



**O'Fallon Fire Protection District**  
111 Laura K Drive  
O'Fallon, MO 63366  
ofallonfire.org • 636.272.3493



**Take a look inside  
the District with  
our new videos!**  
[ofallonfire.org](http://ofallonfire.org)

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YouTube and Instagram  
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**PROUDLY SERVING:**

**Upcoming Events**

**Trivia Night**  
April 22 - 7 p.m.  
O'Fallon Elks Lodge

For event details and updates, follow O'Fallon Firefighters Community Outreach on Facebook.

**Continuing For Keira: O'Fallon Firefighters Community Outreach Keeps Commitment To St. Baldrick's Foundation**

In 2014, OFPD Firefighter Tom Vogelgesang met Keira Stout. At the time, the local nine-year-old was battling rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare form of cancer. Keira's optimistic outlook on life and her battle against cancer inspired many, including Vogelgesang, who encouraged O'Fallon Firefighters Community Outreach to become involved with the St. Baldrick's Foundation. The foundation's mission is to find cures for childhood cancers and to give survivors long and healthy lives. They are known for their fundraisers where individuals shave their heads to bring awareness to

the lack of funding for childhood cancer research. Vogelgesang jumped at the opportunity to support Keira and St. Baldrick's, shaving his head of curly hair for the first time in 2015. Since then, Community Outreach has helped raise nearly \$80,000 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation through head-shaving events, mouse races and more.

In 2016, Keira was named an honorary OFPD firefighter, two years before losing her battle against cancer.

"Kiera continues to be my inspiration to help raise money to stop childhood cancer," Vogelgesang says. "No child or their parents should have to go through what their family had to go through, and we need to work together so that no parent ever hears, 'Your child has cancer.'"

O'Fallon Firefighters Community Outreach team provides fundraising, donations and manpower to residents and organizations in need within O'Fallon Fire Protection District boundaries. This not-for-profit organization is made up of volunteers from the O'Fallon Professional Firefighters Association IAFF Local 2665 and the administrative staff who are dedicated to making a difference in their community even while off duty.



**Spring is here. Be on the lookout for thunderstorm or tornado watches and warnings.**

**Watch**

Conditions are favorable for a tornado or severe thunderstorm

**Warning**

A tornado or severe thunderstorm is expected

In severe weather, always make sure your cellphone is fully charged. Stay tuned to local news alerts.



# O'FALLON

**FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
*Committed to protecting our community*



## How Old Is Your Smoke Alarm?

How old is your house? Chances are it is more than 10 years old, and if it is, it is probably time to replace your smoke alarms. Over time, the sensors on smoke alarms become less sensitive, meaning they may not sound when they come in contact with smoke.

It is estimated that after 10 years, there is about a 30% chance of smoke alarm failure; after 15 years, the chances of it not sounding increase to 50%.

"That is a big risk to take considering more than half of all home fire deaths happen in homes without working smoke alarms," O'Fallon Fire Protection District Chief Tom Vineyard says.

Your home smoke alarms should have a replace-by date on the back of the alarm near the battery panel. If it is past that date, or if the smoke alarm does not work when you test it, it is time for a replacement.

The placement of smoke alarms is also important. OFPD recommends using interconnected smoke alarms, which means if one alarm sounds, every alarm in the house sounds. They should be installed on every level of the home, on the ceiling or high on the wall in every sleeping room, and outside each separate sleeping area.

When you replace your smoke alarm batteries, remember to check the replacement date on the back of your smoke alarms.

If you have a chirping alarm, need help changing the batteries or if you need a battery-operated detector, we can help! Just call 636.272.3493. If you have a hardwired or interconnected smoke alarm a certified electrician will need to perform the replacement.



**REPLACE  
YOUR SMOKE  
ALARM EVERY**

**10  
YEARS**

## Ask The Board:

Why is it important for OFPD to offer advanced life support (ALS) emergency medical services?

### William "Bill" Laughlin

It saves lives, that is what counts. It has helped our community since we have grown to offer ALS. With all the new faces around the district, it's very satisfying to know that every new hire is a paramedic as well as a firefighter and that, along with a five-person crew, we are taking care of our community!



### Matt Simmons

By having a firefighter/paramedic on board our trucks we have a clear advantage when arriving at the call. Our crews have access to the tools, training and experience to save lives when seconds matter. In the end, faster and more efficient advanced life support means better service to our residents.



### Matt Gober

The positive benefits of an ALS District are numerous, but for me, the best way to describe it is heightened preparedness. It is a commitment by the department to provide the best-trained, most well-prepared personnel available. As a taxpayer-funded entity, we owe it to our citizens to have the top-of-the-line training, education, and Key Performance Indicators in place. Our community knows if and when they need us, the professionalism and training sent their way will be top-notch, and offering ALS is a big part of this.



The O'Fallon Fire Protection District is led by a three-member Board of Directors elected by the community. Board members serve six-year terms.

## To Apply

Any student interested in applying for the Junior Firefighter program can pick up an application packet from our Administration building, located at:

111 Laura K Drive, 2nd Floor, O'Fallon, MO 63366



## Junior Firefighters Gain Insight Into the Fire Service

Since the mid-1980s, O'Fallon Fire Protection District has offered a Junior Firefighter program. Young people interested in a career in the fire service gain firsthand experience through monthly training around offering basic skills as well as opportunities to ride along with OFPD crews on the fire truck. OFPD's Junior Firefighter program is the only program of its kind in St. Charles County.

"Fundamentally, our program is designed to give members a chance to see if this is a career path they would like to pursue," OFPD Firefighter/Paramedic Justin Tichy says. "We don't necessarily train a defined set of skills. Instead, we stress the importance of teamwork and persistence as well as building strong character within our members while they gain first-hand experience in the fire service."

A number of OFPD's current employees got their start in the Junior Firefighter program. Tichy estimates that at least nine program participants have become career firefighters in the District, with four rising to the rank of captain. Others have gone on to work for other local fire departments.

"We have a recent member who grew up always wanting to be a firefighter," Tichy says. "He joined the Juniors when he turned 14 and was immediately hooked."

Thanks to his mentors in the Junior Firefighter program, the member pushed himself to graduate from high school early and enter an EMT program.

"Because of the guidance he received through the program, he knew the exact path he needed to follow to be successful. He then went on to get his paramedic license and completed the St. Louis County Fire Academy all prior to his 20th birthday," Tichy says, adding that the member now meets all the requirements to be an OFPD reserve firefighter and was recently hired as a full-time firefighter/paramedic in St. Louis County.

Tichy says that even those who ultimately decide to take their careers in a different direction can benefit from the program's mentoring focus.

"Many of the skills they develop here transfer well to any profession, such as teamwork, critical thinking and problem-solving," Tichy says. "Also, firefighting is a very hands-on profession. I think most of our members would succeed in any skilled trade if they choose not to pursue fire or EMS careers."

OFPD's Junior Firefighter program is open to all District residents ages 14-18 who maintain at least a 2.0 GPA in high school. OFPD employees' children are also eligible. There is no cost to participate, but members must supply their own work pants, belt and boots. Members receive a full set of fire turnout gear to use while participating in the program as well as an OFPD T-shirt and sweatshirt.

## A Changing Of The Guard

Learn more about our new firefighters on our website, ofallonfire.org.

**Retirements** In late 2021, we said farewell to nine members of our team who started their retirement journey. Some started as volunteers before 1989, when the first team of full-time OFPD firefighters was hired. Together, they led our District to where we are today and their leadership, dedication and unwavering commitment to protecting our community will be greatly missed.



Assistant Chief  
Ken Vomund, 48 yrs.



Captain  
Mark Ballman, 38 yrs.



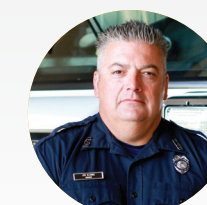
Captain  
Bud Marchlewski, 36 yrs.



Captain  
Mike Alcorn, 32 yrs.



Captain  
Mary Emge, 31 yrs.



Engineer  
John Blevins, 19 yrs.



Firefighter  
Dave Koenig, 28 yrs.



Firefighter  
Russ Hubert, 26 yrs.



Administrative Assistant  
Karen Lucido, 21 yrs.

Eight experienced firefighter/paramedics were hired and nine crew members were promoted to fill the positions opened by the retirements.

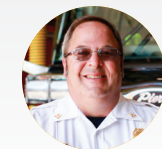
**Promotions** The following individuals have been promoted to assistant chief, battalion chief and captain. In the fire service, a battalion chief oversees the duties and activities of an entire shift, serves as the incident commander in emergency situations, and is responsible for managing personnel issues, training activities and programming. A captain leads a five-person crew and also coordinates, oversees and recommends training for their assigned crew.



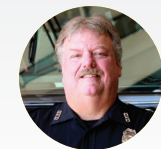
Assistant Chief  
Matt Braile



Assistant Chief  
Andy Parrish



Battalion Chief  
Eric Johnston



Captain  
Darrell Daly



Captain  
Kory Dunn



Captain  
Kelly Ennis



Captain  
Mike Knipping



Captain  
Adam Stenger



Captain  
Brandon Stenger



Captain  
Elliot Thomas



Captain  
Sean Porter



### New Administrative Assistant

Julie Gaylord

**New Firefighter Paramedics** We are proud to welcome eight new firefighter/paramedics to the District. As part of our commitment to providing advanced emergency medical services, all new OFPD hires are experienced, licensed paramedics as well as trained firefighters.

Greg Bewig, Cody Hughes, Jared Swafford, Parker Malensky, Riley Schmidt, Nick Woolbright, Joe Sughero and Nick Mensio.



## District Details

In 2021, OFPD provided emergency and rescue services to:

**6,097** Total Calls

**169** Fires

**10** Rescues

**3,006**

Emergency Medical  
Service Incidents

**167**

Hazardous Condition  
Situations

**411**

Motor Vehicle Accidents

**455**

Fire Alarms

**1,879**

Citizen-Assist Occurrences

**69**

People Were Taught CPR



**CPR CLASSES ARE  
BEING OFFERED AGAIN!**

If you would like to sign up please contact us at 636.272.3493.