

MINOOKA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



SMOKE SIGNALS

Fall 2025

NEWSLETTER

Fall Safety Tips

- Back to School Safety
- Ladder Safety
- Chimney & Dryer Vents
- Halloween/Thanksgiving Safety

What's happening in the district

- Calendar of events
- New training center
- Celebrating milestones

CHARGE into Fire Safety™
Lithium-Ion Batteries
in Your Home

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™ fpw.org



SAVE THE DATE

Open House!

Join us on
October 8, 2025
5p - 7:30p
at
Minooka Fire Station #1
7901 E. Minooka Rd.



BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

Transportation Safety Tips

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they take proper safety precautions. Here are some tips to make sure your child safely travels to school:

Bus Riders:

Teach your children school bus safety rules and practice with them.

- Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus
- Teach your children to stand 6 feet (or three giant steps) away from the curb
- If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, teach him or her to walk on the side of the road until they are 10 feet ahead of the bus; your child and the bus driver should always be able to see each other
- Make sure they look both ways before crossing the street

Driving Your Child to School:

Stay alert and avoid distracted driving.

- Obey school zone speed limits and follow your school's drop-off procedure
- Make eye contact with children who are crossing the street
- Never pass a bus loading or unloading children
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them to safely enter and exit the bus
- Make sure your child is properly restrained in the vehicle with either a child safety seat or seat belt.

Walkers:

Review your family's walking safety rules and practice walking to school with your child.

- Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available; when on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing traffic
- Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing, and always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections
- Stay alert and avoid distracted walking

Bike Riders:

Teach your child the rules of the road and practice riding the bike route to school with your child.

- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, and in a single file
- Come to a complete stop before crossing the street; walk bikes across the street
- Stay alert and avoid distracted riding
- Make sure your child always wears a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing

For more safety tips, download the **Back To School Check List** from the National Safety Council <https://www.nsc.org/getmedia/3453c0e1-7004-4ae1-9c10-f56510dd0b5d/back-to-school-safety-checklist.pdf>

For child safety seat information, visit our website:

www.minookafire.com/child-safety-seats/



Ladder Safety

Cleaning the gutters is usually high on the fall clean-up list but it is also one of the most dangerous tasks if proper precautions are not taken.

- Keep your ladder on a flat surface.
- Have someone else hold the ladder as you climb.
- Wear shoes with traction to avoid slipping in case the steps are wet.
- Don't lean over past your arm's reach.
- Don't stand on very top step of the ladder.
- Wear gloves and eye protection.



FALL SAFETY TIPS

Things to do BEFORE winter

Chimney inspections

Have your chimneys inspected and swept if needed. If the chimney (fireplace & furnace/water heater/flue) is clean and free of obstructions, there is less danger of a chimney fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Free and Clear. Make sure that the top of the chimney is free and clear of tree branches, ivy, or overhanging branches.
- Cap it. Have a chimney cap installed on all of the flues. New chimney caps are usually constructed of stainless steel and do not rust. They keep out rain, birds, raccoons, squirrels, leaves and other debris that could obstruct the flow of flue gasses in your chimney.
- The right fuel for the job. Well seasoned hard wood yields the most Btu's (heat) for your fireplace or wood stove. Wood that has been split and stacked for 6 months out of the rain will be dry enough. Do not burn Christmas trees, pressure treated or painted scrap lumber in your fireplace or wood stove.
- Liquid free light. Do not use any type of liquid fire starters (lighter fluid, charcoal grill lighter, gasoline, etc.) to start the fire. Only use fire starters specifically designed for fireplaces and wood stoves. Besides the inherent danger of out of control flames inside the home, some of these accelerants can leave residues that may ignite inside the flue (chimney fire).
- Keep it clear. Keep all furniture and combustible furnishings at least 36 inches away from the fireplace or wood stove. Exposure to heat can lower the ignition temperature of combustible items over time, and they can catch fire.
- Screens or doors. Have a fireplace screen or set of glass doors with a screen in front of your fireplace during operation. Flying sparks from sappy wood can burn holes in your carpet or furniture. Remember, if you have glass doors, they must be open during the operation of your fireplace, do not close them if a fire is burning. The glass is not rated for those temperatures and the fire will be starved for oxygen and may smoke up the home.
- Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are a must. Some of the newer units will detect both smoke and carbon monoxide, but both types should be installed through out the home.
- Treat your fire like a toddler, watch them. Tumbling logs off the grate can knock over a fireplace screen and start a house fire. Do not leave them unattended.
- Pick the right company. Do your homework on the company you choose to inspect and sweep your fireplace/ furnace flues. What kind of certifications and training do they have?



Dryer Vents



Follow these simple safety tips to prevent a clothes dryer fire in your home:

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter. Clean the lint filter before and after each cycle.
- Do not forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up.
- Check the venting system behind the dryer to make sure that it is not damaged, crushed or restricted.
- Make sure that the outdoor vent covering opens when the dryer is operating.



Halloween and THANKSGIVING SAFETY TIPS



Halloween is a fun and spooOOooky time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips:

- As bad as it may sound, go on the internet and check your local state website for sex offenders. Look up your zip code and it should have a list of registered offenders in your area that includes street addresses. Make sure that your kids stay away from these houses!
- Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them. Make sure that they know not to deviate from the planned route so that you always know where they will be.
- Help your young child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make sure that it's fire proof or treated with fire retardant. If they are wearing a mask, make sure that the eye holes are large enough for good peripheral vision.
- Make sure you set a time that your kids should be home by and they know how important it is for them to be home on time. Have them call immediately if something happens or they are going to be delayed.
- Explain to kids of all ages the difference between tricks and vandalism. Throwing eggs at a house may seem funny but they need to know the other side of the coin as well, that clean up and damages can ruin Halloween for everyone. If they are caught vandalizing, make them clean up the mess they've made.
- Teach your kids about not getting into strangers cars or talking to strangers, no matter what the person says to them. Also, tell them what to do should this happen, to scream as loud as they can to draw attention and to run away as fast as they can to someplace safe.



Thanksgiving Safety

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important when there is a lot of activity and people at home. Here are a few safety tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop to keep an eye on the food
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey in the oven and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. Have a 3 foot "no kids zone".
- Make sure children stay away from hot foods and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy, or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Be sure cords from electric knives, coffee makers, crockpots, or mixers are not dangling off of the counter within easy reach of small children.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working by testing them at least once a month.

Turkey Fryer Safety Tips

- Do not overfill the fryer.
- Fryers should always be used outdoors, on a solid level surface a safe distance from buildings and flammable materials.
- Keep all-purpose fire extinguishers nearby.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed before it is placed in a fryer.
- Never leave the fryer unattended. The oil could continue to heat until it catches fire.
- Never let children or pets near the fryer when in use or after use as the oil can remain hot for hours.
- Never use a fryer on a wooden deck, under a patio cover, in a garage or enclosed space.
- Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts and wear long sleeves and safety goggles to protect from splatter.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Heart Saver 1st Aid/CPR/AED	September 6th	8 am-12p
Open House	October 8th	5p-7:30p
BLS Health Care Provider CPR	November 8th	8 am-12p

For more information about our CPR classes or to sign up online, visit our website: <https://www.minookafire.com/cpr/>

New Training Center



The training center features a specialized 4-story building designed to simulate real-life emergency situations. Firefighters use the structure to practice essential skills such as hose advancement through stairwells and hallways, proper ladder placement for rescue and access, and high-angle rescue techniques including repelling from upper floors. The facility also includes designated areas for live burn scenarios, allowing crews to train in controlled fire environments and sharpen their response tactics under realistic heat and smoke conditions.

Celebrating Milestones



Matt Feinberg 10 yrs
Zach Troutman 5 yrs
Alex Richter 5 yrs
Dakota Gapinski 5 yrs
Hailee Arnold 5yrs
Jack Lustro 5 yrs

