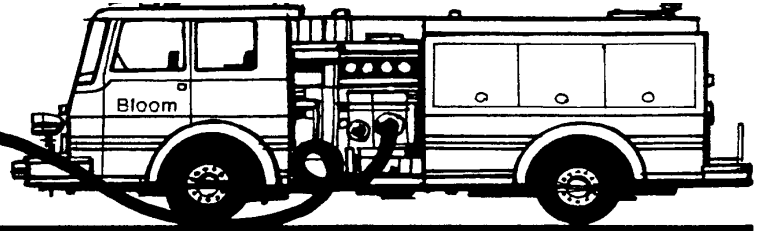


Fireline
Bloom Twp.
Firefighters Association



Your Fire Department

The Bloom Township fire department is here for you. Everyday our efforts are aimed at doing the best job we can for the residents of the township. Our department mission statement commits us to some basic, yet important ideals: the preservation of life, property, and the environment by effectively and efficiently meeting the emerging public safety and welfare needs of our diverse community. We will accomplish this by maintaining the highest standards of professional service through prevention of harm, surviving the environment, and "being nice"! In a 2001 USA Today poll, fire fighters were number 1 out of 10 listed occupations for ethics and honesty. Firefighters are in the "worst day of your life" business. Our job is to improve, calm and/or prevent these days of chaos for you. Your department consists of men and women who love this job we do. The commitment level is high. We have 45 members, a combination of full time, part time and volunteers. The members are so committed to their profession that a third of them work other departments on their off time. Twenty percent of them are state certified instructors in the fire and/or emergency medical service. What does this mean to you? This means knowledge and experience levels that rival other larger fire departments in the area. Thank you for the privilege to serve you, the Bloom Township Residents.



What You're Saying

After each call we want to make sure that you received the best care possible. We believe that our members are among the best in the area for providing professional, caring treatment in all of your emergencies. To ensure that we are accomplishing this goal, if you receive a questionnaire following your emergency, please complete and return it in the envelope provided.

The following are excerpts from incident evaluations from you the residents who have used our services.

“We have used your services often during the summer. Every time the officers have been professional and courteous. They always make a point of talking with us and checking up on the patient. Thank you.” (For Paramedics Kyle Alexander, Eric Smith and Justin Vermillion)

“You guys are the greatest. Thank you.” (For Paramedics Justin Vermillion, Eric Wilson and Zach Zinkon)

“We do believe that they saved his life. God bless them and thank you from the bottom of our heart.” (For paramedics Eric Smith and Scott Weber)

Space Heaters Need Space

Two out of every three home heating fires in the U.S., and three of every four related deaths, are caused by supplemental heating sources such as portable and fixed space heaters, fireplaces and chimneys, according to a recently released report from the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), the international fire, building, and life safety advocate.

Every winter, firefighters know they will respond to a home fire where an entire family is threatened because supplemental heating equipment they used to stay warm was the source of fire. If heating equipment is not properly maintained, or when supplemental heating sources like space heaters are misused, tragedy can happen.

In 1998, NFPA reports there were close to 50,000 fires, hundreds of deaths, and more than 1,400 injuries involving heating equipment in the U.S.

Heating equipment is the leading cause of these home fires during the winter months, and trails only cooking equipment fires in homes year-round. It is not central home heating systems we are mostly concerned about when it comes to fires in this category; it's fixed and portable space heaters. The major types of these units are wood stoves, portable electric or gas heaters, and portable kerosene heaters.

If you have a fireplace or woodstove, have your chimney inspected every year, and when indicated, have it cleaned. One of the leading causes of fires in chimneys is creosote build-up. Creosote is a

combustible deposit of unburned fuel. It's best to use only seasoned, hard wood and never burn rubbish. A heat-tempered glass or sturdy metal fire screen will help keep stray embers from leaving your fireplace.

Space heaters need space, so you should position them at least three feet from anything that can burn. Remember that space heaters must be turned off every time you leave the room or go to sleep. A bedroom where a space heater has been working since early evening might become hotter late in the night. As blankets fly off the bed, they can land on the unit, igniting and causing an inferno as one sleeps.

What can you do to prevent home fires if you use portable space heaters? Buy a unit that carries the mark of a qualified testing lab, look for devices with automatic shutoff features, and use them safely and in accordance with the manufacturer's directions. (For kerosene heaters, where permitted by local ordinances, fuel only in a well-ventilated area, away from flames and other heat sources.)

For more information on heating and other fire safety tips, download the free fact sheets from NFPA's Web site at www.nfpa.org. By following these simple guidelines for use, space heaters will help keep your family warm and safe.

Firefighter/EMTs Needed

If you are a resident of Bloom Township and would like to volunteer as a fire fighter and EMT please stop by the Fire Department headquarters in Lithopolis. The need for personnel is especially great in the Collegeview development, where Station 552 is located. Currently we have only one volunteer making runs from this station. If you would like to volunteer please call 837-5530 and ask for the shift officer.

Congratulations

The following members have recently earned Ohio certifications.

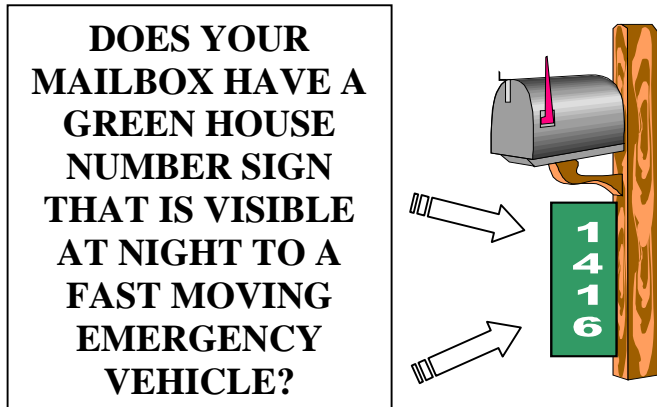
Justin Vermillion-EMT-Paramedic Eric Moyer- EMT-Paramedic Kelly Imler- EMT-Paramedic
Vance Casebolt- Firefighter I & II and EMT-B

**EVEN THOUGH YOU MIGHT BE JUST ONE
PERSON IN THIS WORLD, YOU MIGHT
MEAN THE WHOLE WORLD TO JUST ONE
PERSON. Please wear your seat belt.**

Thank you

Once again, thank you for another fantastic turnout for our annual Memorial Day fish fry. The weather and the crowd were great. Your fire fighters wish to convey our gratitude for your continued support in all that we do. The fish fry is a great tool that lets us purchase tools,

equipment, supplies and extras for the department and the fire fighters. We hope to see you all again next year.



PLEASE, WE NEED YOUR HELP

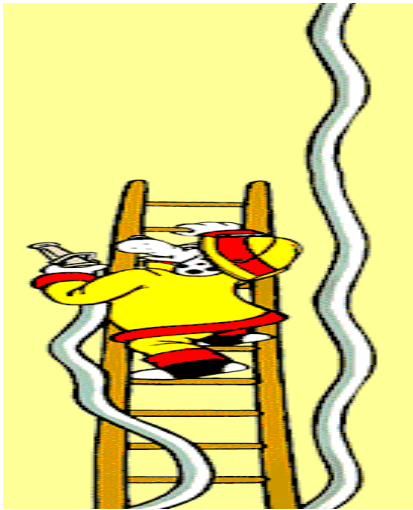
At night it is very difficult to locate residences that do not have any numbers on their mailbox. Each house should have a reflective green 9-1-1 address sign. These signs improve our emergency response time because we can find your house quicker, day or night. The signs and numbers are available at the Fire Station in Lithopolis for only \$8.00. Stop by and pick one up today. Help us reach our goal of a green sign for every house in Bloom Township.

Fire Alarm and Knox Box

If you currently have a fire alarm system or plan to purchase one, please contact your alarm company and check what contact number they currently have on file. The company needs to have the local dispatch number, not the fire department direct line. The alarm company contacting the fire station directly robs valuable minutes from the correct apparatus and manpower responding to your emergency. For the correct numbers to give to your alarm company please call station 551 at 837-5530 and ask for the shift officer.

Also alarmed businesses and residents alike may want to consider the purchase of a KNOX-BOX®. “The KNOX-BOX® Rapid Entry System provides non-destructive emergency access to commercial and residential property.” The use of a KNOX-BOX® may help you avoid damage done to your building or home while the fire department makes entry during an alarm or other emergency. For more information contact 837-5530 and ask for Inspector Joe Browett or the shift officer.

Email From Sparky



Now your child can receive an email from Sparky the Fire Dog. Just call or stop in the firehouse at 66 S. Market St. in Lithopolis, give the duty officer your email address and child's information and they will receive an email greeting from Sparky, which also serves as a safety reminder from your fire department.

Sparky® and Sparky the Fire Dog® are registered trademarks of the NFPA.



New Additions

Your Bloom Township Fire department has received a new arrival. With increased run volume and the passage of time, the need to purchase a "new" medic was necessary. We have purchased a remanufactured Braun medic on a brand new Ford E450 chassis. Since the truck is a remanufactured model, the department was able to SAVE you, the TAXPAYERS over **\$50,000** on a comparable new piece of apparatus.

We also wish to welcome the following people to the Bloom Township Fire Department Membership.

Dustin Bradbury	Christopher Lee
Christopher DeBoard	Brian Smith
Kyle Haertling	Vaughn Steinmetz
Vance Casebolt	

We Have a New Website

Please visit us at www.bloomtpw.org and click the fire department link.

Let's Keep Our Holidays Happy

Holidays are a time for family and friends to come together to celebrate. Unfortunately with cold weather and decorations, the holiday season may be a time for the danger of fires. To help keep your family and home fire safe, follow these simple rules.

1. **Unplug all of your holiday lights and blow out candles before you leave home or go to bed.**
2. Keep your live tree well watered.
3. Keep portable and space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn.

4. Be sure to use the correct fuel for space heaters.
5. Never leave cooking unattended.
6. Check your smoke and CO detectors
7. Keep holiday plants out of children's reach. Some plants may cause a rash or stomach ache, while others may be fatal if swallowed.
8. Use only UL or another reputable testing agency tested lights and decorations.
9. Clean up wrapping paper immediately and do not burn it in the fireplace.