



Bells and Whistles

Algonquin Lake in the Hills Fire Rescue Newsletter

December 2009

Merry Christmas!

INSIDE

Congratulations 1
 Candle Safety 1
 Personnel Status 2
 Statistics 2
 Birthdays 3
 Anniversaries 3
 Reflections 3



Congratulations

Andrew Pieri and his wife Tammy are the proud parents of *George Theodore* born on November 25. Baby *George* weighed in at 9 lbs. 13 oz. and is 22 ½ inches long.

Congratulations to the Pieri family.

Candle Safety

From NFPA

This is certainly the time of the year when households burn candles.

Facts and Figures*

- Candle fires reached a 19-year high of 12,540 in 1998, resulting in 157 deaths, 1,106 civilian injuries and \$176.1 million in property damage.
- Unattended, abandoned or inadequately controlled candles are the leading cause of home candle fires (37%), followed by leaving candles too close to combustibles (19%), according to annual averages from 1994-98. Nine percent were started by children playing with candles.

Bells and Whistles
Algonquin Lake in the Hills Fire Department

Station 1
1020 W. Algonquin Rd
Lake in the Hills, IL 60156
(847) 658-8233
fax (847)854-2609

Station 2
2440 Harnish Dr
Algonquin, IL 60102
(847) 658-8224

Station 3
1691 Cumberland Pkwy
Algonquin, IL 60102
(847) 658-0930

- December is the peak month for candle fires, with nearly twice the average number of incidents. Almost half (44%) of home candle fires start in the bedroom.

Safety Tips:

Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep. Keep candles away from items that can catch fire (e.g. clothing, books, paper, curtains, Christmas trees, flammable decorations).

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from a material that can't burn and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Don't place lit candles in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them.
- Place candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface and do not use candles in places where they could be knocked over by children or pets.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Keep candle wicks trimmed to one-quarter inch and extinguish taper and pillar candles when they get to within two inches of the holder or decorative material. Votives and containers should be extinguished before the last half-inch of wax starts to melt.
- Avoid candles with combustible items embedded in them.
- Candles & children:**
 - Keep candles up high out of reach of children.
 - Never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle. A child should not sleep in a room with a lit candle.
 - Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.
 - Store candles, matches and lighters up high and out children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

During Power Outages:

- Try to avoid carrying a lit candle. Don't use a lit candle when searching for items in a confined space.
- Never use a candle for a light when checking pilot lights or fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern. The flame may ignite the fumes.

Personnel Status

Work Comp

Kim Matz
Dan Pressler
Pat Caskey

EMPLOYEE TOTAL **81**

Officials 8

Full time 51
Firefighter/paramedics -37
Firefighter/EMT - 7
Firefighter - 1
Salary - 4
Civilian - 2

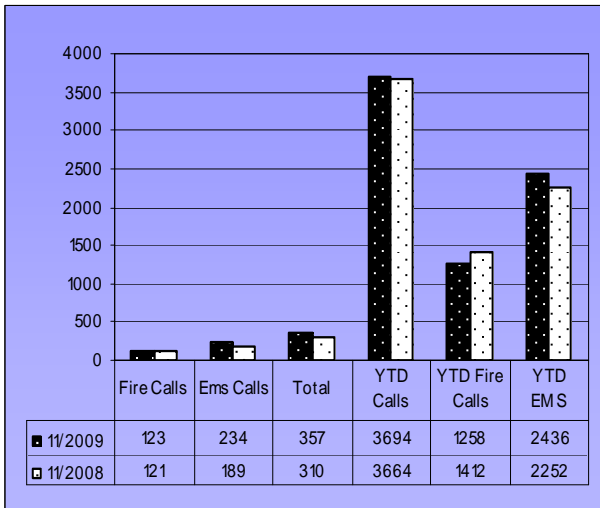
Part time 22
Firefighter/Paramedic - 6
Firefighter/EMT - 10
Firefighter - 0
Paramedic - 3
Civilian - 3

Statistics

NOVEMBER 1-30 2009

	Fire calls	123
	Ems calls	234
0130	67	
	Station One	
0150	1	
0151	96	
0141	144	
0154	1	
0181	37	
	Station Two	
0152	141	
0142	137	
0162	2	
	Station Three	
153	40	
143	81	

Grand Total 357



Birthdays

December 3rd Keith Mohr
 December 5th Bill Todd
 December 31st Warren Olsen
 December 31st Andrew Pieri

Anniversaries

Bob Haughey 16 years FT
 Kym Griffiths 15 years PT
 Keith Svendsen 14 years FT
 John Greene 11 years FT
 Steve Ciaccio 2 years as LT

Reflections

Mommy, 'I always wanted to be a fireman when I grew up.'

Mom smiled back and said, 'Let's see if we can make your wish come true.'

Later that day she went to her local fire Department in Phoenix, Arizona, where she met Fireman Bob, who had a heart as big as Phoenix!

She explained her son's final wish and asked if it might be possible to give her 6 year-old son a ride around the block on a fire engine.

Fireman Bob said, 'Look, we can do better than that. If you'll have your son ready at seven o'clock Wednesday morning, we'll make him an honorary Fireman for the whole day. He can come down to the fire station, eat with us, go out on all the fire calls, the whole nine yards!

And if you'll give us his sizes, we'll get a real fire uniform for him, with a real fire hat - not a toy -- one-with the emblem of the Phoenix Fire Department on it, a yellow slicker like we wear and rubber boots.'

'They're all manufactured right here in Phoenix, so we can get them fast.'

Three days later Fireman Bob picked up Billy, dressed him in his uniform and escorted him from his hospital bed to the waiting hook and ladder truck.

Billy got to sit on the back of the truck and help steer it back to the fire station. He was in heaven.

He closed his eyes one last time.

There were three fire calls in Phoenix that day and Billy got to go out on all three calls.

He rode in the different fire engines, the Paramedic's van, and even the fire chief's car.

He was also videotaped for the Local news program.

Having his dream come true, with all the love and attention that was lavished upon him, so deeply touched Billy that he lived three months longer than any doctor thought possible.

I wish you all a very Joyous Christmas and Healthy and Happy New Year!

One night all of his vital signs began to drop dramatically and the head nurse, who believed in the hospice concept - that no one should die alone - began to call the family members to the hospital.

Then she remembered the day Billy had spent as a Fireman, so she called the Fire Chief and asked if it would be possible to send a fireman in uniform to the hospital to be with Billy as he made his transition.

The chief replied, 'We can do better than that. We'll be there in five minutes. Will you please do me a favor?'

When you hear the sirens screaming and see the lights flashing, will you announce over the PA system that there is not a fire?'

'It's the department coming to see one of its finest members one more time. And will you open the window to his room?'

About five minutes later a hook and ladder truck arrived at the hospital and extended its ladder up to Billy's third floor open window-----
16 fire-fighters climbed up the ladder into Billy's room.

With his mother's permission, they hugged him and held him and told him how much they LOVED him. With his dying breath, Billy looked up at the fire chief and said,

'Chief, am I really a fireman now?'

'Billy, you are, and the Head Chief, Jesus, is holding your hand,' the chief said.

With those words, Billy smiled and said, 'I know, He's been holding my hand all day, and The angels have been singing.'