

# THE FIRE LINE

January  
2019  
Edition

## Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue Monthly Newsletter



**FIRE LINE - DO NOT CROSS**

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### FROM THE BALCONY

*A message from Chief Peter O'Leary*



#### **Passing the Torch**

It's always tough to bid farewell to longstanding FDLFR members who have helped contribute to the organization and helped us achieve so much. Engineers Scott Ketelhut and Luke Blitzke have racked up nearly 60 years of combined service to the people of our city and have done so with courage, honor and dignity. We pause to thank them and offer our sincere gratitude for the commitment to service they have so selflessly provided. Later this December they will work their last shifts and their pictures will be added to our honor roll of our retirees in the hallway at station one.

I cannot imagine the number of calls these two men have answered during their careers and all the changes they have witnessed firsthand in our industry. There has been so many advancements since Scott began in 1985 and Luke in 1992, but one thing that remains constant is their dedication to duty they shared back then and still have today. Thank you Scott and Luke; cheers to a long, healthy and prosperous retirement.

We will start out 2019 with two promotions to the rank of Engineer. Jake Vogds and Joe Goldapske will fill the vacancies created by our two retirements. We have newly hired members who will also assume shift assignments, which together will add many new faces in new stations and different shifts. I hope you all seize the opportunity to take this new beginning for them as a new beginning for you. It can be an exciting time to get involved with a new shift and new personnel. Let's do what we can to make sure our newly promoted engineers and firefighters succeed. Together we are better!

It's hard to believe as we enter 2019 we are only one short year away from the reaccreditation process. Later in 2019 we will have representatives from The Center of Public Safety Excellence back in Fond du Lac to guide us through our second Community Driven Strategic Planning process. It will be an exciting time for us to see the progress we've made over the past five years and a solid roadmap for our future development.

Lastly, January 19, 2019 will start my 11<sup>th</sup> year as your fire chief. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve alongside the best firefighters and paramedics in the State of Wisconsin. I continue to be energized by your commitment to each other, our department, our city and state. Thank you for accepting me and continuing to make us better.

***Until next month, Stay safe and be well.***

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#### **UPCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS**

**Envision—Career Connections  
Academy**

**2nd Annual Recognition  
and Awards Program**



# Fond du Lac Fire Rescue Operations

*By: Assistant Chief Erick Gerritson*



## Finding Focus at the Firehouse

***Finding focus at the firehouse: Firefighters routinely stay engaged at the fireground, but the smaller tasks at the station also need attention.***

Why is it that firefighters can work on emergency scenes for many hours with boundless energy, but can spend a 24-hour shift around the station doing routine activities, and be too exhausted by afternoon to take on a new project?

Part of the answer might lie in how much focus each activity demands.

It might seem counterintuitive that activities that require high levels of focus can also be energizing, that a lack of productivity is not the result of too much work, but rather the lack of enough complex and meaningful work.

### COMPLEX TASKS DEMAND ATTENTION, BUT MENIAL TASKS ARE SUBJECT TO MULTI-TASKING

Complex tasks demand more working memory and attention, so there is less tendency to be distracted or tempted to multitask. Recall your last big structure fire or multi-casualty accident scene. You probably weren't thinking about anything else when you first approached these incidents but instead had a laser focus on the problem at hand.

Compare this level of attention to when you are doing routine tasks around the station – answering email, writing reports or doing station maintenance. It is tempting to want to multitask when engaged in these types of activities. It is also very easy to get distracted.

Distraction leads to divided attention and divided attention results in less focus and quality of output. This diminished attention may not be a big problem if your primary task is vacuuming, a routine chore that does not require higher cognitive skills. But if you allow yourself to be distracted by texts appearing on your phone while a coworker is trying to tell you something important, there is a good chance you could miss a key part of the message the other person intends to convey.



### HOW TO AVOID BEING DISTRACTED

Distractions are everywhere, and our brains are wired to be susceptible to anything that is novel, pleasurable or threatening. Advertisers know this and so do purveyors of social media. Be honest – when was the last time you sat down at your computer or tablet with a specific task in mind, only to surface half an hour later wondering why you had sat there in the first place?

The key to controlling your attention and focus is being intentional about it. If you go into your office to write a report, finish writing the report before doing anything else on the computer. Don't rationalize that you really should check email first, just in case, and then, while you're there, maybe make a posting or two on social media. And definitely don't try to write the report at the same time you engage in these other activities. Focus and finish before allowing your attention to be diverted elsewhere.

The fire service at times seems designed for people with short or wandering attention – just when you start a project, an alarm comes in, someone comes to the door, some crisis arises that demands immediate attention. But this syncopated and unpredictable pace of work can also be an excuse for not getting much done. It's easy to stay busy in the fire station; being truly productive is another thing altogether.

# Fond du Lac Fire Rescue Operations

*By: Assistant Chief Erick Gerritson*



## *Finding Focus at the Firehouse, continued*

### **PUT THE PHONE DOWN**

And then there are phones. Everyone's got one, and most fire departments allow members to have access to their personal phones nearly all the time. As a result, people are always checking in, at least 80 times per day on average (twice that rate for younger people). At a minimum, it means that most people are looking at their phones around every 12 minutes. And social media being what it is, they are likely to be distracted by something they see.

This level of distraction is bad enough for productivity and focus, but there is also the problem of redirecting attention after allowing distraction. Studies show that the average person requires at least a few minutes to refocus on the task at hand after a significant distraction, and complete focus can take over 20 minutes in some cases. People tend to work faster to compensate for the interruption, which can lead to stress and errors.

### **HOW LEADERS CAN GET THE MOST PRODUCTIVITY OUT OF THEIR CREWS**

What can leaders do to improve focus among their crews? Banning phones entirely isn't realistic, but it is possible to disallow them for certain activities. Capitalize on when people are most naturally energetic and focused to complete the most important work. And understand that sometimes less is more. As author, Chris Bailey points out, "One hour spent hyper focusing distraction-free can be worth an entire afternoon of distracted work."

Perhaps most importantly, it is critical to lead by example. If you want your crew to put their phones down, then put yours away first. If one of your team wants to talk to you, give that person your full attention. Look for ways to get all firefighters involved, not just with busy work or routine tasks, but with work that will challenge and engage them to the degree that they won't even want to look at their phones.

*Article from Linda Willing, with Fire Rescue 1*

***Until next month...Stay Safe!!!***

**F**ollow  
**O**ne  
**C**ourse  
**U**ntil  
**S**uccessful





### OPERATIONS BY THE NUMBERS

NOVEMBER	THIS MONTH		YEAR-TO-DATE	
PREVENTION	LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR
Total Inspections	178	201	2764	2774
Total Defects	71	116	1619	1870
SUPPRESSION				
Alarms Involving Fire	13	6	122	125
Fire Mutual Aid Given	4	0	16	15
Fire Mutual Aid Received	0	0	0	0
Service/Good Intent Calls	43	47	416	516
False Alarms & False Calls	19	24	283	287
Other Calls	12	8	154	147
Total Fire Alarms & Calls	87	85	975	1075
EMS				
Total Ambulance Calls	456	515	5288	5583
Total Fire & Ems Responses				
Fire Property Loss	\$2500.00	\$500.00	\$138,896.00	\$380,165.00
Fire Contents Loss	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$121,011.00	\$149,260.00
Engine Assisted EMS Calls	195	183	2394	2319



**Nate Philipsky Ben Kooiman**  
**Paul Loderhose Chris Behnke**



*Joe Goldapske  
and  
Jake Vogds  
for being  
promoted to  
Engineer!*



at City of Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue



at fdlfire



# The Code Summary

**By: Todd Janquart**  
Assistant Chief of EMS

## ***Why reducing patient anxiety makes the provider's job easier.***

**Prepare for awkward lifts with smart strategies and tools to boost patient confidence and avoid on-the-job injuries.**

*"Training for uncertainty [is] facilitated by keeping one's focus directly on the individual patient, not on idealized stereotypes." – Kenneth Ludmerer, American medical historian*

Much of what we do in EMS is centered on problem-solving through uncertainty. No two patients present exactly the same, and the chaos and variability of the out-of-hospital environment demands a level of adaptation that is unique in the healthcare setting.

Knowing what to do when feeling uncertain was recognized as a key problem in medical education as early as the 1930s [1]. How can we act with conviction and confidence during patient interactions when faced with scenarios that don't fit the mold of our training? How can we mask our uncertainty in front of our patients, asking them to trust our actions and believe in our decisions?

Patient satisfaction has always been important in EMS, but it may have even more impact in years to come. Medicare reimbursement amounts may be tied to overall patient satisfaction in the future, making it all the more important for providers to focus clearly on our patients' emotional state while we provide care.

### **Prepare for a variety of patient scenarios**

Some scenarios demand in-the-moment problem solving to address a situation that is truly out of the ordinary. These scenarios require providers to function at a high level while under stress, and they can be particularly taxing on the mental health of responders.

These "big sick" situations are when we connect with our education, experience and knowledge to deliver a patient care experience that is likely to provide the best outcome for everyone involved. However, these "big sick" situations are not the majority of what we do in EMS, and uncertainty often affects situations that need not be difficult.

By preparing and training for these less critical scenarios, we remove the uncertainty and save our mental, physical and emotional resources for the situations that truly demand our top performance.

### **Consider patient comfort and dignity**

The initial move of a patient is often one of the first times we, as healthcare providers, ask a patient to put their trust in us. We promise that we won't let them fall, that they aren't too heavy for us to lift and that they are safe in our hands. And yet for many patients, that initial move may be nerve-racking, frightening or embarrassing.

Many EMS departments use outdated or improvised lifting techniques that have been passed down from previous generations, and we don't often think about how these improvisations affect the patient's comfort and trust in our abilities.

Imagine a patient who has fallen in his garage. He weighs 375 pounds and has managed to land in an awkward position, wedged between the car and the garage wall. He is trapped, scared and having a bit of trouble breathing due to the position he is in.

Or perhaps you are caring for a geriatric patient who has slipped in the bathtub and is unable to get up and out of the small space with her own limited strength.

With only two providers, how do you quickly lift and move these patients while protecting their dignity during the process? How can you avoid communicating uncertainty to these patients, causing them to question your ability as a provider?

  
**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
TRUST THE  
PARAMEDIC**



# The Code Summary

**By: Todd Janquart**  
Assistant Chief of EMS

## ***Why reducing patient anxiety makes the provider's job easier, continued.***

Think of our patient stuck in his garage. What might he feel as he watches a pair of EMS providers, or a group of fire-fighters, strategize about how to lift him safely? There's an inherent loss of dignity for the patient when providers improvise in this way, as we are communicating that the patient's size is causing a problem and making things difficult for us. These initial moments can directly influence the patient's confidence in our ability to perform more invasive procedures en route to the hospital.

Consider what can be done to eliminate these common negative aspects of an initial patient interaction. Perhaps you and your partner agree to avoid strategizing about challenging patient moves in front of the patient. Better yet, spend some time discussing past cases where the initial lift could have gone better and attempt to implement new strategies on the next call.

Throughout every call, consider the interaction from the patient's perspective, and how your actions may be affecting their overall trust in you as a provider. These are small changes to implement, yet they can have significant impact on patient satisfaction.

### **Use the right tools for the job**

It is equally as important to ensure that you have the equipment necessary to protect yourself and your patient through the initial patient move. The Binder Lift, a vest-like device with multiple handles, can be put on the patient quickly and allows providers to smoothly lift someone who is in an awkward position.

Using specialized equipment like the Binder Lift establishes the professionalism of the provider and starts the process of building trust with the patient. The Binder Lift allows providers to move with confidence and decisiveness right from the start of the patient interaction.

Without the patient's trust, it can be very challenging to deliver appropriate care. The patient who questions every action, refuses aspects of treatment, or is otherwise "difficult" may very well just be lacking in trust for their provider.

It is a common misconception that the fact we are EMTs, paramedics and firefighters means that people will inherently trust us with their care. In fact, our position of authority as public safety providers might cause an initial lack of trust in the people we serve. Regardless of whether we have the patient's trust from the outset, EMS providers should be actively working to gain and maintain the trust of those under our care.

**BINDER LIFT™**



BECAUSE HUMANS DON'T  
COME WITH HANDLES™

### **References**

1. Ludmerer, K. M. (1999) Time to Heal: American Medical Education from the Turn of the Century to the Era of Managed Care. New York: Oxford University Press.

#### **About the Author**

Shawna Renga, AS, NREMT-P, currently works as an instructor for the United States Coast Guard Medical Support Services School in Petaluma, California, providing EMT training for helicopter rescue swimmers and Coast Guard corpsmen. She also works part-time for a private ambulance company and lives with her husband and two sons in Sausalito.

*We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated.*

*Maya Angelou*



# ***Congratulations on your Retirement Luke Blitzke and Scott Ketelhut!***

**Thank you for your hard work and dedication!**



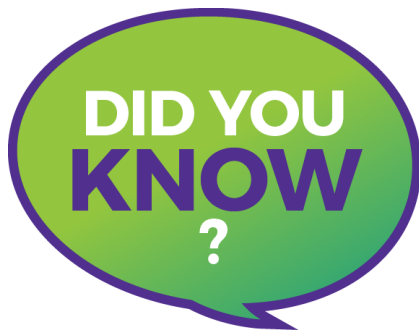
Luke Blitzke will be retiring from the City of Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue on December 20, 2018. Luke has been a dedicated employee since August 6, 1992. Luke served the citizens of Fond du Lac as a Firefighter, Paramedic, Fire Inspector, and completed his career as an Engineer. Luke plans on doing some traveling with his wife and continuing his window cleaning business.

***Enjoy Retirement, Luke!***



Scott Ketelhut began his firefighting career at Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue on September 16, 1985. Scott has served the City of Fond du Lac in the capacity of Firefighter, Paramedic, Paramedic Lieutenant and will be retiring on December 22, 2018 as an Engineer. Scott is looking forward to doing Dad stuff with his two children, volunteering at their grade school, and spending time hunting and fishing.

***Best Wishes, Scott!***



**There are more home fires in winter than in any other season. Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January and February. *As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!***

***Winter storms can happen almost anywhere.*** They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. Following are tips which will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates.
- Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.
- Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.
- Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.
- Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.



**Well trained people  
are the best defense  
against fire.**

**By: James Knowles III**  
*Assistant Chief Training/Safety*

### ***The Loss of Skill***

Many in today's fire service feel that there is resistance to change in regard to extinguishment techniques and other tactics, and they are correct. While resistance is what is felt, the reality is that changes need to be peer-reviewed—not just by a select few, but by departments, as well. Resistance toward change is one thing; resistance to changes is another. However, all of this is a good thing, because changes, especially ones that may go against department policy and extinguishment culture, are critically important and typically require measured acquisition.

The silent component of push-back on many changes is that they reduce the skill levels of firefighters. Some of the biggest centers of resistance to new extinguishment decrees are places where fires occur frequently. This makes sense because those that have developed the skills necessary to attack fires from the interior see little need to change. This is especially true since little science has been produced to prove that they are incorrect in their approach.

The training of firefighters is about skill development. Firefighters are taught how to put out fires from the interior by using the nozzle a certain way and how to advance through a structure while dragging a hoseline behind them. This is not a two-minute lesson even for a rookie; the basics of even the basics takes time. Firefighters who have advanced into the real world and have battled fires from inside learn from experience and repetition how to do it better and more effectively. Hence we have firefighters with skill levels that allow them to extinguish fires from inside the building. When a firefighter is instructed to shoot the stream into a window opening for several seconds, the lesson is over. If we are to believe that there is a skill level to this action, then that is your prerogative, but I do not see it. While this tactic can darken down a room for firefighters, there is no experience gain. We have decreed a fire tactic that only lowers skill levels. Using this tactic as a standard approach to any and all fires is an option departments are choosing and touting as being progressive.



While the modern fire environment took at least 30 years to be recognized, it is our new normal. For firefighters to be told over and over that the risks involved with challenging this new fire is something best handled from outside is a slippery slope to when they eventually go inside without the pre-wash down. A Firefighters understand modern hydraulic forcible entry tools and how they can force a door just by pumping a handle and inserting the expandable jaws between the jam and the door. The other thing they understand is that their irons skill level diminishes every time they use the hydraulic tool. Can the hydraulic tool work faster? Yes it can, but not on every door. The firefighter that has forced a door with their hand tools, with their

mind engaged in the steps required, is a skilled firefighter. A firefighter who takes every door with the hydraulic opener is less skilled. They can start with equal skill levels, but when one uses a tool that requires little instruction beyond a one-minute demonstration, we will have firefighters with fewer skills.

The thermal imaging camera (TIC) is another example of a tool that is fantastic until the battery dies. Firefighters are always cautioned against searching without a constant landmark while using the TIC. For many, the TIC is just a better flashlight. While the TIC can be much more, it also obviously allows firefighters to move quicker than before and can and has led to the omission of solid search skills.

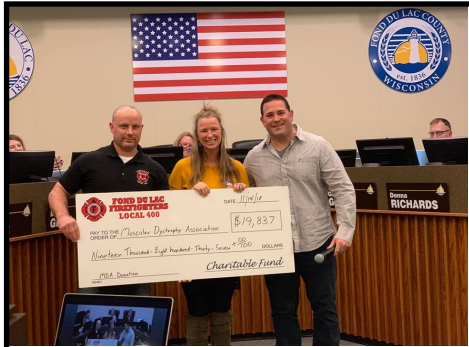
If you do not think that the fire service is up on its game and firefighters do not train enough, does any of this work against training? Some will say, on the contrary, these things just need to be incorporated into the training. I agree, we must always incorporate all new tools into training, but it seems like moving forward can also put us two steps back. The reduction of firefighter skill sets—especially physical ones that engage the thinking firefighter—is on an upswing. If you keep firefighters outside a building while you look for a window to shoot water into, but then preach that your department will do it differently when there is no window, you must ask who has prepared your people. Because you probably have not. Over-reliance upon tools and tactics that reduce a firefighter's ability to be a firefighter even in the modern fire environment is a steep price to pay for avoidance.

Source: McCormack, R. (2018). *The loss of skill*.

Retrieved from: <http://www.blackhelmetbrotherhood.com/the-loss-of-skill/>



## News from the Station



IAFF Local 400 presents a check to MDA for \$19,837! Thank you Fond du Lac for your continued generous support of MDA!



FDLFR proudly welcomes Noah Kreilkamp to our Fire/Rescue team!  
**Welcome Noah!**

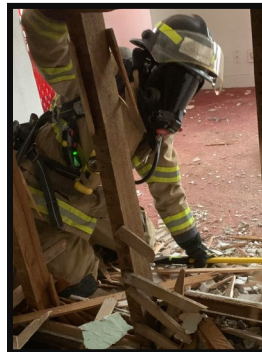


The family of retired Assistant Chief John Barthuly memorialized his father's commitment and love for FDLFR by donating this beautiful bench in front of our Main Street fire station.

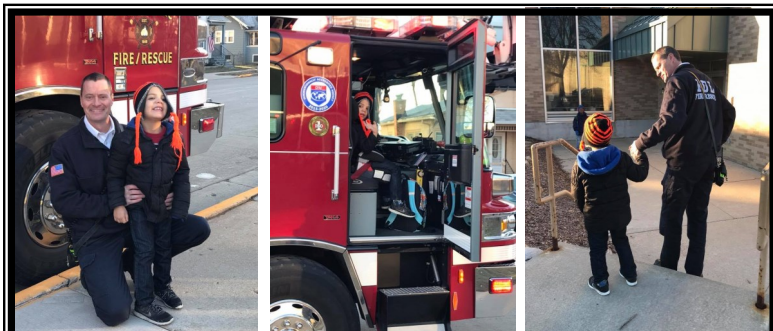
Thanks to our members who helped design and build the beautiful landscape.



Girl Scout Troop 8569 visited Station 1 for a tour and to earn a first aid merit badge.



The Recruit Academy recently concluded for the new hires of FDL Fire/Rescue. Ice rescue, extrication, and self survival techniques are just a few of the numerous topics discussed and practiced during the 4 week long Academy.



If you could ride to school in any vehicle you wanted what would it be?? Hmm... in a FIRE TRUCK! As the top prize winner for Riverside Elementary's Walk-a-thon, one student earned a ride to school in a fire truck! Captain Jim Wamser and Engineer Keith Wendt drove the student to school in style and even walked him to his classroom.



The City of Fond du Lac Fire/Rescue Bucket Brigade, held outside the studios of KFIZ on Winnebago Drive and the fire station on South Main Street, brought in nearly \$19,000 from the community, plus a match donation from Michels Corporation. We continue to be honored and humbled to serve our citizens.

# FIRE PREVENTION ....

*That's what it's all about!*

**By: Troy Haase**  
**Division Chief of Fire Prevention**



## ***Power Strip Surge Protector Safety***

Safety isn't always at the top of the list for most people when it comes to using power strip and surge protectors...safely means understanding the difference between the two.

"Very often power strips and surge (protectors) are mistaken for each other," says Underwriter Laboratories' consumer safety director John Drengenberg, an electrical engineer with decades of experience. "A power strip extension cord is nothing more than a short extension cord with a lot of outlets on it."

Some power strips have build-in surge protection and some come with a circuit breaker that shuts off the power strip if it's over-powered by too many connected devices. But a power strip without these added features **offer no protection** from a current spike jolting down the power line.

Surge protectors (sometimes sold as "surge suppressors") are different. They contain circuitry that will shut down if the flowing current exceeds a certain level. This helps prevent a power surge that could fry your pricey laptop, smartphone or flat-panel TV.

Rural areas and regions prone to lightning are more susceptible to power surges. Even so, you don't need surge protection on every power outlet. "Your toaster probably won't be affected," by a power surge, says Drengenberg. But if you're connecting electronics to a power outlet, use a surge protector. The big problem even with a small power surge, he says, is data loss on computers.



### ***How to shop for a surge protector***

Underwriter Laboratories test and rates the safety of surge protectors. Products that pass muster display a UL approval label. Shop for a surge protector with a "UL 1449" label that shows it is listed as a surge protector device and isn't just a power strip extension cord. UL also uses holographic labels on approved surge protectors to prevent counterfeiting on cheap and typically imported surge protectors, Drengenberg says.

Surge protectors are measured in joules or resistance. You can almost always find the surge protector joules on the packaging. The more joules, the better the surge protector. When shopping for a surge protector, look for the suppressed voltage rating.

"You can get them in a range from 330 volts up to 4,000 volts," Drengenberg says.

The lower the voltage rating, the faster the surge protector will activate. For home electronics, you want a surge protector on the lower range of the voltage scale, so the device will shut off before a power surge can fry the equipment connected to it.

Like anything else, surge protectors will wear out. Replace a surge protector if it's been tripped by a power spike since that may have ruined the component. A surge protector is like a bicycle helmet in the sense that it's designed to handle one crash—after that, you should get a new one.

### ***Preventing power surges***

There are two ways you can protect against a power surge, according to the Energy Education Council:

1. Have an electrician install a protector to the main circuit box in your home.
2. Use consumer-grade surge protectors to connect in-between the wall outlet and electronics.

Power surges don't just come from lightning strikes or irregular delivery from the electric company. Big appliances such as freezers and AC units can trigger a power surge on home wiring. And because power surges can also come in through home landlines and coaxial cable for television service, you may want to buy a surge suppressor with connections for these lines as well.



# FIRE PREVENTION ....

*That's what it's all about!*

By: Troy Haase  
Division Chief of Fire Prevention



## Power Strip Surge Protector Safety, continued

### ***Be cautious when using power strips***

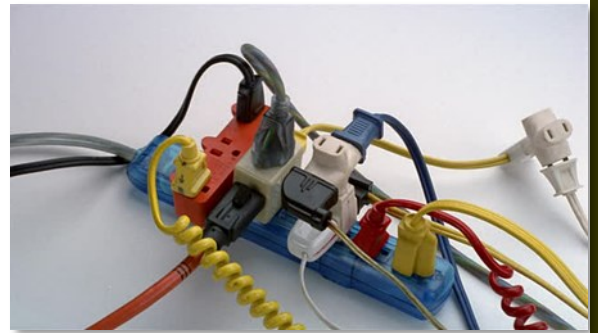
"Power strips are merely a convenience," Dragenberg says. "They don't offer any real protection from a power surge." But if you're using them to plug in smaller appliances—such as hair dryers and lamps—which are less likely to be damaged in a power surge than electronics, you may not need the extra protection provided by a surge protector.

If you do decide to use a power strip extension cord, keep in mind it has a rating on how much power it can draw. You need to look at the device you're plugging into the power strip and make sure its not going to overheat because it draws too much power.

When connecting multiple appliances to a power strip, check the wattage on each appliance and be certain the total of all connected appliances does not exceed the rating of the power strip. Otherwise, overheating could result in a fire.

Power is measured in wattage, which can make choosing a power strip confusing. That's because appliances are often listed by wattage—amps multiplied by volts. Since most people are accustomed to 120-volt power outlets, watts might mean very little. But to buy the right protection, a little math may be helpful.

To determine the number of amps, you'd divide the wattage listed on the appliance by the household circuit voltage. So an appliance rated at 1,200 watts divided by 120 volts (standard household electrical supply) would be equivalent to 10 amps.



### ***When deciding to use a power strip, keep these points in mind:***

- **Do.** Only use light-load appliances on power strips. This can include computers, lamps, clocks, etc.
- **Do.** Ensure that you purchase power strips with an internal circuit breaker. This is a very important safety measure that is designed to prevent property loss and risks of fire!
- **Do.** Use power strips sparingly. They aren't designed to maintain a load for extended periods of time, and can overheat quickly if used too frequently.
- **Don't.** Ever plug a power strip into another power strip (colloquially referred to as 'daisy chaining'). Doing this is a great way to short out appliances, or drastically increase the risk of an electrical mishap.
- **Don't.** Use power strips in moist or potentially moist areas. No kitchens, no utility room, and **definitely no basements.**
- **Don't.** Continue to use a power strip if it feels hot. That isn't supposed to happen!
- **Never.** Cover, staple, tack or nail a power strip to anything. Covering can smother the strip, and provide ample flammable material in the event of failure, and stapling can harm the cords, making room for dangerous situations.

There is a difference between a normal surge protect and an appliance surge protector. Normal surge protectors likely won't be able to absorb enough Joules to prevent damage to your system. Appliances use a lot more current than other electronics you normally see around the home so it's important to know the difference. For large appliances like washers and dryers you will probably want a surge protector that can absorb at least 600-900 Joules to be safe.



Source: Steve Evans, Protect America, "Power Strip Surge Protector Safety", April 4, 2017, Web December 10, 2018.

Source: Kolb Electric, "Don't Get Fried! Do's and Don'ts of Power Strip Safety", February 20, 2016, Web December 10, 2018.



# FIRE PREVENTION ....

*That's what it's all about!*

**By: Troy Haase  
Division Chief of Fire Prevention**



## Current Status of New Construction

- The Brickhouse at 161 S. Main Street - Building is complete.
- Mercury Marine NVH at 600 West Pioneer Road- Building is complete.
- CD Smith Corporate Offices on Camelot Drive- Building is under construction.
- Fond du Lac High School at 801 Campus Drive- Building is under construction.
- Mid-States Aluminum at 132 Trowbridge Drive- Building is under construction.
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at 347 Country Lane- Building is under construction.
- Fond du Lac Humane Society at 652 Triangle Road- Building is under construction.
- Menards at 1200 Rickmeyer Drive- Building is under construction.
- Fond du Lac Safety Training Center at 750 N. Rolling Meadows Drive- Building is under construction.
- McNelius Steel at 123 E. Larsen Drive- Building is under construction.
- Magic Car Wash Express on West Johnson Street- Building is under construction.
- Mercury Marine at 545 W. Pioneer Road- Building is under construction.
- Fairfield Inn at 935 S. Rolling Meadows Drive- Building is under construction.
- River Hills Mixed Use Development on S. Main Street- Buildings 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 are complete and 5 & 6 are under construction.



# Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

## BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



## Heating Equipment Smarts

**Install** wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

**Install** and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



## FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



**NATIONAL FIRE  
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# Calefacción Segura

No hay nada más lindo durante los meses de invierno que acurrucarse junto a la chimenea con un buen libro. Pero ¿sabía usted que en EE.UU. los equipos de calefacción constituyen una de las principales causas de muerte en incendios residenciales? Con algunos simples consejos y precauciones de seguridad, puede evitarse la ocurrencia de incendios provocados por equipos de calefacción..

## ¡ESTE INVIERNO, MANTENGA EL CALOR Y LA SEGURIDAD!

- » Mantenga objetos que puedan encenderse al menos a tres pies de distancia de cualquier artefacto de calefacción, como hornos, hogares, chimeneas, estufas a leña, o calefactores portátiles.
- » Mantenga una zona "libre de niños" de tres pies de distancia alrededor de llamas abiertas y calefactores ambientales.
- » Nunca use el horno para calefaccionar su vivienda.
- » Haga que un especialista calificado instale los equipos estacionarios de calefacción según los códigos locales y las instrucciones del fabricante.
- » Haga que un especialista calificado limpie e inspeccione sus chimeneas y equipos de calefacción cada año.
- » Recuerde apagar los calefactores portátiles al salir de la habitación o al irse a dormir.
- » Siempre use el tipo de combustible adecuado, especificado por el fabricante, para calefactores quemadores de combustible.
- » Asegúrese que su estufa a leña cuente con una pantalla de protección que evite que las chispas caigan en zona de riesgo. Las cenizas deben estar frías antes de ser colocadas en un contenedor metálico. Mantenga el contenedor a una distancia segura de su vivienda.
- » Verifique las alarmas de humo de manera mensual.



## Calefaccionar con Inteligencia

**Instale** estufas a leña siguiendo las instrucciones del fabricante o contrate a un profesional. Todos los equipos quemadores de combustible deben ventilar hacia afuera para evitar la inhalación de monóxido de carbono (CO).

**Instale y mantenga** alarmas de CO para evitar riesgos de envenenamiento. Si usted **huele** a gas en su calefactor, no encienda el artefacto. Salga inmediatamente de la vivienda y llame al Departamento de Bomberos Local o a su compañía de gas.



## ES UN HECHO QUE

La mitad de los incendios residenciales en EE.UU. provocados por artefactos de calefacción se reportan durante los meses de Diciembre, Enero, y Febrero.



**Su fuente de Información sobre SEGURIDAD**

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