



THE HEAT



A Publication of the Pine Bluff Fire & Emergency Services
FOCUSING ON THE COMMUNITY

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From the Chief



Technically, summer doesn't start until June 20th. But many people consider Memorial Day to be the unofficial start of the season. This year, we celebrate the holiday on May 30th. Many families will heat up the grill, head to the beach or lake or take in a movie or two. But Memorial day has the word "memorial" in it for a reason.

The holiday got started on May 30, 1868, when Union General John A. Logan declared the day an occasion to decorate the graves of Civil War soldiers. Twenty years later, the name was changed to Memorial Day. On May 11, 1950, Congress passed a resolution requesting that the President issue a proclamation calling on Americans to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer. President Richard M. Nixon declared Memorial Day a federal holiday in 1971.

Memorial Day is now observed on the last Monday of May. It is an occasion to honor the men and women who died in all wars. So as you spend time with your families during that weekend keep in mind the families that have lost loved ones that were fighting for our freedom.

Shaawn Howell

Fire Chief



Important Dates

May 8th—Mother's Day
May 30th—Memorial Day



Fire & Safety Knowledge

TEST YOUR FIRE AND SAFETY KNOWLEDGE ABOUT..... LIGHTNING

See if you know the correct answers to some lightning safety practices:

1. Lightning never strikes the same place twice. True or False

Answer: *False. According to the National Weather Service, Lightning often strikes in the same place repeatedly, especially if it's a tall, pointy, isolated object. The Empire State Building is hit nearly 100 times a year!*

2. If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, I should lie flat on the ground. True or False

Answer: *False. According to the National Weather Service, lying flat INCREASES your chance of being affected by potentially deadly ground current. If you are caught outside in a thunderstorm, you should keep moving toward a safe shelter.*

3. A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch him, you'll be electrocuted. True or False

Answer: *False. According to the National Weather Service, the human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid and be certain you can contact emergency services for assistance.*

4. Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground. True or False

Answer: *False. Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you, NOT the rubber tires. Remember, convertibles, motorcycles, bicycles, open-shelled recreational vehicles and cars with fiberglass shells offer NO protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, it goes through the metal frame into the ground. Tires may be blown during this. Don't lean on doors during a thunderstorm!*

May Anniversaries

Tony Gibson - May 23rd—14 years

May Birthdays

- Wirt Heagler—May 2nd
- Justen Traxler—May 4th
- Joseph Moring—May 8th
- Clint Works—May 10th
- Cory Collins—May 11th
- Carla Covey—May 12th
- Christian Owens—May 15th
- Mike Davis—May 16th
- Jonathon Porchia—May 18th
- Nate Thompson—May 21st
- Lora Harrell—May 31st





Saving A Life....

Congratulations to Engineer Chris Mackey and Firefighter Steven Adams for doing an exceptional job saving the life of a 2 year old child during house fire March 22nd.



Station #1 Remodel Update

We are nearing the finish line....we hope!!! Alarm Room has been remodeled. Radios and telephones have been put in place. Chief Howell and Asst Chief Jones have moved into their offices. Elevator is now in service.

However still waiting on internet connections to be placed, which is delayed due to some leaks still on the bottom floor of the new Police Department area is causing problems and delays.

At least there is light at the end of this very long tunnel

Unofficial Start of SUMMER!!!!

Boating Safety

Arkansans are looking for ways to cool down during the long summer days. Many will head to one of the State's beautiful lakes or rivers. With more than 200,000 boats registered statewide according to the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, many residents spend a lot of time boating to beat the heat. But boaters need to remember to be cautious on the water.

Persons under the age of 13 must wear life jackets while boating and everyone must wear a life jacket while on a personal watercraft. In accordance with state law, a lifejacket must be carried for each person on board all vessels. It must be the correct size for the wearer and in good working condition.

Always check local weather conditions before departure; TV and radio forecasts can be a good source of information. If you notice darkening clouds, volatile and rough changing winds or sudden drops in temperature, play it safe by getting off the water.

One of the most important parts of boating safety is to use your common sense. This means operating at a safe speed at all times (especially in crowded areas), staying alert at all times and steering clear of large vessels and watercraft that can be restricted in their ability to stop or turn. Also, be respectful of buoys and other navigational aids, all of which have been placed there to ensure your own safety.

Arkansas joins more than 40 states with educational requirements for operating a boat or personal watercraft on state waters. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1986, must take an approved Arkansas Game and Fish Boating Education Course, which includes either an online course or an instructor led course, before operating any motorboat which includes personal watercraft and sailboats. By completing and passing an Arkansas-approved online boating license course, you will have satisfied the educational requirement for Arkansas



Summer Fire Prevention & Life Safety Tips

It's getting that time of year again when we are outside having fun. Whether we are grilling with family, spring cleaning or working in the yard, here are a few tips to keep you safe! We just wanted to put it out there again!!

BBQ/ Grilling Safety

- ❖ Never use gasoline to start a fire.
- ❖ Use charcoal lighter fluid only before the fire is lit.
- ❖ Place grills well away from combustibles; buildings, fences, deck railings and landscaping can easily and quickly ignite.
- ❖ Keep a garden hose or a portable fire extinguisher handy in case the fire gets out of control.
- ❖ Never bring a grill into the home. The carbon monoxide produced by burning charcoal can be dangerous, even deadly, in an enclosed space.
- ❖ Keep children and pets away from fires and grills. It only takes a second for curiosity to cause a serious burn.
- ❖ Though coals may appear to be cool, always soak them with water. Coals retain enough heat to reignite for days after the fire.
- ❖ If your bag of charcoal gets wet, leave it in a well ventilated area away from the house. During the drying process, spontaneous ignition can occur in confined areas.

Home Safety Tips

- ❖ Test and clean your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- ❖ Check your fire extinguishers.
- ❖ Clean your oven and cooking surface top of your stove.
- ❖ Keep combustible items such as oven mitts, towels, wooden utensils, paper towels, etc. off the top of the stove.
- ❖ Check for and correct frayed or damaged extension cords and wiring on all appliances.
- ❖ Prepare for storm -related outages (make sure your flashlights and portable radios have batteries and that other supplies, such as bottled water, are stocked and available).
- ❖ Practice exit drills with your family so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency (establish a meeting place).
- ❖ Properly store household chemicals and never mix cleaning agents.
- ❖ Recycle old newspapers, magazines and junk mail.
- ❖ Make sure you clean the lint filter from your dryer before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.

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Garage Safety

- ❖ Clean up and properly store paints, pool and yard chemicals.
- ❖ Check fuels containers for leaks and make sure they are properly stored.
- ❖ Have all power equipment cleaned, serviced and readied for use.

