



the township *Scribe*

Washington Township . . . Your Community, Your Future



Which smoke alarm can save your life?

Fire Marshal Alan Perkins

The kind of smoke alarm you have in your home may not provide adequate warning during a fire. That's right, if you have the kind of detection that most U.S. homes have, an ionization-type, you are at risk of dying in your own home without the alarm ever sounding.

This doesn't seem possible, does it? After all, if there is a fresh battery in your detector and you have tested it to ensure that it is in working order, you and your family members should be safe, right? Maybe not! There is compelling research-based evidence that demonstrates that ionization-type detectors are ineffective in smoldering

type fires, the most common cause of fatalities in home fires. In fact, tests have shown that ionization type smoke alarms don't sound, even after the level of carbon monoxide and smoke reaches deadly concentrations. An alarming amount of documented residential fire deaths have occurred with only the installed ionization type detectors. Had there been a properly installed photoelectric detector in these situations, an alarm would have sounded to warn occupants of the life-threatening situation.

A 1994 study at Texas A&M concluded that the probability of a photoelectric detector failing to detect a smoldering

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Rain barrels conserve water and save money

One of the least expensive and simplest ways to conserve water, a precious natural resource, is to install a home rainwater collector. Rain barrels have been used for centuries to collect and hold rain runoff for future use, but our efficient and modern public utility systems have made it easy for us to forget about them.

The case for using a home rain barrel system is gathering strength as the country and the world become more aware of the total cost of providing clean water for drinking and irrigation. In Central Ohio, although we have a relatively plentiful water supply, it

is common to see home water bills double in the summer months as we irrigate our lawns and gardens.



Installing a rain barrel is one of the easier home improvement projects, and many homeowners can tackle it themselves. The downspouts from the gutters around our houses are usually made of lightweight aluminum that is easy to handle, even from a ladder. The barrels themselves are usually plastic, so they too are fairly manageable.

There are a couple important things to keep in mind though. First, there must be some sort of screen on your barrel. The screen will keep the debris from your gutters out of the barrel, but even more importantly, will keep those pesky mosquitoes from laying their eggs inside it. The other thing to

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Go right for lights and sirens

Every day, emergency personnel answer 9-1-1 calls that require a quick response. To respond in a timely manner, emergency vehicles are permitted to negotiate traffic and road situations in ways that the everyday motorist may not. As they navigate through intersections and around traffic, responders rely on motorists to know how to react to emergency vehicles' lights and sirens. When motorists do not follow Ohio's laws, which require them to yield, the risk of accidents and injury increases for both emergency responders and motorists.

When approached by an emergency vehicle with lights and sirens, motorists should:

- slow down, pull over, and come to a complete stop as far right as possible
- wait until all emergency vehicles pass before slowly and cautiously re-entering traffic, being aware of where other vehicles are.

In larger cities like Columbus, there are a variety of road and intersection

situations that can create confusion about what to do when an emergency vehicle approaches.

Never make a left turn in front of an emergency vehicle, even when in an intersection or turn lane.

Never enter an intersection when an emergency vehicle is approaching. Pull over and stop before the intersection.

If in an intersection when an emergency vehicle approaches, check to make sure all traffic is stopped and pull to the right, taking care not to block the direction of travel of the emergency vehicle.

Never stop while on top or cresting a hill in which the other side of the hill cannot be seen.

Do not stop in the middle of a blind curve.

If traveling in heavy traffic on a multi-lane road, traffic closest to the curb should pull as far to the right as possible and lanes not directly next to

the curb should pull as far toward the curb lane vehicles as possible.

Know what to do when you hear lights and sirens. Teach new drivers in your home so they are prepared to react quickly and appropriately.

Motorists who do not yield to emergency vehicles delay responders' arrival at the scene. In an emergency, every second counts. While it may be an inconvenience to stop and wait, remember that it could be your loved one they are trying to reach. Please yield to all emergency responders. Go right for lights and sirens!

Fire Department Seeks Highest ISO Rating *Chief Allan Woo*

In February, the Insurance Services Office Inc. (ISO) performed a survey field visit of the Washington Township Fire Department to determine if its ISO rating will improve from 2 to 1.

The ISO rating system was designed to assist the insurance industry in developing premiums for fire insurance.

Virtually all U.S. insurers of homes and business property use ISO's Public Protection Classifications (PPC™) when calculating premiums. In general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC, assuming all other factors are equal.

ISO's PPC program evaluates communities according to a uniform set of criteria known as the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). The FSRS has three main parts: Fire Alarm and Communications (10%), Fire Department (50%), and Water Supply (40%). The evaluation criteria in these categories reference nationally-recognized standards developed by the National Fire Protection Association and the American Water Works Association.

Washington Township Fire Department currently enjoys a Class 2 rating, one of only 15 such ratings

in the State of Ohio. This in itself is quite an accomplishment, as there are currently no Class 1 fire departments in the State.

Over the past several months, Battalion Chief Alec O'Connell has coordinated the Department's review and updating

rescue services are not evaluated by ISO. These areas have been addressed however in the Department's recent accreditation by the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Results of this site visit will not be available to the department for at least



Pleasant Valley, Liberty and Jerome Township Fire Departments helped Washington Township test the Fire Department's ability to supply non-hydranted water at a rate of at least 400 gallons/minute for two hours to a scene. This tanker operation is a requirement of the Insurance Service Office for a Class 1 rating.

of all appropriate records in order to garner the highest score possible.

It should be noted that this grading addresses only the fire department and building assessment as it relates to fire suppression. Life safety, EMS and

160-180 days, primarily because of the complexity and redundancy of the grading process.

Parks offer opportunities for Scouts



The Parks & Recreation Department has opportunities available for scouts to fulfill the necessary requirements to earn the Eagle Scout award. Past Eagle Scout candidates have completed a variety of

projects such as building picnic tables, benches, and permanent educational displays and planting trees, shrubs, and specialty gardens.

Our programs can also help your troop satisfy their badge requirements. If you would like to discuss your ideas with a staff member, call 652-3922 or email parkinfo@wtwp.com.

Working Smoke Detector *continued from page 1*

fire is four percent, while the ionization detector provided close to 56% probability of failure in the same fire condition.

One of the reasons for the differences in the performance of these two detector types is in the way they are activated. Ionization smoke alarms contain a small amount of radioactive material and establish a small electric current between two metal plates. When the current is disrupted by smoke, the alarm sounds. This older type of technology is typically more responsive to a flaming fire, such as a kitchen pan fire, but it's also more susceptible to nuisance alarms from bathroom humidity or cooking vapors when placed within 20 feet of a kitchen.

Photoelectric smoke alarms contain a light source and a light-sensitive electric cell. Smoke entering the detector deflects light onto the light-sensitive electric cell, triggering the alarm. These alarms are more sensitive to large particles given off during smoldering fires, such as an electrical fire—the kind of fires that usually occur at night when people are asleep.

For many years, authorities have urged homeowners to install smoke alarms without consideration to the type of potential fire ignition or the quality of smoke detection. This was based on the urgency to equip all homes with smoke detection with what was readily available on the market.

It is no surprise, then, that more than 90% of homes in the United States have only the ionization detection technology, leaving those occupants vulnerable to the most common and deadly type of fire.

To ensure your family gets the early warning they need to survive the toxic gases of a smoldering fire, install photoelectric smoke alarms immediately in and outside sleeping areas. They cost a bit more than the ionization type, but are now readily available at local hardware and home improvement stores.



Install photoelectric smoke alarms in and outside all sleeping areas.

Use March 14th, when you change your clocks to Daylight Savings Time, as your goal for making these important changes in your home.

Along with properly installing and maintaining new and existing smoke alarms, develop and practice an escape plan that includes two ways out of every room, so that everyone in the home knows what to do if the smoke alarms sounds. Home occupants who practice an escape plan reduce their time to escape in every type of fire.

If you have questions concerning the installation of photoelectric smoke alarms, contact the Washington Township Fire Department at (614) 652-3920.

If you would like more information about this important issue, watch the *Stop the Children Burning* series on youtube.com. A very informative news report from Indiana's Channel 13 called *UL-approved smoke alarms may give false sense of security* is also on youtube.com. It details the studies done at Texas A&M. Take a few minutes to review these videos. Then get photoelectric smoke alarms for your home!

Fire Marshal Alan Perkins is a 32-year veteran of the fire service. A Certified Fire Protection Specialist through the National Fire Protection Association and a member of several similar safety organizations, Perkins is working with the Ohio Fire Officials Association for a state law mandating photoelectric or equivalent smoke detection technology in new residential construction.

Free RADON TEST KITS

Radon test kits are available (while supplies last) for residents in Dublin and unincorporated Washington Township.

Kits can be picked up at the Township Administration Building (6200 Eiterman Road) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (One per household, please.)

Kits are made possible through a grant to the Franklin County Board of Health from the Ohio Department of Health.

Customized nature education programs

Let the Township Parks and Recreation Department create a unique educational program for your group. Our pond, demonstration prairie, butterfly garden, and rain gardens provide a multitude of educational opportunities. Learn about fish, birds, insects, and wildlife habitats. Our low-cost programs can be customized to meet your requirements. To discuss the learning possibilities, contact the park office at 652-3922 or email parksinfo@wtwp.com.



Containers are great for small gardens

You don't need land to have a garden. Garden where you want, even if there isn't any soil there. Bring the soil to you by creating a container garden. Container gardens are portable, making it easy to take advantage of the space you have, even if it's limited. Their manageable size and raised elevation also makes them fitting for people with limited time to garden and/or limited mobility.

To get started, all you need is a container, soil, and plants. When selecting a container, make sure it has a drainage hole.

Larger is better. More soil will promote better root growth, can help retain water for longer periods and alleviate high soil temperatures. No matter what size container you select, expect it

to dry out faster than the ground. Container size, soil mixture, plant selection, and site exposure all impact the frequency at which you will need to water and fertilize.

In Central Ohio, containers are most often used for colorful annual flowers. However, some perennials, vegetables, woody, aquatic, and foliage plants are also well suited for container growing.

For details about container selection, soil, fertilizer, and planting tips, consult the Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet, *Gardening*

in Containers, <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1254.html>



Dwarf ornamental peppers and a mixture of foliage plants create a planting with color and texture.

2010 Household Hazardous Waste Collections

The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) will offer mobile household hazardous waste (HHW) collections this year in Dublin, Westerville, Columbus, and Grove City.

PLEASE NOTE: Latex paint will not be accepted at any of these collections. Once dried, latex paint is not considered hazardous and can be disposed of in the trash.

Latex paint will dry if exposed to the air. Simply leave the lid off the paint until it dries. For a faster drying method, use a paint hardener, available in hardware and home improvement stores.

HHW COLLECTIONS

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dublin/NW

April 24, 2010

Ashland Inc., 5200 Blazer Pkwy.

Columbus/SE

June 19, 2010

Alum Creek Transfer Station
2100 Alum Creek Dr.

Westerville/NE Westerville Svc. Dept.

September 4, 2010

350 Park Meadow Rd.

Grove City/SW

October 16, 2010

TBD

For a list of the items that will not be accepted at these collections and information about a permanent SWACO-sponsored collection site, go to swaco.org

Rain Barrels continued from page 1

keep in mind is the weather. Since we live in Ohio, where the winters are cold and long, you will need to drain and disconnect your barrel from its water supply during the coldest months, otherwise the water inside will freeze, expand, and cause your barrel to burst.

The benefits of using a rain barrel go beyond saving money on your utility bills. Your barrel can help reduce erosion and flooding during times of heavy rain or snowmelt. It can also reduce demand on our public water supply during



Rain barrels are available in a variety of shapes and sizes.

the dry summer months. Something else to consider, since the water in your barrel is not treated with chlorine and other chemicals as tap water must be, it is 'softer' and more to your plant's liking.

Locating and purchasing a rain barrel is easier than ever, with many local hardware stores or garden centers stocking them. Naturally, the Internet abounds with information on how to purchase, install and maintain a home barrel system. Considering the low startup cost of a barrel system, it is

likely your investment will pay for itself within a couple years. Better yet, it's a reason to hope for a rainy day!

Saving water not only helps protect the environment, it saves you money and energy (decreased demand for treated tap water). Diverting water from storm drains also decreases the impact of runoff to streams. Therefore, a rain barrel is an easy way for you to have a consistent supply of clean, fresh water for outdoor use, FREE.

Rain barrels, tree seedlings, fish and wildflower seeds

It's time for the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's (FSWCD) annual sale of bareroot tree seedlings, fish, wildflower seeds, rain garden plant kits, and rain barrels.

Orders must be placed by Friday March 26th at 4:30pm.

All items are pre-sold from the FSWCD web site with specific pick-up dates for each item. Online ordering and item descriptions are available at www.franklinswcd.org.

Item	Pick up date
	All items must be picked up at 1328 Dublin Road, Suite 101
bare root tree seedlings, shrubs, wildflower seeds, rain garden manuals, rain barrels (50 gallon)	April 16, 7 am. - 6 p.m. & April 17, 8 a.m. - noon
fish	April 1, noon to 1 p.m.
rain garden kits	May 6 & 7, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

IMPORTANT: Items that are not picked up at the times specified above will be considered a donation to the Franklin Soil and Water conservation implementation program.



Eastern Redbud, known for its spring bloom, is one of the native tree species available through the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's tree sale.

Tree & Shrub Species		
Arborvitae	Common Ninebark	Ohio Buckeye
Eastern White Pine	Red Twig Dogwood	Yellow Buckeye
Bald Cypress	Highbush Cranberry	Mockernut Hickory
American Larch	Eastern Redbud	Scarlet Oak
Witchhazel	Flowering Dogwood	Sycamore
Black Chokeberry	Pawpaw	Bur Oak
Spicebush	Shadblow Serviceberry	Sugar Maple

Reduce your risk of getting bed bugs this spring and summer

Before you travel this spring and summer, make sure you know how to look for bed bugs wherever you are staying. Before you settle into your room, remove the bedding to expose the mattress and look for signs of them. If you see any signs, immediately leave the room with all your belongings and request another room that is not adjacent to that room in any direction (above, below, left, or right).

Even if you don't see bed bugs or evidence of them, it is best to keep your clothes in your suitcase during your stay and the suitcase elevated on the suitcase stand.

Bed bugs are commonplace now in hotels in many states, no matter what the hotel's room rate or reputation. That's because bed bugs hitchhike on people, in suitcases, purses, gym bags, shoes etc. If you have the misfortune of bringing them in your home, they are extremely difficult and expensive to eradicate. Meanwhile, they are biting you and reproducing.

Take bed bugs seriously! Inform your family members and friends so they can minimize their risk of bringing them home.

Schools, hospitals, nursing homes, furniture/appliance delivery trucks, moving trucks, airports, airplanes, apartment complexes, movie theatres--places where the population is transient or people's possessions are moving--are places where bed bugs are more likely to be found.

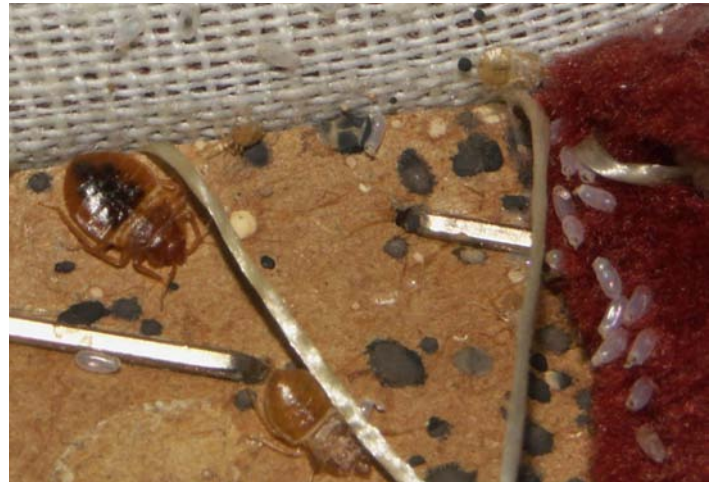
Bird is star of new safety show

Fire Inspector Bob Westbrook has developed a new educational safety show for kids called "Twitter Loves E.D.I.T.H." Twitter is a large, clever bird (he doesn't know he is a puppet) who helps Firefighter Bob deliver fire safety lessons that appeal to kids' interests and sense of humor. Together, Twitter and Inspector Westbrook teach youth about the importance of E.D.I.T.H., which stands for exit drills in the home.

Washington Township Fire Department offers this and other presentations free of charge to groups within the Fire Department's service area.

To request a funny and informative presentation, contact Inspector Westbrook at 614-652-3933 Monday through Friday.

Bed bugs are not isolated to urban or economically depressed areas. No one is exempt from the potential to carry bed bugs into their home.



Bed bug eggs, nymphs, adults, and tell-tale fecal spots (black) on underside of a chair.

It doesn't seem that anyone is exempt from the social stigma bed bugs carry either. This stigma of being dirty or a poor house keeper can keep people from making others aware of their problem.

Be informed. Go to centralohiobedbugs.org to see photos that will help you identify bed bugs, the places they hide, and the tell tale signs of infestations.



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

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6200 Eiterman Road
Dublin, Ohio 43016
(614) 652-3920
Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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Our Mission

Orchestrate a safe,
healthy, and exhilarating
living experience for our
community.

Fire Stations

Station 91: 6255 Shier Rings Road
Station 92: 4497 Hard Road
Station 93: 5825 Brand Road
Station 95: 5750 Blazer Parkway

Parks and Recreation

4675 Cosgray Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026
(614) 652-3922
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m M-F
Janell Thomas, Director
The Homestead Park
4675 Cosgray Road, Hilliard, Ohio 43026
Community Center & Kaltenbach Park
5985 Cara Road, Dublin, Ohio 43016
Amlin Crossing Park
5468 Cosgray Road, Dublin, Ohio 43016

Road and Bridge

4675 Cosgray Road
Hilliard, Ohio 43026
(614) 652-3921
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Janell Thomas, Superintendent
Dave Gibson, Assistant Superintendent