



Is Your Home Safe?

Fire Department Inspections Check for Hazards at Home

When it comes to checking our homes for safety hazards, “fresh eyes” can often make a big difference. And when the eyes belong to the experts at the Gurnee Fire Department, the benefits are even greater.

A home safety inspector checks your entire home, pointing out any hazards they see. For example, fire prevention inspectors will check to make sure extension cords aren't overloaded or damaged, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are properly installed, home address numbers are visible from the street, poisons or flammable liquids are properly stored, fireplaces and chimneys are clear, and furnace filters are clean. They can also assist you in the preparation of an emergency exit plan, or even help your family conduct an exit drill.

Residents may request a safety inspection by contacting the Fire Prevention Bureau at 847-599-6650 or by completing the online Public Event Request Form (<http://www2.gurnee.il.us/fire/requestform.php>). Inspections are available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., by appointment.

Fall Detector Check

Follow this checklist to make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are keeping your family safe.

- Change batteries twice per year
(Change batteries when you change your clocks – first Sunday in November and second Sunday in March.)
- Test all detectors every month
- Replace detectors every 10 years or sooner
- Locate smoke and CO detectors on every level of the home
- Check that smoke detectors are working in every bedroom

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Thanksgiving Safety Suggestions

Here are some quick reminders to help you and your family stay safer during the Thanksgiving holiday – and all year round!

- Holiday meals mean lots of excitement in the kitchen. Keep a clear zone around your range — no children or pets — to prevent spills and accidental burns.
- Wear tighter fitting clothes or short sleeves when you cook. Take off loose scarves or dangling jewelry and keep long hair pulled back to reduce the risk of catching fire.
- Never leave the kitchen while you are cooking. When you're done preparing a meal, double check that all appliances are turned off.
- Turn pot handles away from the edges of the cooktop to keep them from being accidentally grabbed or bumped. Use the back burners first – items back there are less likely to get bumped off the stove.
- Keep knives, matches, burning candles and hot items away from counter edges and out of children's reach.
- Never hold a child while cooking.



- Thaw your turkey in the refrigerator – about one day for every four pounds of turkey. Don't thaw it on the counter where warm temperatures can invite bacterial growth.
- If you use a turkey fryer, place it outside in a clear area on a sturdy, nonflammable surface. Don't fire up the fryer in your garage or on your deck. Fully thaw your turkey to reduce oil splatter. Have a fire extinguisher at hand.
- Remember the rule for grease fires – put a lid on it! Don't try to move the burning pot. Just slide a cover over it and turn off the heat.
- Keep decorative leaves and other flammable materials away from candles, and never leave candles unattended.
- If you think you have a problem, do not hesitate to call 911. Every minute counts when it comes to emergency response.

Five-and-Five to Keep Them Alive

The Red Cross offers this guidance when it comes to choking. First, watch for **choking signals** – hand clutched to throat, inability to talk, difficult or noisy breathing, inability to cough forcefully, or even turning blue or losing consciousness.

The quick first aid response recommended by the American Red Cross is **five-and-five**:

- First, deliver **five back blows** between the person's shoulder blades with the heel of your hand.
- Next, perform **five abdominal thrusts** (the Heimlich maneuver).
- **Alternate** between five back blows and five abdominal thrusts until the blockage is dislodged.

If you're the only rescuer, perform back blows and abdominal thrusts before calling 911. If another is available, have that person call for help while you perform first aid.

– Information courtesy of the Mayo Clinic
(<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/first-aid-choking>)

A Look Ahead to Holiday Decorating Christmas Tree Safety

- When buying a real tree, make sure it is fresh and green. Make a fresh cut at the bottom of the trunk and keep it continuously watered.
- Use a sturdy tree stand and make sure your tree is straight, so it won't topple over if your child or pet brushes by it.
- Display your tree at least 3 feet from heat sources such as furnace ducts, radiators or space heaters, and as far away as possible from fireplaces.
- Consider using a fire-resistant artificial tree, which is often safer than a real tree.

Lights, Candles, Decorations

- Inspect lights for cracked sockets, frayed wires and loose connections. If in doubt, throw them out.
- Use only UL-certified lights and decorations.
- Do not attach more than three sets of lights to one extension cord. Use a power strip for extra safety.
- Turn off lights when you leave home or go to bed at night.
- Keep candles away from decorations and wrapping paper.
- Extinguish fires and blow out candles when you go to sleep or leave the room.
- Consider using safe battery-operated faux candles.

Thank You to Our Good Neighbors at...

Fairfield Inn at Gurnee Mills
Country Inn Suites, 5420 Grand Avenue
Comfort Suites, 5430 Grand Avenue

These good neighbors will provide a night of free accommodations to district families who have been displaced because of fire damage.

Thank you, also, to **KB Toys**, which has partnered with the fire department to provide new teddy bears. These bears are given to children to offer comfort if they need to ride in the ambulance or if they experience other emergencies — and sometimes they get squeezed pretty hard. Thank, KB Toys!

What Is WWFPD?

The Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District (WWFPD), along with the Village of Gurnee, makes up a 32 square mile area stretching from Waukegan to Route 45. The area includes Gurnee Mills mall and Six Flags Great America.

The WWFPD is responsible for providing fire and ambulance coverage for the unincorporated lands within this area, while the Gurnee Fire Department provides service for the neighborhoods within the Gurnee village limits.

The District provides fire and ambulance coverage by contracting for services with the Gurnee Fire Department. In this way, the Department provides 24-hour fire and rescue services for the entire area, operating out of two stations in Gurnee — 4580 Old Grand Avenue and 6581 Dada Drive.

Board Meetings

The WWFPD Board of Trustees meets the third Wednesday evening of every other month at 7:30 p.m. at the Gurnee Fire Department Fire Station #2, 6581 Dada Dr., Gurnee, at the corner of Hunt Club and Dada Roads. The next meeting is planned for November 19. An updated schedule is available at www.wwfpd.com/schedule.html.

For Information

More information is available online at www.wwfpd.com. To contact the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection District, call 847-599-6600 or send an email to districtboard@wwfpd.com.

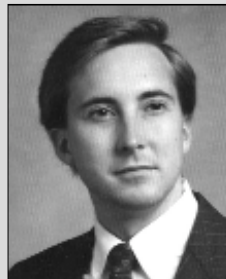
Knox Box Program Supports Disabled Individuals



In order to support handicapped or otherwise disabled residents of Gurnee and Warren Township, the Gurnee Fire Department has developed a Knox Box rapid entry program. Knox boxes are secure key boxes which can be used by emergency personnel to quickly enter a home in case of an emergency. The Knox Box gives the Fire Department quick access to a home when the homeowner is not present or is unable to answer the door. A Knox Box loaner is also available for anyone who is temporarily disabled. There is no cost for this service.

If you have a long- or short-term disability and would like more information about the Knox Box program, please call the Fire Prevention Bureau at 847-599-6650.

WWFPD Board of Trustees



Phillip DeRuntz
President



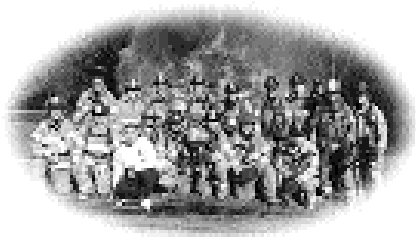
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Map of the District — WWFPD coverage areas in grey.





**Warren-Waukegan
Fire Protection District**

c/o Gurnee Fire Department
4580 Old Grand Avenue
Gurnee, IL 60031

*Have a Safe and Happy
Holiday Season!*



Fall/Winter 2009

- Home Safety Inspections
- Detector Check List
- Holiday Safety Tips
- Five-and-Five Choking First Aid
- WWFPD Board Meetings
- Knox Box Program

*The Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection
Newsletter is published periodically by
the Warren-Waukegan Fire Protection
District. Please consider sharing your
comments and suggestions.*

E-mail: districtboard@wwfpd.com
Phone: 847-599-6600
Fax: 847-244-8693
www.wwfpd.com

Sitter Safety Information List

Holiday festivities call for more babysitting time. Make sure your sitter is ready for any situation that comes along by writing down emergency information.

In case of any emergency – police, fire or ambulance – call 9-1-1

Keep all doors locked. Don't open for anyone who you don't know.

Know where the children are playing, outside or inside.

Allergies/medications _____.

Our first aid kit is kept _____.

Our fire extinguisher is kept _____.

Our flashlights are kept _____.

Our complete home address (to provide to 911 in case of emergency):

Our main home phone number: _____

Where parents will be: _____

When parents will return: _____

Cell phones/phones where parents can be reached: _____

Notes: