

## IN CASE OF FIRE, GET OUT, THEN CALL 911

### COVID, Stay Alert

Like everyone else, the fire district experiences the peaks and valleys of the various COVID mutations. We review our data (emergency responses, hospital numbers, and internal experience) and we react in an effort to always be ahead of the event and avoid surprises.

At this point the fire district has been successful with our preparation. We have invested in the necessary equipment, supply, and actions to protect our personnel. Action plans have been extremely effective in our responses to COVID emergencies. We have exceeded CDC guidelines in the protection measures Monarch Fire District has taken, not only with our emergency response, but our behavior while in quarters.

The numbers are falling at this point, but we caution our citizens to still take measures to avoid exposure. Should you have an emergency and call 911, please inform the Dispatcher of any symptoms of COVID. Responding Paramedic/Firefighters will be informed prior to arrival and they will be prepared to take the necessary precautions to protect you as well as themselves.

### WITH SPRING COMES "FLASH FLOODS"

Floodwaters can be deeper than they appear and can hide such hazards as sharp objects, electrical wires, sewage and chemicals. There's a possibility the road that was once where the water is, no longer exists. Even the best four-wheel-drive vehicle will lose against rapidly moving water and no traction.

For your own safety and the safety of everyone in your vehicle, please take heed of these lifesaving tips:

- Don't drive through flooded areas. Taking extra time to detour sure beat may save your life and your passengers.
- Less than six inches of water can turn your car into a poorly engineered canoe, with no ability to slow down, steer...or float.
- When you see water over the roadway, assume that the roadway below is either damaged or destroyed.
- Your driving headlights should be turned on whenever you are using your windshield wipers. It's the law!
- Reduce your speed for the conditions.
- Turn Around! Don't Drown!

To find out about roads closed to flooding, MoDOT reminds all motorists to check on current road conditions in their areas and on their routes by consulting MoDOT's Traveler Information Map at <https://traveler.modot.org/map/?district=SL>, or through MoDOT's smartphone app, available for iPhone and Android mobile devices.

In Emergency,  
Call 9-1-1  
All other inquiries,  
call (314) 514-0900



Visit Our Website  
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SPRING 2022

# MONARCH

## FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

INTEGRITY • ACCOUNTABILITY • RESPONSIBILITY

### STATE OF THE DISTRICT - WINTER 2022

The Fire District conducted a building and property evaluation in late 2019. The matrix included alarm demand (current and projected), building age and condition, maintenance costs, and equipment and staffing needs (current and projected). In cooperation with the in-house Architectural Staff, the Command Staff, and the Controller, the following recommendations were presented to the Board of Directors.

- Administration: Normal annual maintenance.
- House 1: Normal annual maintenance.
- House 2: Due to age and excessive maintenance costs, rebuild.
- House 3: Due to age and excessive maintenance costs, rebuild.
- House 4: Normal annual maintenance.
- House 5: Normal annual maintenance.
  - Maintenance: Normal annual maintenance.
- Burn Tower/Classroom: Normal annual maintenance.

The Directors agreed with the recommendation. A funding plan was researched and developed. In 2020 a 14.9-million-dollar bond was presented to the residents and it was overwhelmingly approved.

The construction of Engine House 2 will be located at 18304 Wild Horse Creek Road, about four tenths of a mile east of its current location. The new location will better serve the district with easier access to the directional demands of the area. The new site is better located to access sewer and water, and the new firehouse will be sized adequately to house the necessary apparatus and equipment specific to the more rural setting and the staff necessary to operate the apparatus for decades to come. Site development has begun and we hope to break ground in the next couple of weeks.

The construction of Engine House 3 is under way. The old building has been demolished and construction on the new building is progressing. The staff and equipment are temporarily operating from the Administration site at 13725 Olive Boulevard. Construction is scheduled to be complete in late November or early December 2022.

The bond also includes the purchase of two ladder/rescue/pumpers and one rescue pumper. The first ladder is currently being built with expected delivery in September or October 2022.

We are very excited with the direction of the district and look forward to continue serving the community. If you have questions, you are invited to contact Chief Spiegel at (314) 581-2200 or [spiegel.c@monarchfpd.org](mailto:spiegel.c@monarchfpd.org).

### FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

January 2022

I am pleased to announce the promotion of Jim McKay to the rank of Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal. Chief McKay has been with Monarch Fire Protection District for 22 years, having previously served in government as well as the private sector. Having spent his entire tenure at Monarch in the District's Fire Prevention Bureau, performing building inspections, plan review and development, public education, and fire investigation, uniquely prepared him for the promotion to Fire Marshal. Jim is eager to continue the customer service necessary to manage the progressive disciplines and responsibilities of the Fire Prevention Bureau. Please visit the website to see Jim's biography, picture, and contact information. (<https://monarchfpd.org/index.php?37>)

I am also pleased to introduce Abby Sowatsky, Controller. Ms. Sowatsky earned her B.S. and Master's degrees from Truman State University and is a Certified Public Accountant, specializing in governmental accounting. She came to Monarch Fire Protection District with eight years' experience in public accounting with an emphasis on governmental and non-profit accounting. For the last five years, Abby has conducted the district's financial audits in her previous role as manager of the accounting firm, Sikich, LLP. Her professional experience affords Abby a comprehensive understanding of the financial responsibilities specific to fire protection. We are very pleased to have Abby as part of the Monarch Fire Protection District Administrative Staff.

[www.monarchfpd.org](http://www.monarchfpd.org)

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## REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS OLDER THAN 10 YEARS

### MFPD, ALWAYS RAISING THE BAR

We look forward to hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Monarch Fire Protection District Training Facility later this month. Improvements to the four-story burn tower include a modern, temperature controlled, 30-student classroom with dual restroom/showers, a three-season outdoor classroom with eye wash and decontamination showers, and two apparatus and equipment storage bays. The site is equipped to provide props of all disciplines: fire, rescue, and EMS. The technology is designed to complement our other training sites at 13725 Olive Boulevard and 155 Long Road, allowing crews to train on site or virtually while remaining in their assigned response areas.



Improvements to this facility will welcome cross-training opportunities with neighboring districts as well as other public service disciplines, MOAm Water, Ameren, Spire, and MSD. We welcome the construction industry to the facility where we will cooperate to remain familiar with the latest construction materials and processes. Deputy Chief Russ Adams is prepared and eager to include this resource, which will expand our capabilities and keep the Monarch Fire Protection District on the cutting edge as full-service emergency responders. Once again, we would like to thank MOAm Water. This project would not have been possible without their generous donation of land for the site.

### ON-GOING DISTRICT PROJECTS

#### NEWSLETTER DELIVERY CHANGES

Not unlike many news and information publications, the Monarch Fire Protection District is moving into the electronic delivery setting. (<https://www.monarchfpd.org/index.php?129>)

Electronic newsletters have always been available on our website, but we are placing more emphasis and encouraging our residents and businesses to visit and read current electronic publications.

The change coincides with the district moving into the digital world and it complements our fiscal responsibility as well as our effort to reduce waste. The district will send residents a post card in the mail to inform them of the new newsletter publication as well as other interesting and helpful information on the webpage. The fire district maintains a current webpage and we are attentive to social media activity.

#### TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN

Flash flooding occurs when heavy rain overwhelms storm sewer systems, resulting in road flooding. Sadly, the former Ladue Road/Woods Mill Road intersection was the scene of a drowning that resulted when cars drove into the flooded intersection and one was swept away. The Monarch Fire Protection District was instrumental in bringing together the cities of Chesterfield, Town & Country, St. Louis County and the Missouri Department of Transportation in safeguarding drivers from further injury and deaths from flash flooding. Monarch has again taken the lead in creating a cooperative effort to deal with regular flooding of a low-lying creek on Conway Road just east of White Road. This was the scene of two near-drownings last year that required a complicated rescue process involving Monarch crews, Chesterfield Police, and several neighboring Fire Districts. Monarch, in cooperation with St. Louis County, and the City of Chesterfield, are working to construct gates in order to offer that 'Ounce of Prevention' as a hopeful cure.

#### BOND PROJECT UPDATE

The fire district, as part of the 2020 bond proposal, expects to take delivery of a replacement Ladder/Rescue/Pumper later this fall. The truck is a 2022 Rosenbauer 101-foot Aerial Platform Ladder Truck with a 2,000 GPM pump, 500-gallon water tank, and 20-gallon foam concentrate tank. The internal cab will accommodate a crew of four firefighters. This apparatus will be equipped with Advanced Life Support medical equipment, vehicle extrication, high-angle, and a complete fire suppression and rescue equipment. This truck will replace a 2002 Pierce 85-foot Aerial Platform.

## TEST SMOKE ALARMS MONTHLY

### STAY SAFE AS WE FINISH WINTER OF 21/22

#### Wood/Pellet Burning Stoves

Wood/pellet burning stoves can be effective appliances for heating, but they pose fire hazards that contribute to the second leading cause of U.S. home fires, [home heating appliances](#).

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) are teaming to reduce the risk of home heating fires. Through their joint fire safety campaign, 'Put a Freeze on Winter Fires', both organizations offer the following guidelines for the safe use of wood/pellet burning stoves:

- Install the stove, chimney connectors and chimneys following the manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation.
- Install only wood stoves that have the label of a qualified testing laboratory.
- Burn only dry, seasoned wood and pellets.
- Start the fire with newspaper or kindling, never with a flammable liquid such as lighter fluid, kerosene, or gasoline.
- Keep the doors to your stove closed unless loading or stoking the fire.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep the ash container at least 10-feet away from the home and any other nearby buildings.
  - Douse and saturate the ashes with water.
- Chimneys and vents need to be cleaned and inspected at least once a year.

WINTER FIRES ARE PREVENTABLE!

For more information visit:

[www.nfpa.org/winter](http://www.nfpa.org/winter)

### STAY SAFE AS WE ENTER THE SPRING OF 22

#### Prepare for Thunderstorms and Lighting

##### Know your Risk

- Know your area's risk for thunderstorms/tornadoes. In most places they can occur year-round.
  - Warning systems are prevalent and available through weather radios, internet, and phone apps.

##### Strengthen your home

- Trim trees of dead wood and remove dead trees.
- Consider lightning protection systems.
- Install electric surge protectors for your electronics and appliances.

##### Develop an Emergency Plan

- Create a plan so your family knows what to do.
- Where to go for the most secure areas:
  - At work, home, school.
- What you might need.
  - The ability to sustain a significant period of power outage.
    - ◆ Batteries, candles, food, water.
- Contact chain.
  - A common individual outside the affected area who can receive accountability calls.

##### If you are under a thunderstorm/tornado warning:

- **When thunder roars, go indoors!** Move from outdoors into a building or car with a roof.
- Be attentive to alerts and warnings.
- Avoid using electronic devices connected to an electrical outlet.
- Avoid running water.
- **Turn Around. Don't Drown!** Do not drive through flooded roadways. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

##### Stay Safe After Thunderstorms and Lightning

- Pay attention to authorities and weather forecasts for information on whether it is safe to go outside, and instructions regarding potential flash flooding.
- Watch for fallen trees, down power lines, and glass, sharp objects and debris. Report any downed power lines or trees immediately.

Missouri's website has helpful information at their Health and Senior Services 'Ready in 3' website:

[www.health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/naturaldisasters.php](http://www.health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/naturaldisasters.php)