The Madeira & Indian Hill Fire Company

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PulsePoint

As an update to our article in the spring newsletter, the PulsePoint app is now live and available to the public in Hamilton County. PulsePoint Respond is a free, location-aware mobile app connected to the Hamilton County Emergency Communication Center in Hamilton County. When a possible cardiac arrest is reported via 911 in a public place, PulsePoint alerts nearby app users who have indicated they are trained in CPR and willing to help. This alert occurs simultaneously as first responders are dispatched, sometimes, even a few seconds before alert systems at local fire stations are activated. The trained citizen can see the location of the victim in addition to the nearest AED, Automated External Defibrillator. Across the U.S., trained CPR citizens have arrived at the patient on average of 2 minutes and 30 seconds ***before*** fire, EMS or police.

The app is free for everyone in Hamilton County outside of Cincinnati thanks to the Christ Hospital who has agreed to pay the set up and initial subscription. UC Health has paid for the app for the City of Cincinnati. The app is managed by personnel from each fire department across Hamilton County. Each department loads their verified responders and updates the NEAR, the National Emergency AED + Resource Registry. The NEAR Registry provides data for app users to find the closest AEDs, bleeding control kits, naloxone, and epinephrine.

Use the QR code to the right and download PulsePoint from the App Store so that *you* too can save a life.



NEAR
NATIONAL EMERGENCY AED + RESOURCE REGISTRY

WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

The Fall season brings us to the end of Daylight Savings Time- this year on Sunday, November 1, 2026. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA, created a campaign called “Change your Clocks, Change your Batteries”, to remind home owners of the importance of working smoke alarms. Nearly 60 percent of home fire deaths are caused by fires in properties with no smoke alarms or smoke alarms that did not work.

The need for early warning from smoke alarms is essential when people can have as little as two minutes to escape a home fire, and even less if that fire starts with, or is fueled by, a lithium-ion battery. Take the time to check your existing smoke alarm batteries and change them if needed. We suggest that there should be a working smoke alarm on each level of a structure, and outside the kitchen, grouping of bedrooms.



CHANGE YOUR CLOCK
CHANGE YOUR BATTERY

From a Firefighter's Perspective...

Have you ever wondered what happens after firefighters at MIHJFD receive an alert for a structure fire? Long before the alarm sounds, crews are preparing to respond quickly, safely, and efficiently to protect lives and property.

Ready Before the Alarm



Firefighters arrive early for each scheduled shift. They place their gear next to the truck, check their air packs, and relieve the off-going crew so the Joint Fire District remains ready even if an alarm comes in during shift change.

When a structure fire is dispatched, multiple departments respond at the same time. A typical response includes five engines, two ladder trucks, two medic units, and at least two command officers, with each apparatus staffed by three to five firefighters for a total of at least 27 personnel.

Getting on the Road

When the alarm sounds, firefighters move quickly to their assigned positions on the rig and begin putting on their turnout gear. Turnout gear consists of boots, pants, coat, hood, gloves and helmet. The driver, known as the Engineer, is often the first on board because they do not put on full turnout gear before driving. The Engineer identifies the address, selects the best route, and locates the closest hydrant.

The officer and firefighters put on their turnout gear before taking their assigned seats and fastening their seat belts. Once everyone is seated and belted, the officer reports that the apparatus is enroute over the radio or on the mobile data computer, or MDC.



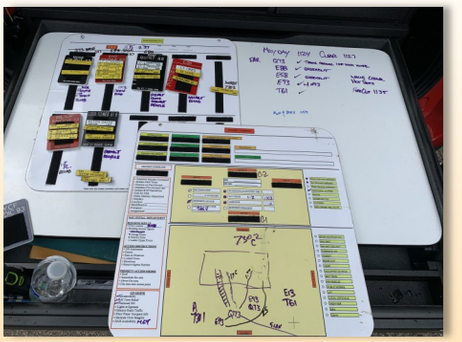




Planning While En Route

On the way to the scene, the officer confirms that all assigned apparatus are responding and reviews the location and hydrant information with the Engineer. The officer's MDC provides routing details, call information, radio channel assignments, locations of other responding apparatus, hydrant locations, and, in some cases, building plans for commercial properties. Each riding position has a general assignment upon arrival, but those assignments are often reviewed and confirmed on the way to the call. The first-arriving apparatus usually carries the greatest initial responsibility, and its actions help shape the success of the entire operation.

First Arrival and Size-Up



Once on scene, the officer reports the initial conditions to dispatch and to the other responding companies. This report is called the "size-up." It describes where the fire appears to be located, what initial actions the crew will take, and who is serving as the incident commander.

The initial incident commander is the officer on the first-arriving fire apparatus. That officer remains in charge of the scene until relieved by a chief officer arriving in a command vehicle, such as an SUV or pickup truck.

Rescue, Fire Attack, and Follow-Through



Firefighters dismount the rig with tools for forcible entry, a thermal imaging camera, and a flashlight. One or two firefighters pull the appropriate hoseline while the officer conducts a 360-degree survey of the scene.

During that survey, the officer looks for victims, makes contact with occupants awaiting FD arrival, identifies where the fire is and where it may be moving, evaluates building conditions, and notes utilities or other hazards. After completing the survey, the officer reports those findings by radio so incoming crews have a clearer picture of the scene.



Rescue is always the priority. If victims are found or suspected, the officer must decide how to direct available resources to both known and potential victims while the fire attack begins.

As the officer completes the survey, firefighters force entry, go on air with their self-contained breathing apparatus, bleed air from the hoseline, and move toward the fire. The officer guides the hose team toward the seat of the fire using the thermal imager, smoke conditions, and observations from the scene.



Our hose lines are designed to deliver enough water to overpower and extinguish fire quickly. Sometimes, however, the fire is deep-seated, fueled by contents and oxygen, and the fight becomes a direct contest between heat and water. Once the bulk of the fire is knocked down, firefighters use hooks and axes to open ceilings and walls, search for hidden pockets of fire, and complete extinguishment.

Firefighters knock down the fire while simultaneously searching for possible victims. Other crews may be assigned to search as their only responsibility.

Why Readiness Matters

From the moment firefighters arrive on scene, every second matters. Whether the goal is rescue, extinguishment, or both, crews work to begin the operation without delay. That is why MIHJFD firefighters, equipment, and apparatus must be ready to go into service at all times. Each day, our members work hard to fulfill the department's mission: rapidly delivering a highly trained team that prioritizes life and safety.

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THE MADEIRA & INDIAN HILL FIRE COMPANY
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Cincinnati, Ohio 45243

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We now take electronic payments!

We are excited to announce the launch of an online platform for payments and planned giving. We now have the ability to accept payments through a secure website that will allow you to give to both the Fire District and the (non-profit) Fire Company.

PayMIHFC.com

The Fire Company, our 501c3 entity, accepts **donations** year round from generous residents and donors. Bi-annually, you receive THIS newsletter, with a donation slip and return envelope included for your donation opportunity. Now, you can donate through our online giving portal instead of mailing a check to the fire department. If you wish to give electronically from now on, please let us know in the NOTES section on the donation page. We will no longer include a donation slip and envelope in your future newsletters. You can visit PayMIHFC.com or use the upper QR code provided to make your donation.

PayMIHJFD.com

The Fire District accepts **payments** for CPR classes, tank permits and tent permits. You can visit PayMIHJFD.com or use the lower QR code provided for these payments.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the new payment opportunity.

Call us at (513) 561-7926 or email us at office @mihjfd.org