

THE MADEIRA & INDIAN HILL FIRE COMPANY



VOL LXXIX

OCTOBER 2022

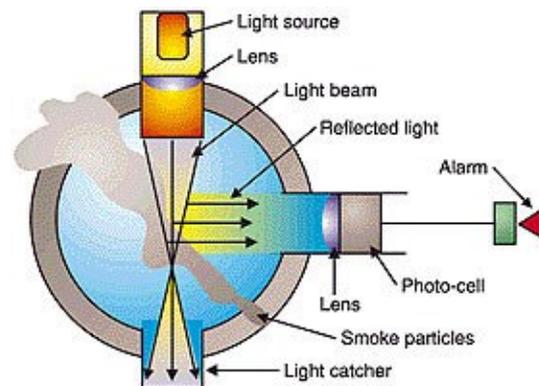
NO 2

SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

Fire departments around the U.S. have been pushing this initiative since the seventies. Our firefighters have seen first hand how smoke detectors have worked to alert occupants and prevent injury and death. In fact, most of our fire incidents that we respond to are smoke or fire alarm activations without a fire. The industry calls these alarms nuisance alarms and are many times the result of cooking smoke, steam from a shower or even dust. The nuisance alarm leads some occupants to disable the smoke detector to prevent the alarm from continuing; however, this may lead to the occupant forgetting or not placing the detector back in-service.

In January of this year, a fire in Philadelphia tragically claimed the lives of 13 family members. According to NFPA Journal, investigators found no working smoke detectors in the upper unit of the residence. There were three detectors found in a kitchen drawer and one was in a bedroom drawer. One alarm remained in the ceiling but was found without batteries, another was found on the floor without batteries. A total of six smoke detectors were present but disabled; any one of which may have made a difference and saved lives!

The temptation to disable the alarm or pull the battery out of a smoke detector after it blares the alert as a result of burnt food is real and the industry is responding with real standards and codes that address this issue. NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code*, states that smoke detectors be equipped with silencing capabilities, use photoelectric detection, or be listed for resistance to common nuisance alarms from cooking if they are installed within 10-20 feet from cooking equipment. This code will allow the occupant to silence the alarm as opposed to disabling it in response to a condition such as cooking smoke, dust or steam.



How a Smoke Detector Works

Our firefighters will be out in the streets of Madeira near Euclid and Camargo this fall, going door to door, to remind residents to check their detector, change the batteries and even provide detectors if one is needed. We support the use of a photoelectric type smoke detector as the ionization type detector is more likely to alarm near cooking appliances. The lack of early detection from a smoke detector was the found in 3 of 5 home fire deaths according to a 2021 NFPA report. Don't be a statistic, don't disable an alarm as a result of a nuisance alarm. Be patient, correct the problem, clear the smoke to make sure that the detector will operate properly in case of a real fire. And as always—we are here to assist you if you're having problems with your smoke detector.

37 Dedicated Years

A Career of Service



In October of 2022, we will be saying goodbye to our beloved Clerk, Dianne Donlan. Mrs. Donlan announced that she will be retiring after 37 years of service to our communities with the Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District. I was given the task to hire her replacement and I thought it would be good to start with reviewing and revising the current job description and current duties of our clerk. I gave that list to a third-party employment company, and they immediately told me that we needed to cut the list, there were too many responsibilities associated with the position. Therein lies the issue, replacing our clerk given the massive list of responsibilities and the institutional knowledge and history that comes with 37 years of service!

Dianne has the unique and exclusive honor of being the longest serving career member in our history. Additionally, she is the only current employee who was here since the JFD began, in 1985. In her 37 years, she has worked for three fire chiefs and hundreds of firefighters who have volunteered or work for the district. Chief Ashbrock served with Dianne for 19 of those years when he was the fire chief and stated that what impresses him the most about Dianne is her genuine caring for the staff and community members. She would send gifts, write personal notes, and call to check on people she worked with when they were sick or injured. She took great care of her financial responsibilities, down to the penny. When our City Managers or Board of Trustees had questions about our finances, they knew where to get the most accurate answer. As a new chief to the district, this skill was undeniable as I sought answers about the financial background and direction of the JFD.



As a Joint Fire District in the State of Ohio, we are audited by the state every year. Chief Ashbrock stated that in 20 years, he could recall of one instance where a posting was questioned, and ultimately, that posting was clarified and resolved in our favor. She went far beyond the daily duties of the clerk as she was charged with several HR functions, fundraising tasks and many other tasks that either she took on herself or was asked due to the accuracy and passion to serve.



Dianne is a resident of Hyde Park and plans on staying in the area when she retires. It was my pleasure to work with Dianne for the last three years. She was a valuable part of our fire district, and we will miss her but happy for her to be able to enjoy the next part of life in retirement. On behalf of the Joint Fire District and our community, we thank you for 37 years of dedicated service.

To learn more about the Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District

Welcome Our Newest Career Member

The Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire District is excited to welcome our newest career firefighter, Ryan Smith. Ryan joined our team this summer as a full-time firefighter/paramedic on Unit 2. He has previous experience in the fire service at Colerain Township Fire Department.

Ryan chose to pursue a career in the fire service after an experience he had when he was in the 6th grade. He broke his arm at school and when the paramedics responded, he was amazed at the work they did and the care they took with him. He knew from that moment on that this was his career path. Ryan enjoys helping and interacting with people in our community and always strives for the best possible outcome on every call he goes on.

When Ryan isn't on shift, he enjoys spending time with his girlfriend and their dogs, camping and enjoying the outdoors.

Welcome Ryan!



The Mission, Vision and Value statements should have a special meaning for a service organization such as a fire department. I asked our firefighters to take a look at our mission critically, to assure that our mission meets or exceeds the expectations of our personnel and more importantly, our community. MIHJFD polled stakeholders including community members, local government leaders, board members and MIHJFD employees to define what drives our organization or more importantly, what statement defines what we do day in and day out. It was determined that our old statements could use some refinement to better motivate and capture the heart of our organization. The new Mission, Vision, Values and Philosophy of your Madeira and Indian Hill Joint Fire District:

OUR MISSION: *Rapidly deliver a highly trained team prioritizing life and safety.*

OUR VISION: *Constantly improve and innovate fire and life safety services through education, preparation, and prevention*

OUR VALUES: *Compassion, Integrity, Service, and Discipline*

OUR PHILOSOPHY: *Improve the quality of Life*

These statements define our organization from day-to-day operations all the way to defining our overall goal to make a difference in the overall life in our community. Special Thanks to Captains Linne and Scheuerman for all their hard work and to Captain Lynch for his mentorship during the Academy and final project.

For more information, please visit us at <http://www.mihjfd.org> or



THE MADEIRA & INDIAN HILL FIRE COMPANY
6475 Drake Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45243-3310

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cincinnati, OH
Permit No. 770



SMOKE DETECTOR

BLITZ



The Joint Fire District has developed a fall program occurring in October, called Smoke Detector Blitz. We have designed prevention pamphlets, acquired batteries and smoke detectors for this program's launch during Fire Prevention Week. The program was designed to have firefighters go door-to-door to ensure that our residents of select neighborhoods in Madeira have at least one smoke detector to alert them in case of a fire. Smoke Detectors are essential to decrease the chance of being injured or killed in a house fire. The program targets areas of Madeira where income level or other family priorities may prohibit someone from making sure they have a working smoke detector. We are fortunate not to have a high incidence of injuries and deaths from fires and we work hard to keep that number low. However, without a working smoke detector, the chances of being killed in a house fire increase dramatically.

Make sure that your family and your home are safe by ensuring that you have working smoke detectors throughout your home. We recommend that each sleeping room, common area and hallway have a smoke detector.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS



CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES