

Fire Prevention

Click on the topic below to find out more information.

What is the history of Fire Prevention and Fire Prevention Week?

On October 9, 1871 the Great Chicago Fire occurred. This tragic conflagration killed more than 300 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2000 acres in 27 hours. The origin of the fire has generated speculation since its occurrence, with fact and fiction becoming blurred over the years. One popular legend is that Mrs. Catherine O'Leary was milking her cow when the animal kicked over a lamp, setting the O'Leary's barn on fire and starting the spectacular blaze.

While the Chicago fire receives the greatest attention, a larger, lesser known fire occurred right here in Wisconsin on the same day. The Peshtigo fire roared through Northeast Wisconsin burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended. The Peshtigo Fire is the most devastating forest fire in American history.

On the fortieth anniversary of these devastating fires, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. Ever since, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. Firefighters use Fire Prevention week as a means to emphasize the prevention messages they preach throughout the year. Each year, Fire Prevention week has a theme with the 2007 theme being "practice your escape plan." Like many departments, the Greendale Fire Department has expanded Fire Prevention Week and use the entire month of October as Fire Prevention Month to accommodate scheduling of presentations while continuing to do fire/medical training, fire inspections, maintain equipment and answer emergency calls. Nonetheless, there should be a focus on prevention and safety every day, not just during this week or month.

The Greendale Fire Safety Team

The Greendale Fire Safety Team presents one of their four original fire prevention plays at Greendale schools for children in K4 – 3rd grade. The presentations were created by members of the Greendale Fire Department and the fire prevention team members are also responsible for set creation, set-up, take down, and performances. Thanks to the following members for their participation in the Greendale Fire Safety Team and making the homes and families of Greendale students safer.

- o Lt. Brian Peterson
 - Lt. Dean Kozelek
 - Lt. Eric Campbell
 - Firefighter Kyle Kierzek
 - Firefighter Mike Wojnowski
 - Firefighter Jim Hintz

Students are also given fire escape contracts to review with their parents and family's. Firefighters collect the contracts from all students and winners are picked for prizes. Prizes include: Four children were picked up from school and won a lunch at the fire station put on by Greendale Firefighters Local 1777 (Grand Prize) Bicycles and gift certificates were donated by private donors and were given out as 2nd and 3rd prizes. Additional other prizes donated to the program were handed out.

Infant Car Seat Safety Awareness

Fire Prevention

Have you ever wondered where the safest place is for your children to ride in your car? Do you know which type of restraint your children should be in? An infant seat, a forward facing car seat, a booster seat or just a shoulder lap belt restraint? Is it installed and being used properly?

Unbelievably, statistics across the United States show a 90 to 95% incorrect usage rate! Is your child part of this statistic?

Due to high demand, this service is offered to Greendale residents. If you live outside of Greendale contact your local fire department to see if they provide this service.

Some Greendale Fire Department members are certified as installers and they will check and make recommendations for corrections to infant car safety seats. If you are a Greendale resident contact the Greendale Fire Station at 414-423-2131 to schedule an appointment.

If you are expecting a child, please plan accordingly as our technicians are not available at all times.

Blood Pressure Checks

The Fire Department is open for the public to have their blood pressure taken. The public is welcome to stop by any day of the week between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for this free service. It is recommended to call ahead to make sure we are in the station. The Greendale Fire Department station number is 414-423-2131.

CPR Classes

The public can sign up for CPR Classes through the Greendale Park and Recreation Department located at 5900 South 51st Street, 414-423-2790. Instructors are certified through the American Heart Association and are members of the Greendale Fire Department.

Juvenile Fire-Setter Program

The Greendale Fire Department is committed to prevention. However, too often an adult knows that a child or teen has a fire setting problem and does nothing about it. Then a fire occurs and the problem has possibly caused destruction, injury, or worse. The Greendale Fire Department wants to be proactive and prevent a fire from occurring and the need for the fire department to respond. Therefore, if you have or know of a child or teen that has a curiosity with fire or find them playing with matches, lighters, fire, etc. call the Fire Department at 414-423-2131 to arrange a meeting with a Juvenile Fire-Setter Officer. A counseling session which focuses on education and awareness will be arranged.

Fire Extinguisher Awareness

Presentations are available to provide informative lectures on classes of fires, extinguishing agents, and hands-on demonstration on fire extinguisher. The only time to prepare to use a fire extinguisher is before you need to use it. Fire extinguisher awareness for Greendale groups and business can be arranged by calling 414-423-2131.

Fire Station Tours

A Fire Station Tour provides an on site visit to the firehouse for children and members of the community. So, come meet the firefighters, tour the station, view the fire apparatus, see the ambulance, ask some questions, and learn more about fire prevention. Tours can be arranged by calling 414-423-2131.

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High School senior program

A school program for graduating high school seniors on safety. The program includes:

- o Video on fire safety and prevention
 - Handouts
 - Discussions about dorm, apartment, and fraternity/sorority life and fire safety
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