



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

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O'FALLON

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Committed to protecting our community

Save The Date!

ELECTION DAY

APRIL 7

Polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Learn About Prop. FIRE
More information:
ofallonfire.org/propfire

PROUDLY SERVING:

Inside: Prop. FIRE is on the April 7 ballot. What it means for emergency services in our community.

This information was prepared and paid for by the O'Fallon Fire Protection District, 111 Laura K Dr., Thomas Vineyard, Chief, O'Fallon, MO 63366. This information is intended solely to educate and inform residents.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mouse Races

April 24, 2026
St. Paul Knights of Columbus Hall
Benefits MDA and St. Baldrick's

Outreach

Golf Tournament

Sept. 8, 2026
The Falls

District Details

Total 2025 Numbers:

6,272 Total Calls	16 Trash Fires
84 Structure Fires	3,143 EMS Calls
21 Vehicle Fires	349 MVA's
42 Brush Fires	2,422 Service Calls

Be In The Know!

For safety tips, event updates, and CPR class information, visit ofallonfire.org or follow [@ofallonfire](https://www.instagram.com/ofallonfire) on Facebook and Instagram.

Now Seeking Applicants: Trade and Emergency Services Scholarship

High school seniors who live within the O'Fallon Fire Protection District and plan to pursue a career in the trades or emergency services are encouraged to apply for a \$3,000 scholarship from the O'Fallon Firefighters Community Outreach. One student will be selected, and applicants from any school are encouraged to apply as long as they reside within district boundaries. **Applications are due April 15, 2026.**

Visit facebook.com/ofallonfirefightersoutreach for details.

The scholarship is one piece of the Outreach team's broader mission to support neighbors and local organizations through fundraising, donations, and hands-on help. The not-for-profit group, made up of IAFF Local 2665 members and administrative staff, also hosts toy and food drives, trivia night, mouse races, golf tournaments, and more, bringing the community together for great causes.



REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Only purchase batteries and chargers listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL.
- Only use the charger designed for that specific device.
- Do not charge batteries overnight or when you are not home.
- Store batteries away from items that can catch fire.
- Don't use chargers with damaged or frayed cords.
- Replace damaged or swollen batteries and recycle them properly.

A Growing Fire Risk in Our Garages: Lithium-Ion Batteries

Lithium-ion batteries power many of the tools and devices we use every day, including lawn equipment, power tools, e-bikes, scooters and more. They are convenient and efficient, but when they are damaged, overcharged or stored improperly, they can start fast-moving fires.

This is not just a national issue. Our community has experienced several fires in recent years in which lithium-ion batteries were a contributing factor, many of which started in garages and basements. "These types of fires are on the rise nationally, but we're seeing these here too," said Chief Tom Vineyard. "Often it begins with a battery charging on a workbench or stored near boxes or other things that can catch fire. Once it ignites, it can spread quickly."

Fire safety organizations, including the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration,

have identified lithium-ion batteries as a growing source of residential fires as more households rely on battery-powered devices.

Garages and basements are common starting points. Chargers are left plugged in. Spare batteries are stored on shelves. Temperatures can fluctuate. When a battery fails, it can quickly ignite nearby materials and fire can spread throughout the home.

"These batteries are safe when handled correctly," Vineyard said. "But using the wrong charger or buying uncertified batteries increases the risk. A few simple precautions can prevent a serious fire."

As more families use battery-powered equipment, awareness becomes critical. Taking a moment to check how batteries are stored and charged in your garage or basement could help prevent a fire in your home.



THE FACTS ABOUT

PROP. FIRE

REMEMBER TO VOTE BY APRIL 7

The O'Fallon Fire Protection District responds to thousands of calls each year across the communities it serves. Some are structure fires or hazardous materials situations. Some are vehicle crashes or challenging rescues. Most are medical emergencies.

When a fire truck arrives, the crew stepping off is trained to handle all kinds of emergencies. Most OFPD firefighters are also paramedics, and each fire truck carries advanced medical and rescue equipment. Fire extinguishing tools sit alongside cardiac monitors and airway equipment. The same team that stretches a hose line and knocks down the flames can also begin advanced life support within minutes.



That level of service doesn't happen by accident. It depends on training, equipment, facilities, and preparation that allow firefighter/paramedics to do their work safely and effectively.

On Tuesday, April 7, voters will decide whether to adjust how those services are funded through a ballot measure known as Prop. FIRE.

Maintain Emergency Services

Maintaining the quality of our emergency services requires more than responding when the alarm sounds. Firefighter/paramedics complete ongoing training to maintain certifications and keep pace with evolving national standards. Protective gear must be inspected and replaced regularly to keep our firefighter/paramedics safe. Rescue tools and medical equipment must be maintained so they function reliably in high-risk environments.

Strong fire and emergency medical protection also plays a role in safeguarding homes, neighborhoods, and property values. It is part of the infrastructure that helps a community remain a safe place to live and work.

Ready to Respond

As the community grows, calls for service increase.

Buildings become more complex. Medical protocols change. Equipment wears down from daily use across the district.

Keeping response dependable means keeping firefighter/paramedics well-trained and well-equipped so help continues to arrive quickly when it is needed most. Preparation happens long before a call comes in. Vehicles are maintained. Equipment is checked and restocked. Training is repeated and updated.

These are ongoing operational demands. They require stable funding to ensure the level of service residents expect remains consistent as demand rises.

A New Way To Fund Emergency Services

Currently, the O'Fallon Fire Protection District relies mainly on property tax revenue to fund operations. But, a change in Missouri law has opened a new opportunity that gives those who visit and shop in our community an opportunity to contribute to the emergency services they rely on, not only those who own property here.

Prop. FIRE would create a dedicated funding source for emergency services by establishing a one-percent sales tax within the district. Under Missouri law, if the sales tax is approved, the District must reduce its property tax collections by half of the revenue generated by the sales tax.

It is a long-term approach to balancing the cost of providing emergency services in a growing community while providing legally required property tax relief.



THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PROP. FIRE

- Maintains strong fire, rescue and emergency medical services
- Helps keep firefighter/paramedics trained, equipped, and ready to respond
- Creates a new dedicated funding source for emergency services, with required property tax relief under Missouri law



Watch how Prop. FIRE would help maintain our emergency services.

HOW TO VOTE

Election Day: Tuesday, April 7

Polls are open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

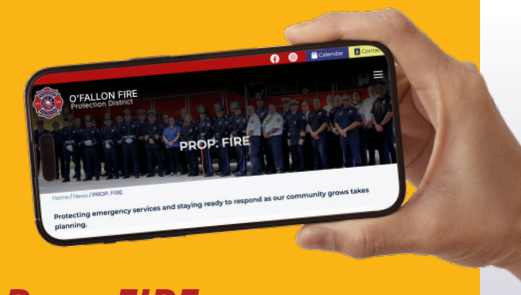
Early Voting

Absentee voting is available at the St. Charles County Election Authority prior to Election Day.

You can verify your voter registration status, confirm your polling place, and review ballot information through the St. Charles County Election Authority.

LEARN MORE

Be an informed voter, learn more at: ofallonfire.org/propfire



Ask The Board:

Why is ongoing training and equipment replacement such a big part of public safety?

William "Bill" Laughlin

When someone calls 911, they do not need to wonder whether we are ready. They expect a response that is skilled, professional, and immediate. But emergencies today look different than they did years ago. Buildings burn differently. Vehicles are built differently. Medical care continues to advance. Training has to keep up with that. If it does not, the community feels the impact. Staying current is part of keeping people safe.



Matt Simmons

People sometimes think about public safety only in terms of response times, but there is another side to it. The job itself is dangerous. Protective gear wears out. Equipment takes a beating. Tools have to work under extreme conditions. Replacing gear on schedule and maintaining equipment the right way helps reduce injuries and keeps responders safer. When they are protected, they are better able to protect everyone else.



Matt Gober

A lot of this comes down to consistency. Training, certifications, inspections, equipment replacement, those are not one-time decisions. They are ongoing responsibilities. If you fall behind, you end up paying more later, either financially or operationally. Our role as a board is to make sure there is a clear plan in place so emergency services remain dependable year after year.



Meet The Board: Matt Simmons



Matt Simmons moved to O'Fallon in 2003 and has called the area home ever since. A member of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 562, his career is built around planning, precision, and paying attention to details.

Those themes also appear in his public service. Simmons has served on the O'Fallon

Fire Protection District Board of Directors for 14 years. The Board of Directors provides oversight for the fire district, including budget review, policy decisions, and long-range planning that helps guide how services are delivered across the communities the fire district serves.

Before joining the fire district board, Simmons served a three-year term on the St. Charles County Ambulance District Board, where he held leadership roles as chairman and vice chair.

At home, his family's ties to the community are familiar to many residents. His wife,

Monique, is a kindergarten teacher, and their daughter graduated from Fort Zumwalt West High School. Simmons has been a public servant for more than two decades, with board service forming a significant part of that experience.

