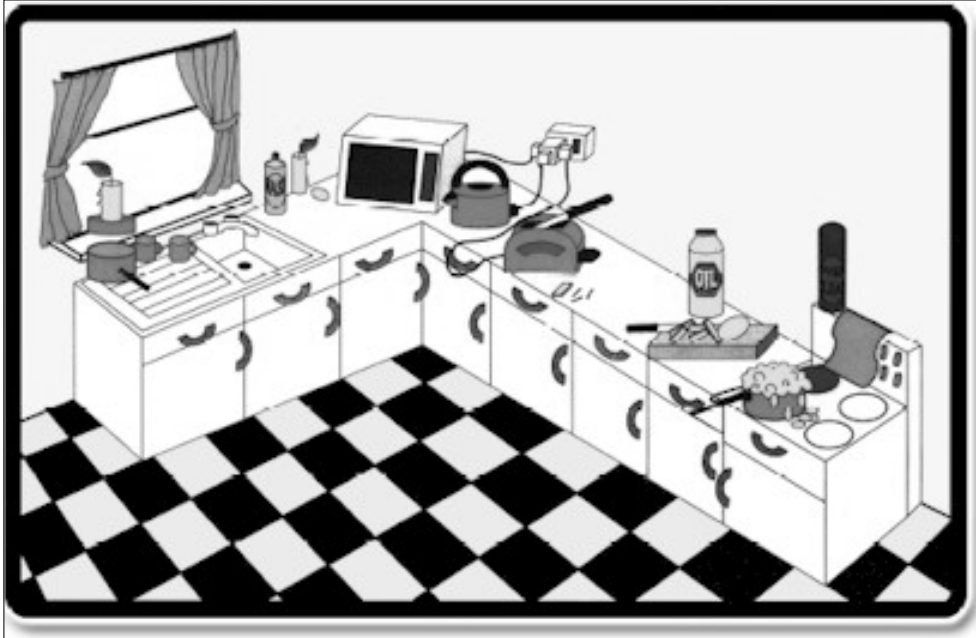
Wear your helmet and especially make sure that any children in your life are wearing helmets. Even if they are just riding a tricycle. Good habits start young.

Here are some tips to make sure that you have a proper fit: Remember by saying the tongue twister “straight, strap, snug, snap.”

- **Straight** - Helmet should be *straight (or level)* with the ground
- **Strap** - helmet straps should form a “V” around your ears
- **Snug** - Helmet should be snug so it doesn’t move around
- **Snap** - Helmet strap should always be *snapped*

Please keep yourself and your family safe this summer while playing outdoors!

Kids Section...What's wrong with this picture?



Look at the picture and see if you can find the problems. There are 10 things wrong with this picture. Any of them can start a fire if they happen in your home.

1. Candle too close to curtain. 2. Candle wax on work surface. 3. Toaster cable hanging over drawer handle. 4. Overloaded electric socket. 5. Knife stuck in toaster.

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. Do you know how to call the Fire Department in an emergency? | ___ | ___ |
| 5. Is there a fire extinguisher hanging by a door 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? Unplug before checking!! | ___ | ___ |
| 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 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? | ___ | ___ |

Potted Plants Do Not Make Good Ashtrays

You may be thinking that plants are potted in dirt, and dirt isn't flammable. Well, that's only part true.

Today, many potting soils sold in stores are a mixture of several different products that are not dirt. The various products found in potting soil can be: shredded wood, bark and peat moss, but minimal amounts of real "dirt". Styrofoam pellets, perlite and vermiculite are often added for aeration. Also, the potting soil may include different types of fertilizers,

which can cause a fire to grow more rapidly if one does start.

To prevent this type of fire at your home, follow these simple tips:

- Keep your potted plants moist
- Keep an ashtray near where people might be smoking

- Throw out dead plants and spread the potting soil in your yard or garden
- If you store potting soil, do not store it near any combustible materials

When you smoke, please use an ashtray, not your plant pots.

This year alone, fires from discarded smoking materials in potted plants have cost \$1 million worth of property damage and the loss of one life in Arvada.



Having an escape plan can save precious time during a fire

Greater Brighton
Fire Protection District

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GBFPD is currently made up of 5 fire stations with 46 full-time career firefighters, 19 volunteer firefighters and 10 "other" staff that include Chief Staff, Administrative Staff, Maintenance Staff and Fire Prevention Staff.

Check out our website:
www.gbfpd.org



Be Ready for an Emergency, Free Classes

The City of Brighton Office of Emergency Management will be offering several "Be Ready" classes this summer and fall. These are 8 hour awareness level classes that include information on Colorado Natural Disasters, Home Security, Personal Safety, Fire Prevention & Safety, Hazardous Materials, Evacuation, Shelter In Place. All classes are free, and you are asked to bring your own lunch.

The following dates still have available openings and are open to the general public:

◆Saturday, September 20, 2008
Brighton Police Department
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

◆Saturday, November 1, 2008
Brighton Senior Center
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Class size is limited to 40, so please get registered ASAP if you plan to attend one of the classes.

To Register for the classes:
Email Rebecca Martinez at rmartinez@brightonco.gov
Or Call (303) 655-2316



Household cleanup...safely

This time of year means cleaning out closets and storage rooms for a lot of people. Sometimes during that process you might come across chemicals that should not be thrown out with your trash. Please visit a local Chemical Roundup to properly dispose of certain types of waste.



Some of the items that will be accepted are household, garden or pool chemicals, paint products, automotive fluids, fuels, propane tanks (1-20 lbs), batteries, mercury, or auto tires (remove from rim). Some items will require a fee, please check the Tri-County Health Department website to find out more about the fees and items that will not be accepted.

- ◆June 28th @ Adams County Fair Grounds
- ◆Sept. 13th @ K-Mart (104th/Marion)

For more information go to:
<http://www.tchd.org/householdchemical.htm>