



AVALON FIRE / RESCUE



NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 1

November 2012

Fire Commissioners Meeting held the first and third Monday of each month at the North Station located at 5408 Mulat Road, Milton, FL. 7 PM.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To get an application to volunteer you can:

- Go to our Web Site at www.avalonfirerescue.com to download application and bring by the Station 1.
- Come by Station 1 for application.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

- THE AVALON FIRE RESCUE NEWSLETTER IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS AND CITIZENS. BACK ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.AVALONFIRERESCUE.COM.

Message from the Fire Chief Sid Wiggins

Thank you again to those who supported our increase and voted "YES" in the Primary Election on August 14th, 2012. It has been 32 years since our last increase request and it will certainly help support the increasing and higher costs to maintain the required departmental expenses as well as bring on a paid day time staff. I would like to encourage any homeowner that has any questions regarding how your tax dollars are used to come up and talk to me or the District Commissioners. Our goal and next step is to continue primarily with a Volunteer base and to bring on a Paid day time staff sometime after the first quarter of 2013 to support those calls during the day when most volunteers are at their primary jobs.

Something I would also like to make you aware of is that most citizens don't know this, but we do not solicit donations over the phone. Those calls you receive requesting donations do **NOT** go to your local fire departments as indicated by the caller. If you want to make a donation to your local fire department, contact the Chief of that department directly.

During the year, we use donated vehicles for extrication, air bag and other type training. If you have a vehicle that you would like to donate, please contact me at the fire house. We will even come and tow it away.



"Marine 12"

Our newest addition, this 17 Foot Boat was donated to Avalon Fire Rescue by the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Dept. Most of our water emergencies are in the Bays usually in rough seas. Anyone wishing to donate a good Bay boat, please contact us.

Avalon Fire Rescue - 3 Year (YTD Call Volumes)

	2010	2011	2012*
Structure Fires	2	17	7
Vehicle Fires	6	19	12
Grass/Woods/Trash Fires	39	49	24
MVA	155	145	110
Medical	308	348	264
Water Emergencies	7	3	3
Others (Power Lines/Gas Leaks, etc)	48	50	33
Mutual Aid (Other Fire Dept Calls)	111	142	114
Total	686	773	567*

***Current YTD Totals thru Oct 2012**

Holiday Safety Message

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. Based on data from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), an estimated 240 home fires involving Christmas trees and another 150 home fires involving holiday lights and other decorative lighting occur each year. Together, these fires result in 21 deaths and \$25.2 million in direct property damage.

Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and ever popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy.

Christmas Trees

What's a traditional Christmas morning scene without a beautifully decorated tree? If your household includes a natural tree in its festivities, take to heart the sales person's suggestion – "Keep the tree watered."

Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem. A dry and neglected tree can be.

Holiday Lights

Maintain Your Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch.

Do not leave holiday lights on unattended!

Holiday Decorations

Use Only Nonflammable Decorations

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents. If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Don't Block Exits

Ensure that trees and other holiday decorations do not block an exit way. In the event of a fire, time is of the essence. A blocked entry/exit way puts you and your family at risk.

Never Put Wrapping Paper in the Fireplace

Wrapping paper in the fireplace can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire.

Candle Care

Avoid Using Lit Candles

If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree

Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame – candles, lighters or matches.

As in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan!

Calendar of Events November/December - 2012

Sunday, November 4th

Daylight Savings Time Ends

*Remember to set your clocks back one hour, AND change your batteries in all smoke alarms.

(Smoke Alarms DO SAVE LIVES!!)

Tuesday, November 6th

Primary Election - VOTE

Friday, November 9th

Show and Tell at Benny Russell Elementary School - (Educating the little ones to be safe)

Sunday, November 11th

Veterans Day – Thank you to all our Veterans, we do appreciate you!

Tuesday, November 13th

Moor's Homeowners Assn Meeting 6:00 pm

Wednesday, November 14th

Avalon Beach Homeowners Assn Meeting- 7:00 pm

Saturday, Dec 1st

Milton and Pace Christmas Parades

Saturday, Dec 8th and Sunday, Dec 9th (Weather Permitting)

Annual Santa on Fire Trucks in the Neighborhoods

Additional Calendar Note:

As in years past, AARP volunteers will be utilizing our station to provide FREE service to the community for preparation and eFiling of your Income Taxes.

When: Feb 1st – April 15th

Time: Monday and Wednesday 9:00 – 1:00pm

Our next Newsletter is scheduled to be published June /July 2013