



# Germantown Fire Department Newsletter

## Special points of interest:

- 4 Wheeler Tickets on inside of Newsletter
- Reverse Drawing Information
- Family Safety

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## FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Germantown Fire Department. As the newly elected President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kevin Essington for his 7 years of service as President. Kevin will remain on the fire department and make many contributions as a firefighter. I would also like to thank Wayne Lohman for his 19 years of service as a firefighter. Wayne has retired, thus allowing a roster spot to be filled by one of our Explorers. The GFD has promoted many Explorers to firefighter

status. This year we have again promoted one such member - Lisa Kampwerth. Lisa will carry on a long history of family dedication to the GFD.

I am pleased to announce Fr. Jim Buerster has accepted the position of Chaplin for the GFD. Fr. Jim will be offering spiritual guidance as well as a listening ear for anyone in need. Please help us welcome Fr. Jim in his new responsibility.

Over the previous years we

have been the recipients of numerous Grants. We will continue this efforts in the future with our eyes set on providing the highest quality fire protection to the residents of the Fire Protection District.

With the Shooting Match fast approaching I would also like to thank the community in advance for the continued support at our fundraising events. Thank you all for your support.

*Eric Henken*

*President*

## A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF

Welcome to the 2009 installment of the Germantown Fire Department Newsletter. Although "tornado season" has already passed, severe weather can happen almost anytime.

I would like to share some severe weather facts. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency, (IEMA) and The National Weather Service, (NWS) are alerting people to the hazards associated with severe weather. High wind from straight line winds and downbursts can cause more damage than nearly 70 percent of the tornadoes that occur in Illinois. Severe thunderstorms also produce lightning, which has killed 27 people in Illinois since 1990, according to the NWS. Most lightning deaths occur under or near trees and in open fields. There were 48 tornadoes reported in Illinois during 2008, slightly higher

than the state's average of 42 tornadoes per year. A record number of tornadoes – 124 – were reported in Illinois in 2006. While most Illinois tornadoes occur between April 1 and June 30, they can, and have, occurred in every month of the year. Nearly 30 percent of all tornadoes occur after dark, when many people are sleeping and unaware of dangerous weather approaching. IEMA and NWS strongly recommend each home be equipped with a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR), a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from a nearby NWS office. NWR broadcasts warning, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day. Besides weather informa-

tion, NWR also broadcasts warnings and post-event information for all types of hazards, including natural, environmental and public safety hazards, including such incidents as earthquakes, chemical spills and AMBER alerts. IEMA and NWS have developed a *Severe Weather Preparedness Guide*, which contains information and tips on how to keep you and your family safe when severe weather or flooding approach and what actions to take following a severe storm, tornado or flood.

The guide is available on the Ready Illinois website at [www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov) or by calling (217) 785-9888. If you have any questions, please contact me at the fire station at 523-4317, or email at [gtownfire@charter.net](mailto:gtownfire@charter.net). Thank you and stay safe!!

Chief Jeff Johnson

## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Once a child touches a hot stove, as the cliché goes—he learns his lesson, stay away from a hot stove. This cliché does not take into account the pain and suffering from burns and burns should not be part of the learning process.

That's why the Germantown Volunteer fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for Fire Prevention Week 2009 – October 4-10 – to urge residents to “Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned.” This year's campaign focuses on ways to keep homes fire safe and prevent painful burns. Additionally, fire safety educators will be teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs.

The statistics are staggering. Each year roughly 3,000 people dies as a result of home fires and burns, and more than 200,000 individuals are seen in the nation's emergency rooms for burn injuries.

The most common types of burn injuries result from fire or flame

burns, scalds and contact burns. Burns are painful and can result in serious scarring and even death. When we take extra caution in our homes to ensure that the curling iron is out of children's reach or pot handles are turned away from the edge of the stove, such injuries are entirely preventable. Keeping our homes safe from fire and preventing devastating burn injuries is a healthy change we can make happen.

By following simple safety rules, you can “Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned.”

- Keep hot foods and liquids away from tables and counter edges so they cannot be pulled or knocked over.
- Have a 3-foot “kid-free” zone around the stove.
- Never hold a child in your arms while preparing hot food or drinking a hot beverage.
- Be careful when using things that get hot such as curling irons,

oven, irons, lamps, heaters.

- Install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent a child from sticking an object in the outlet.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with a lit candle, portable heater, lit fireplace or stove, or where a hot appliance might be in use.
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Set your hot water temperature no higher than 120 degrees. Install anti-scald valves on shower heads and faucets.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years, fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record. # # #

For more information on “Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned.” visit [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org)

## ***The Germantown Fire Department Urges Residents to “Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned.”***

### HELP WHEN WE NEED IT!

The Germantown Fire Department works hard to provide the people in the community with the very best services possible. It takes a lot of training to gain the skills necessary to do this and much of our equipment is purchased with money from one of several fundraisers. Everyone knows if you need help to call 911 and help will soon be on the way, a fire truck, ambulance, police officer or all 3 will be there to help.

We are proud of what we have and what we can do with it, but on rare occasions we just don't have

what it takes to do the job, some problems require special skills, equipment or both. Did you ever wonder what happens when the fire department has to call for help? Who comes then?

The St. Clair Special Emergency Services (SES for short) is the fire departments back-up, they have specialized equipment and the personnel trained to use it, they receive funding from a number of different sources and can deploy anywhere in the U.S. Their main specialties are Hazmat and Technical rescue, (tech rescue includes trench collapse, structural

collapse, confined space rescue, rope rescue and water rescue). The SES team also has a very active K9 team with various types of rescue dogs. If your problem necessitates the help of the SES team don't be surprised if you see some familiar faces because several of our fire department members belong to this team and as the team grows more and more people from Clinton County are becoming a part of it. So even if funding or logistics keeps us from having everything we may ever need our members are still doing what they can to make sure you get help you need when you need it.

## RESIDENTIAL KEY LOCK BOX SURVEY

The Germantown Volunteer Fire Department is surveying residents to check the interest level of a residential key lock box system for residents. As more individuals within the senior community choose to live at home rather than move to retirement communities, gaining access during a medical emergency can be an issue for EMS personnel, particularly if an individual has medical or mobility difficulties. While help is always just a call away, what happens when you can't come to the door? With a residential key lock box, the fire department can respond quickly without forcing entry into your home and possibly causing damage. The system includes a temporary (door hanger) mounted secure

key lock box with house keys placed inside, and the fire department has the key needed to open the lock box. The fire department simply opens the lock box, removes the key(s) and opens the door to the residence. The fire department has the only key that will open the lock box. When the lock box is no longer needed, it can be removed. Since the lock box is temporary, the resident would not be responsible for purchase of the lock box, but a one-time rental fee would be applicable.

This is the same system that is currently in use for the fire department to gain access into several businesses in town in the event of an emergency including Germantown Elementary

School, St. Boniface Church, Kohnen A/C & Heating, Kohnen Concrete Products and the Germantown American Legion just to name a few. If you or someone that you know may be interested in a residential key lock box, or if you are a business owner, and would like more information, please contact the fire department at 618-523-4317 and leave a message, or send an email to [gtownfire@charter.net](mailto:gtownfire@charter.net). We would be happy to provide information regarding the key lock box system. More information is also available online at [www.knoxbox.com](http://www.knoxbox.com).

## EXPLORER NEWS

Well, it's time for the annual news letter report again. As usual, kids never sit still, and the same applies to our Explorers. Congratulations to Lisa Kampwerth has applied and been accepted as a regular Fire Department member. As you may recall, Lisa was an Explorer for several years and was our acting Chief this past year. We wish her good luck as an active fire department member. Our post has 11 members currently: Jarod Lohman is currently our Chief, Blake Essington is Assistant Chief, Kyle Brauer is Secretary, and Levi Wilkins is our Treasurer. Landon Schroeder, Flynn Fauke, Abby Johnson, Chris Rathmann, Jacob Endres, Ali Lakenburges, and Derek Eversgerd.

The Explorers are involved on many of the same activities and training as the regular fire department members. We also conduct our own separate training on the last Tuesday of each month.

Throughout the year we have trained on topics including SCBA usage and care, CPR certification, Automatic External Defibrillator, knot tying, basic rope rescue, pumping operations, vehicle extrication, patient packaging, and HAZMAT.

Thanks to fundraisers and generous donations we were able to send 7 Explorers up to the Explorer Cadet Fire Academy Training in Champaign, IL at U of I. The course started on June 25th and ended on June 28th. The hands-on experience and knowledge the kids gained was invaluable. The Explorer Cadet program was held at the Illinois Fire Training Institute compound. Explorers from all over the nation attended, including members from Alaska and California. It was 3 full days of hard work, but it was worth every penny!

Community involvement is very important for our organization. Explorers play an important role in all fundraisers held by the Germantown Volunteer Fire Department. The annual breakfast, shooting match, and reverse drawing are a few of the functions in which the Explorers participate. This year we will again be selling raffle tickets for a 26" flat screen LCD HDTV at the annual shooting match. Tickets will be \$5 each and will be drawn at the end of the evening. We will be sponsoring a gun safety course for the community again this year, the exact date will be available soon. We still make reflective 911 address signs on request. The cost is \$20 each.

The members of Explorer Post 240 would like to thank the GVFD, the Fire District, and our community for all the support they have received throughout the year.

GERMANTOWN  
FIRE  
DEPARTMENT

911

**We're on the Web**  
[www.germantownfire.org](http://www.germantownfire.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Shooting Match— September 27, 2009 at Schoendienst Park**
- 4 Wheeler Raffle @ Shooting Match**
- Reverse Drawing Spring 2010**
- GFD Breakfast - January 17, 2010**
- Explorer Post—Gun Safety Course - Date Pending**
- Fire Prevention Week - October 4-10, 2009**
- Guns & Hoses—Annual Softball Tournament—Oct 2nd & 3rd, 2009**

GFD  
300 Prairie  
Germantown, IL 62245

## FUNDRAISERS

**Annual Shooting Match** will be held at Schoendienst Park on Sunday, September 27, 2009. Festivities will include music food, and cold beverages. Several raffles will be held including a 2009 Polaris Sportsman 4 wheel drive 4 wheeler, a flat screen TV as well as wheel raffles. Tickets are enclosed inside the newsletter and can be returned to Germantown Trust & Savings Bank, 601 Main Street, Germantown, IL 62245 or to the Germantown Fire Department at 300 Prairie Street, Germantown, IL 62245. The rams game and NASCAR Race will be televised so come on out and enjoy the race or game with good friends cold drinks and great food!

**Reverse Drawing** will be held in Spring of 2009 stayed tuned for additional details—see your local firefighter for reserving tickets