



### It's time...

- ...to protect your neighbor
- ...to serve your community
- ...to do your part
- ...to meet a personal challenge
- ...to live courageously
- ...to make a difference
- ...to step out
- ...to be a MFPD Volunteer Fire Fighter

It is time. The next training sequence begins in November. In about 32 weeks you will be prepared to serve as a fire fighter. Interested? Contact Sergeant Ron Maddux at [rmaddux@mfpd.org](mailto:rmaddux@mfpd.org) or call 245-7555. It is time.



# FIREline

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLETOWN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT • FALL 2008 • VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

## The Annual MFPD Open House

*Specializing in Neighborly Fun...Free Food, Activities, & Good Times for All*

At the beginning of October, the MFPD throws its doors open and invites all the neighbors to stop by for some fun and food. As in years past a wide variety of activities will appeal to every kid and kid at heart. Here's just some of what is planned...

- The first 200 families through the door will each receive a Home Fire Escape Planning Kit!
- Fire Trucks—This sophisticated machinery is always a favorite. Explore all the “bells and whistles.” Climb on board!
- Fire Fighting Gear—Helmets, fire coats, and boots will be available to try on. Can you guess how much the protective equipment worn by fire fighters weighs?
- The Jaws of Life—If you are trapped in mangled steel this equipment is your best hope for getting out quickly. Fire fighters will slice through an automobile as they demonstrate one of the most important tools needed for rescues.

- Hose Work—Ready, aim at the ‘fire target.’ Can you hit a target with a stream of water charged to 150 pounds of pressure? You might be surprised how challenging it can be.
- Thermal Imaging Camera—Ever wonder how fire fighters see through smoke? Take a look through a special state-of-the-art camera that makes it possible.
- Fire Safety Tattoos will be available for everyone.
- Kids, test the fire fighter in you by participating in the Junior Fire Fighter Challenge! Run through a 6-event obstacle course that includes “The Tunnel,” “The Rescue Carry,” and putting out a “House Fire!”

**Be sure to Fall Back on 11/2/08!**  
When you turn your clocks back change those smoke detector batteries! To do list: 1) buy new batteries; 2) install new batteries; 3) sleep better.

**Saturday,  
October 11, 12 - 4pm  
Station One  
at 108 Urton Lane**



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**Middletown Fire**  
PROTECTION DISTRICT  
108 Urton Lane  
Middletown, Kentucky 40223-3944

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# Fire Prevention Week

## October 5 - 11, 2008

A pot holder too close to a lit burner or a space heater left on overnight could be all it takes to start a home fire. In fact, cooking and heating are among the leading causes of home fires in the United States, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

This year's campaign focuses on preventing all the leading causes of home fires - cooking, heating and electrical equipment, and smoking materials. Additionally, fire safety educators will be teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs.

While the number of home fires is daunting, the good news is that many are easily preventable when residents take simple steps to increase their safety from fire. Whether it's smoking outside the home, keeping space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, or staying in the kitchen when you are using the

stovetop, there are easy things you can do to keep your home and family safe from fire.

Do you know how to keep your home safe from fire hazards? Reviewing the following information and taking action can help you "Prevent Home Fires" during Fire Prevention Week and year-round.

- **Cooking:** Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- **Heating:** Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.

In 2007 fires in the United States killed one person every two and a half hours. Every 20 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the nation. A fire occurs in a structure at the rate of one every 59 seconds, and in particular, a residential fire occurs every 76 seconds. Fires occur in vehicles at the rate of 1 every 122 seconds, and there's a fire in an outside property every 41 seconds.

- **Electrical:** Replace cracked and damaged electrical cords; use extension cords for temporary wiring only. Consider having additional circuits or receptacles added by a qualified electrician.

- **Smoking:** If you smoke, smoke outside; wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays.

Take the Fire Prevention Week "Prevent Home Fires!" on-line quiz at [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org) Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week Web site, [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org). ©2008 NFPA.



## Matters of Chief Importance

by Chief Jeffrey Riddle, Sr.

Just a few days ago, on October 1, I was honored to assume the role as Chief of the Middletown Fire Protection District. This step is my opportunity to serve the community in which I have lived all my life through the fire department that I have been a part of since 1989. I could not be happier or more grateful.

I am:

...*grateful* to a community who, through the elected citizens serving on MFPD Board of Trustees, chose me to serve as Chief. It is their supervision, their diligence, and their hard work that ensures that the MFPD is the best it can be. They do a great job for you and this department.

...*grateful* to Chief Donald Brooks who served as chief for the past 35 years. His faithful, able and steady leadership moved the MFPD into the state of readiness and professionalism that sets it apart as one of the finest fire departments in the region. He set the bar high—I thank him for doing so.

...*grateful* to be serving alongside professional and volunteer firefighters whose commitment to preparation and service is second to none. I know each of these men and women; you are well served by them.

...*grateful* to be a part of the Middletown Community. We have so much going for us. Our community is a great place to raise a family, shop, sample every variety of food, play and work. In a world that sometimes gets far too busy to be really friendly, we still know what it means to be neighborly and we can slow it down when we need to.

I have been entrusted with a straightforward mission: Your safety and well-being. I pledge my best effort to achieve this charge through preparation, training, the recruitment and retention of volunteers, and by responding when called in an expedient and professional manner. This is my word, count on it.

As you need to speak with me, my door is open or contact me at [jriddle@mfpd.org](mailto:jriddle@mfpd.org).

### Bio Profile:

- Born: December 10, 1968, Louisville, KY
- High School: Eastern High School 1984-1987
- College: Associate Degree, KCTCS
- Married to Cyndi for 16 yrs
- Son: Junnie, 11 yrs
- Daughter: Carleigh, 8 yrs
- Fire Service dates:
  - o Eastwood Fire Department, 1982 - 1989
  - o Middletown Fire Protection District, 1989 - 2000
  - o Assistant Chief, MFPD, 2000 - 2008
  - o Chief, MFPD, October 1, 2008