



Winter 2012

Public Safety Guide

Published by the Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District

ABOUT THE BCFPD

The Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District receives emergency fire and medical service from the Barrington Fire Department, which is responsible for protecting the lives and property of District residents through an intergovernmental agreement between the District and Village of Barrington. The District serves portions of Barrington Hills, South Barrington, Lake Barrington and Inverness; and portions of unincorporated Cook, Lake and McHenry Counties.

For more information on Fire District activities and events, visit www.bcfpd.org or call 847-304-3600.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The BCFPD Board of Trustees meets the third Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m., at the Barrington Public Safety Building, 400 N. Northwest Highway. Members of the public are welcome to attend.



FIRE SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES, LIMIT PROPERTY DAMAGE

Automatic sprinkler systems reduce the risk of home fire death by 83%, and can decrease fire-related property damage by more than 70%, according to a report by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

The 2010 study, "U.S. Experience with Sprinklers and Other Automatic Fire Extinguishing Equipment," also shows that fire damage to homes protected by fire sprinklers averaged \$5,000, compared to \$18,000 for those without sprinklers.

"Sprinklers are carefully designed to confine a fire to the room or area of origin," explains Barrington Deputy Fire Chief John Feit. "They are extremely effective in limiting property damage and, most importantly, saving lives."

The costs to install these systems, meanwhile, continue to drop. Sprinkler system costs nation-

wide average \$1.61 per square foot – less than the cost of new carpeting. Homeowners with fire sprinklers also qualify for insurance premium reductions.



Sprinklers reduce the risk of home fire death by 83%.

The BCFPD's longstanding support for fire sprinkler systems dates back to 1997. That's when BCFPD trustees passed an ordinance – at the time just the second in the state of Illinois – requiring the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in new residential construction.

The ordinance covers all areas of unincorporated Cook, Lake and McHenry Counties served by the District. Several of the communities that rely on the District for fire protection have also passed similar sprinkler ordinances.

"The BCFPD's longstanding support for fire sprinkler systems dates back to 1997."

IS YOUR DRIVEWAY ACCESSIBLE TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES? FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFERS ON-SITE PRIVATE PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

A property's landscaping features, such as access roads and driveway entrances surrounded by dense natural growth, may impede the ability of large fire engines and ambulances to reach District residents in cases of emergency.

To ensure that public safety vehicles have

clear access to those in need, the Barrington Fire Department offers home and business owners complimentary, on-site private property inspections.

"The Fire Department's free, on-site evaluation program helps ensure our vehicles will have enough clearance to respond in emergency situations," Deputy Fire Chief John Feit explains. "Inspectors will alert owners if property entrances are too narrow and offer suggestions to improve accessibility."

To schedule an inspection, contact the BCFPD at 847-304-3600.



A property's landscaping may not offer enough clearance for emergency vehicles.

DISTRICT GRID SIGNS HELP FIREFIGHTERS PINPOINT HOME LOCATIONS



District grid sign.

Project HELP (Home Emergency Location Plan) is a program funded by the Fire District that helps firefighters quickly and efficiently reach residents in need of emergency services.

The program provides an orderly method for identifying homes located within the Fire District. This is essential because home addresses are based on Postal

Rural Route numbers. As a result, house numbers are out of sequence in many areas.

In addition, several homes have duplicate house numbers or addresses that indicate a street different from their actual location. These situations could delay firefighters' and paramedics' response to residents in need.

Here's how it works: Each home is assigned a grid number based on its geographic location. The numbers in our area are

either North or West numbers, depending upon the overall direction of the street. These numbers are displayed on the green signs that are familiar landmarks to District residents.

In much of Lake County, these numbers were assigned by the County and are used as mailing addresses as well. In the remainder of Lake County, and in Cook and McHenry Counties, the numbers were assigned by the Fire Department and are used for emergency reference only.

Fire District officials urge residents to keep grid signs clear of foliage, debris, or other obstructions that may affect firefighters' ability to locate homes where people need help.

For more information on Project HELP, contact the District at 847-304-3600.



Obstructed grid signs, as shown here, may hinder emergency response.

KNOX-BOX RAPID ENTRY SYSTEM SPEEDS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIMES

The Knox-Box rapid entry system, currently in use by more than 130 property owners within the Barrington Countryside



A Knox-Box lets emergency personnel access a property without using force.

Fire Protection District, reduces emergency response times dramatically and enhances the Fire Department's ability to provide life-saving assistance.

A Knox-Box is a secure emergency access tool that gives first responders immediate entry to a building or property without using force. The steel

“A Knox-Box is a secure emergency access tool that gives first responders immediate entry to a building or property without using force.”

box – installed near a property's front entrance or gate – contains a “master key” that allows paramedics or firefighters to

quickly enter a home or commercial building without resorting to force.

“Seconds count when responding to a 911 call and patients in distress may not be able to unlock the door to let us in,” Deputy Fire Chief John Feit reports. “The Knox-Box system helps us administer life-saving assistance quickly to those who need it.

Residents and property owners within the District who are interested in learning more about the Knox-Box system may contact the BCFPD at 847-304-3600, or visit www.knoxbox.com.

Report Gate Touch Pad Code Updates to the Fire Department

Property owners who periodically update their gate touch pad codes should alert the Fire Department about the change. These codes are kept secure by the Fire Department and help responders reach those in need during an emergency. Call 847-304-3600.

Fire Safety Tips: Did You Know That...

Fire can consume a home in less than two minutes. Rapid escape is essential for increasing your family's odds of survival. Develop and practice a home fire escape plan.

Two-thirds of home fire deaths happen in homes with no working smoke detectors. That's why it is essential for residents to test smoke and carbon monoxide detec-

tors in their homes once per month, and replace batteries twice per year. A good rule of thumb is to replace detector batteries when changing the clocks to daylight saving time in spring, and back to standard time each fall.

Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fires and associated injuries. Stay in the kitchen when fry-

ing, grilling or broiling food. Turn off the stove if you leave the kitchen – even for a short period of time.

Automatic sprinkler systems reduce the risk of fire deaths by 80%. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) also reports that sprinklers also may decrease fire-related property damage by up to 70%.