

MINOOKA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Smoke Signals

www.minookafire.com



The dedicated members of the Minooka Fire Protection District strive to provide reliable emergency services, public education, and awareness for our customers in a cost effective and responsible manner.



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Daylight Savings

March 10

Change your clocks,
Change your smoke
and CO alarm
batteries.

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[@minookafire](https://twitter.com/minookafire)

Welcome to our first E-newsletter! Stay up-to-date with Fire District news, classes, and safety information.



ILLINOIS CAR SEAT LAW

EFFECTIVE

01.01.2019



Requirement 1:

Children under the age of 2 must ride rear-facing.

Requirement 2:

Restraint must be provided by parents or legal guardians.

Requirement 3:

Every person transporting a child under 8 is responsible for properly securing the child.

If you have any questions about car seats or which seat is best fit for your child, visit our website

www.minookafire.com

or call for an appointment

815-467-5637



Minooka Fire District Ranks as One of the Top Protection Services in the United States

In case you haven't heard, Minooka Fire Protection District ranks in the top half percent of fire departments Nationwide. As the result of a third-party evaluation conducted by the Insurance Service Office (ISO), Minooka Fire Protection District, in partnership with the water departments in the Village of Channahon and Village of Minooka, as well as WESCOM Dispatch, the Fire District was awarded a Class 1 Public Protection Classification (PPC). Only 19 communities in Illinois and only 241 in the United States are currently rated a Class 1 Department.

This is a great accomplishment for the community. The District was last evaluated in 2006 and has seen quite a bit of growth in that twelve years. In 2006 the Fire District received a Class 3 PPC. In that twelve years the Fire District has properly addressed the growth by increasing staffing, training, apparatus, equipment and facilities.

Over the past twelve years the Fire District has also improved our community risk reduction programs. We created a dedicated fire inspector position in 2009 to address new construction and existing business code compliance. The Fire District led the initiative to improve and update local fire codes as well as implementation of sprinklers and fire alarms in all commercial buildings.

Public education has continued to increase through the past twelve years. We are one of only a couple of fire departments in the region that employs a dedicated, full-time fire and life safety educator. The Fire District is able to introduce fire and life safety education to both Channahon and Minooka School Districts through this program.

The benefit to the community means that Minooka Fire Protection District homeowners, businesses, and industrial are recognized as having superior fire protection and that translates to better property insurance premiums. The new classification goes into effect February 1, 2019.



New Ambulance

In November, the Fire District took delivery of a new Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance. The ambulance is a 2019 Ford/Horton. The new 1315 went into service on January 17th. It is equipped with a Stryker Power Cot and Lift. This will help reduce back injuries to the fire/medics when transferring a patient into the ambulance.

Chief Yancey — Statewide Fire Chief Association Director

Fire Chief Al Yancey was recently re-elected to a two-year term as Director of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Executive Board, with specific assignment to represent the volunteer and combination fire service needs and initiative on the Executive Board.

The IFCA exists to improve the efficiency and to elevate the status of the fire service, as well as to furnish fire chiefs and aid in their efforts to promote more effective fire prevention and suppression through educational, legislative, and technical means.



Winter Safety Tips



Winter comes as no surprise, but many people are not ready when it arrives. If you are prepared for the hazards of winter, you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall.

Space Heaters need S P A C E !

When the weather turns cold, it can bring a chill into our homes. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat one room. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters, make sure to follow these tips and recommendations:

- * Purchase a heater with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- * Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including people.
- * Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- * Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- * Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- * Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- * Keep children away from the space heater.
- * Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- * Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

For more winter safety information,
please visit the following websites:
www.minookafire.com
www.nfpa.org

FACT: There are more home fires in winter than in any other season. Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January and February.

Generator Safety

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to a portable generator for a temporary solution without knowing the risks.

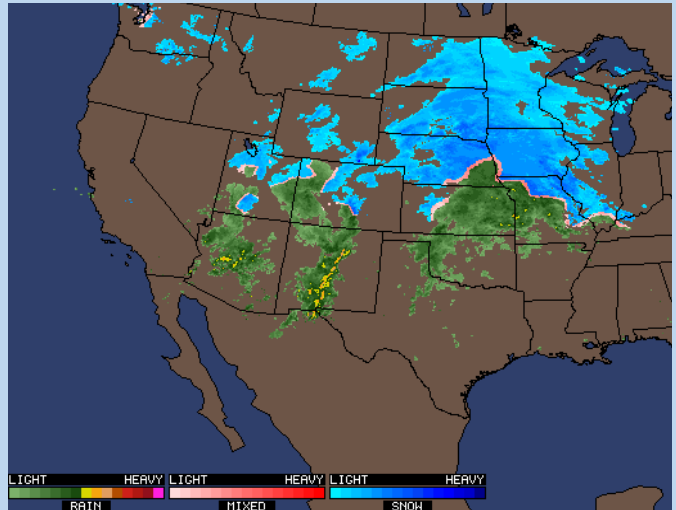
- ◆ Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside at least 5 feet away from all doors, windows, and vent openings. Measure the 5-foot distance from the generator exhaust system to the building.
- ◆ Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- ◆ Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building. The exhaust must be directed away from the building.
- ◆ Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- ◆ Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.
- ◆ Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.

Know Your Winter Weather Terms

WATCH: Winter storm is possible in your area. Follow local media for tips and updates.

ADVISORY: Conditions expected to cause major delays and maybe hazardous. Use caution.

WARNING: Winter storm is occurring or will occur in your area.



A Spill, A Slip, A Hospital Trip!

To prevent slips, trips, and falls, clear the walkway surfaces of snow and ice, then spread deicer soon after a winter storm.

When walking on an icy or snow-covered walkway, take short steps and walk at a slower pace so you can react quickly to a change in traction.

Carrying heavy items can challenge your sense of balance. Try not to carry too much—you need to leave your hands and arms free to better balance yourself.

Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles—use the vehicle for support.



HOW TO DRESS FOR PLAYING IN THE SNOW



When your little angels are out making snow angels, make sure they are dressed properly for the cold. Limit their time in the cold to avoid frostbite.

MITTENS

Mittens are warmer than gloves.

COAT

Wear a water repellant coat and several loose fitting lightweight layers underneath.

BOOTS

Waterproof boots and wool socks to keep feet warm and dry.

HAT

Helps keep head warm and prevents body heat loss.

SCARF*

When worn over your face, it helps protect your lungs from the cold air.

* For kids, tuck the ends inside their coats to prevent them from getting caught on something, causing them to suffocate.

SNOW PANTS

Water repellant material.





Meet Your Hometown Heroes

Each quarter we will feature one of our firefighters. This is a great way to get to know the person who maybe coming to help you or a family member.

Lee Cassidy is our most recent Fire District Firefighter/Paramedic. He spent four years in the Army and worked for Troy Fire District and Kurtz Ambulance Service before joining our family. Lee and his wife have a new baby boy.

Additional Staff

Recently, the Board of Trustees authorized the creation of three new career firefighter positions. Calls for service continue to rise each year as the population increases, which can result in multiple calls in progress. These additional firefighter positions set our daily full staffing at ten personnel on duty plus a chief officer that is available to respond. This allows the Fire District to cover multiple EMS calls in progress prior calling for assistance from a neighboring fire district.

Schedule of Events

Date	Class	Time	Place
Feb 2	1st Aid/CPR/AED Class	8 am	Minooka Fire
Feb 9	Family Fest (Grundy Co. Chamber)	9am - 1 pm	Minooka Jr. High School
Mar 2	Health Care Provider CPR Class	8 am	Channahon Fire
Mar 10	Daylight Savings– Spring Ahead	2 am	
Mar 27	Safe Sitter Babysitting Class	8 am - 3 pm	Minooka Fire

To register for the above classes, please visit our website:
www.minookafire.com

You can now pay for classes online!