

# WRTFD

White River Township Fire Department



2014 Annual Report



**For an Emergency**

Dial: 911  
Or text: 911

If you are in a situation where texting is safer than speaking to a 911 operator, text 911. **Be sure to include the type of emergency and the address in the first text so responders can act fast.**



**WRTFD Station Phone Numbers**

WRTFD Headquarters: (317) 888-8337  
WRTFD Station 51: (317) 859-6070  
WRTFD Station 52: (317) 859-6080  
WRTFD Station 53: (317) 859-4590



**Burn Permits**

In order for any resident inside the White River Township boundaries to burn yard waste materials, you must have a burn permit from the WRTFD. Burn permits are valid for one month from issue date and can be purchased for \$5 at WRTFD Headquarters (850 South Mullinix, Greenwood, Indiana) during normal business hours. Please consult WRTFD's website for more detailed information and conditions of open burning.



**Safe Place**

All three White River Township Fire Department stations are registered Safe Place sites as part of Youth Connections' community initiative to support youth in crisis. If you need assistance, you may also contact Youth Connections directly at 1-866-738-KIDS or [www.youthconnections.org](http://www.youthconnections.org).



**Car Seat Inspection**

WRTFD is a Child Safety Seat Fitting Station. Our trained technicians can inspect and adjust your child's car seat to maximize safety. An appointment is needed for each inspection and takes 30-45 minutes. Please call WRTFD Headquarters at (317) 888-8337 to schedule an appointment.



**WRTFD Protection Area**

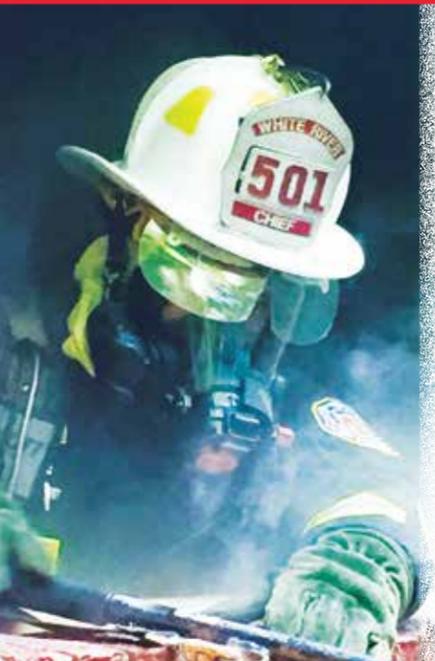
WRTFD protects an area of approximately 26 square miles in the Center Grove area. This includes the State Road 135 corridor, State Road 37, and includes approximately 28,000 residents. The south border of the WRTFD protection district is Stones Crossing Road and the northern boundary is County Line Road. While the east and west borders are not defined by just one major road, but the protection district is basically bordered on the east by Honey Creek Road and on the west by State Road 37.



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The community of White River Township is served by a remarkable group of firefighters and EMS personnel. Each one has taken to heart the mission to protect your lives and property and to truly be part of the community they serve. Beyond emergency responses, the men and women of the department are approachable in a way that clearly demonstrates that White River Township Fire Department is your fire department.

It is in this spirit that the Fire Protection District Board and the members of the department work together to protect you in the most efficient way possible. The foundation is to have a clear mission.

***"As the mission gets clearer, the options get fewer, and the decisions get easier."*** Andy Stanley

We have excellent people that are deeply committed to the mission of protecting this community.

In order to fulfill our mission, the members of the department are provided with strong, dependable equipment to do the job. As one board member stated it,

***"We are a lean, mean firefighting machine."***

This sentiment was even recently verified by an outside independent agency. The Insurance Services Office (ISO) recently concluded a field study that resulted in the department being rated in the top three percent in the state of Indiana and the top seven percent nationally. Not only does this show the quality of service we provide but it also helps to reduce your homeowners' insurance rates.

I am proud to say that we won't rest on our successes. We are making a difference in individual's lives by improving response times, providing excellent pre-hospital medical care, and keeping property loss to a minimum. The District Board and department recently completed a Strategic Plan spanning the years 2015-2017 that lays the groundwork to further improve service and partner with the community. White River Township has grown to the size of many small towns. Taking a proactive approach now will enable us to keep pace with the growth that we all know will continue to occur.

I am proud of the White River Township Fire Department and excited about the future. Thank you for blessing us with the resources to protect you and your family. Each and every day we will give you our best while building on successes and continually improving.

I welcome the time to talk with you about what we truly believe is **your** fire department. Don't hesitate to call me at the office or email at [jpell@wrtd.org](mailto:jpell@wrtd.org). You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter, and on the web at [www.wrtd.org](http://www.wrtd.org).

Respectfully,

Jeremy A. Pell  
WRTFD Fire Chief  
Fire Chief



## MEMO: 2014 Highlights

- WRTFD crews responded to 2,677 emergency calls in 2014.
- 100% of WRTFD's crews are certified EMT's.
- 99% of property values of potential fires were saved.
- The NFPA's national standard for providing advanced life support care is eight minutes from the moment the fire apparatus leaves the station to the point it arrives on scene. The WRTFD arrived within this timeframe or faster 96% of the time in 2014.
- Officers and crews spent more than 13,500 hours in organized training activities.
- Property was purchased on Morgantown Road and is now being used as a hands-on training facility.
- Fire Prevention Division inspected more than 500 public and commercial businesses in the Center Grove area.
- 14 formal fire investigations were conducted by the WRTFD fire prevention staff.
- WRTFD's Fire Prevention Division was named the 2014 Fire Prevention Bureau of the Year by the Fire Inspectors Association of Indiana (FIAI).
- The Department rated in the top seven percent nationally and top three percent in the state of Indiana for fire protection according to a recent field study by the Insurance Services Office (ISO).
- 100% of all Center Grove elementary students from kindergarten through 3rd grade are educated on fire and life safety every year.
- Life Safety Education staff connected with more than 7,500 children with safety messages last year
- Staff, crews and many volunteers from the community purchased toys and clothing for a record 230 children for the 2014 Christmas Angels program.

## Administration



Jeremy Pell  
Fire Chief



Casey Arkins  
Operations Chief



Carey Slauter  
Planning Chief



Dale Saucier  
Training & Safety Chief



Michael Arany  
Fire Marshal



Matthew Partain  
Deputy Fire Marshal



Craig Zollars  
Life Safety Education  
Staff Officer



Crystal Young  
Director of  
Administrative Services

## Battalions & Officers



Joseph Settles  
A-Shift Battalion Chief



Kevin Skipper  
B-Shift Battalion Chief



Jeff Wilson  
C-Shift Battalion Chief



Kyle Brooks  
Lieutenant



Joe Green  
Captain



Jeff Smith  
Captain



Scott Tichenor  
Lieutenant



Dustin Ramer  
Lieutenant



Nick Alford  
Captain



Ryan Cox  
Lieutenant



Greg Hurrell  
Lieutenant



Chad Witham  
Lieutenant



Jason Bailey  
Lieutenant



David Scholl  
Lieutenant



Bryan Arkins  
Lieutenant

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Unlike city governed departments, WRTFD administration is completely self-supportive and uses no city or county resources for administrative services. Payroll and benefits for all 147 part-time and full-time employees is managed through the Director of Administrative Services, Crystal Young. Since the department handles this internally, rather than using an outside company, **we are able to save valuable tax dollars.**

# THE BEST OF THE BEST: 2014

UNSpoken Actions. Camaraderie. Pride. Example.

Each year, WRTFD employees are asked to nominate their peers for their outstanding dedication to their field. Sometimes, it's a large project that a firefighter is working on that gets him or her noticed. Other times, it's a quiet leadership that draws the respect of their peers. For the past 40 years, the WRTFD has recognized the very best of their department and in 2014 these individuals and crews were no exception.



Employee of the Year: **Lieutenant Bryan Arkins**

"Lieutenant Arkins has done outstanding work both with the maintenance department and with his crew to make this a great place to work."



EMT of the Year: **Jason Bollman**

"He is a true professional on calls and treats ALL patients like they are a member of his family."



Paramedic of the Year: **Chris Kindred**

"Chris has performed like a seasoned veteran in the field. I'm proud of Chris & always appreciate his camaraderie and love for the fire service."



Pride & Ownership Award: **Nathan Poff**

Awarded the inaugural Pride & Ownership Award for his daily demonstration of dedication to the fire service & to his fellow coworkers.



Firefighter of the Year: **Tim Smith**

"He is always showing me methods to make me a better firefighter."



Officer of the Year: **Lieutenant Jason Bailey**

"He is always willing to help and is a great example of what an employee and an Officer should be at WRTFD."



Citation of the Year: **Lieutenant Ryan Cox & Engine 52 A-Shift Crew**

Honored for their outstanding work on a GPS system that quickly locates both private and public fire hydrants.

# WRTFD STATIONS

## Station 51

3016 West Olive Branch Road  
Greenwood, IN 46143  
(317) 859-607

Station 51 officially opened on November 19, 2007 to replace the aging original station on Runyon Road. The station is staffed by nine firefighters, some which are paramedics, 24 hours a day. The station can actually house a staff of 12 firefighters leaving room for future growth without having to rebuild. Station 51 serves as the official office of the Battalion Chief who oversees each station during his designated 24-shift. Apparatus housed at Station 51: Engine 51, Ladder 51, Battalion 5, Boat 51, Reserve Engine

## Station 52

398 Meridian Parke Lane  
Greenwood, IN 46143  
(317) 859-6080

The most active of all WRTFD's stations, Station 52, is staffed by four firefighters and two emergency medical staff. The station opened in the spring of 1992 and greatly reduced the response times along State Road 135. In an unfortunate twist of fate, just days after completing a reroofing project on the building in the summer of 2002, the building was heavily damaged by a tornado causing it to close. Station 52 was completely restored and ready to serve the community just six months later. Apparatus housed at Station 52: Engine 52, Medic 52, 1952 Dodge Engine (Nicknamed "The Antique" or "Verona", this engine is actually owned by Union L4252.)

## Station 53 / WRTFD Fire Headquarters

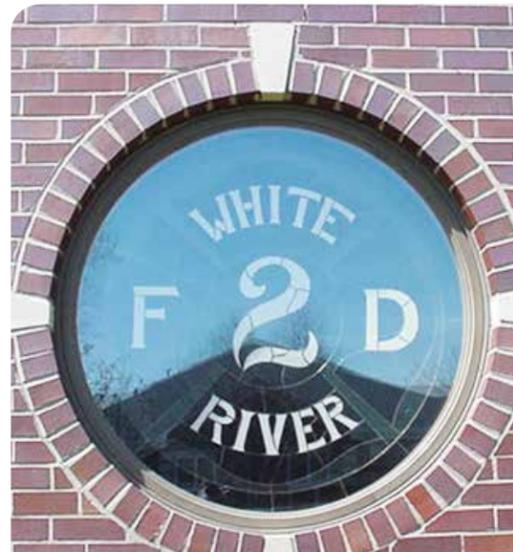
850 South Mullinix Road  
Greenwood, IN 46143  
317-888-8337

Station 53 opened in the summer of 2001 and serves as a combination fire station and fire headquarters. It is staffed by 6 firefighters and emergency medical staff 24 hours a day and 14 administrative staff Monday – Friday. This building also houses a large community room that is available to the community to use. Apparatus housed at Station 53: Engine 53, Medic 53, Tactical Support Unit 53, Collapse Trailer 53, Decon Trailer 53, Reserve Ambulance

## The Training House

490 Morgantown Road  
Greenwood, IN 46142

A residential home located on nearly three acres of land on Morgantown Road was purchased in December 2013 as a potential location for a new fire station in the event that the existing Station 53 will need to relocate due to the Interstate 69 expansion. WRTFD took possession of the land in July 2014. Instead of letting the land and structure sit idle, this are now serves as a training facility for WRTFD and other Johnson County area crews. WRTFD Training & Safety Chief Dale Saucier recently constructed an obstacle course inside the home that includes dead ends, collapsing floors and small exits. This training exercise will help crew members make quick decisions in real world situations.



**EVER WONDER WHY ONE OF OUR FIRE ENGINES HAS AN ALIEN HEAD EMBLAZED ON THE SIDE? EACH WRTFD STATION HAS THEIR OWN UNIQUE STATION PATCH DESIGNED BY THE CREWS. STATION PATCHES ARE A LONG STANDING TRADITION AMONG THE FIREFIGHTING COMMUNITY AND THE WRTFD HAS SOME VERY MEMORABLE ONES DESIGNED BY THE CREWS.**



The alien featured on **Station 51's** patch is a shout out to the legendary Area 51. At one time, Station 51 was considered to be a bit remote much like Area 51. Our alien, which clearly shows Station 51's sense of humor, features an ax, firehose and flames that represent brotherhood throughout the world. On a more serious note, Station 51 shows their determination to the fire service by including **the Latin phrase "Nulli Secundus" which translates to "Second to None."**



**Station 52's** patch shows the brawn and fight of the WRTFD crews with the firefighter bursting through a clover. The clover pays homage to some of the nation's first organized fire departments that were staffed largely by Irishmen. **The Celtic phrase "Fir Na Tine" translates to "Men of Fire."**



Dedication to the Center Grove community is front and center in **Station 53's** logo. The Center Grove Trojan is displayed prominently in the center of the patch. The logo is encircled by firehose and proudly proclaims the fact that **Engine 53 has been protecting your community for more than 13 years.**



1952



1994



2014



## VISION STATEMENT

Serving through Innovation and Excellence

## MISSION STATEMENT

The White River Township Fire Department is committed to protecting the lives and property of the community through superior delivery of emergency services, safety and well-being of employees and their families, using resources efficiently, teamwork, fire prevention and life safety education.

## CORE VALUES

The foundation of the White River Township Fire Department and its employees are built on the following:

### *Teamwork*

Working together to achieve a common goal while placing aside personal comforts and desires.

### *Respect*

Treating others the way you want to be treated.

### *Integrity*

Doing what's right all the time.

### *Professionalism*

Reflecting the tradition of the fire service through Appearance, Leadership, Conduct, Communication and Safety.

# WRTFD: IN ACTION



# PLANNING

WRTFD's Planning Division is responsible for keeping an eye on the future of the department in all aspects of planning and daily operations. Both short-term and long-term decisions are critical to the growth and efficiency of the department. By continually analyzing data and industry trends, Chief Carey Slauter, WRTFD's Chief of Planning, ensures that instead of simply reacting to future changes, the department will be an industry leader.

The Planning Chief also oversees the personnel dedicated to vehicle and building maintenance, public education, information technology and WRTFD's Quartermaster who is responsible for uniforms and apparel for the department.



## Planning for the Future by Looking at the Past

In 2014, 18 WRTFD members representing all levels of the department were invited to serve on a long-term strategic planning committee. The committee members met several times, including a day-long off-site meeting to discuss how the department has functioned in the past and what we can do to better serve the community over the next several years.

**We also surveyed our community for their opinions. An independent consultant was hired to meet with community members, business owners, school officials and homeowners associations. Their view on the department helped us shape what was really needed to serve the community:**

- ✔ "We see them striving for excellence."
- ✔ "Annual inspections are a positive experience."
- ✔ "Great customer service!"
- ✔ "Very thorough with communications, information and working with the store."
- ✔ "Treated my mother like family. Thank you!"
- ✔ "Help churches be ready to help others during and after a disaster."

A few of the top priorities for the department over the next two years will focus on continued customer satisfaction, efficient staffing and providing the highest level of service at a cost that is affordable to our community.

The entire WRTFD 2015-2017 Strategic Plan is located on our website at [www.wrtfd.org](http://www.wrtfd.org).

## Your Opinion Means Everything

The Planning Chief will soon be implementing even more community surveys through the internet and community meetings. Knowing what you need and expect from your fire department helps us plan for the future. Look for survey and meeting information on our website in the very near future.

## We are in the top 7% of the nation...and that saves you money!

**The WRTFD rated in the top seven percent nationally and top three percent in the state** of Indiana for fire protection according to a recent field study by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). ISO independently evaluates and classifies more than 49,000 communities in the United States on the effectiveness of their fire protection services. WRTFD received an ISO rating of 3/3x for its fire-suppression program which puts the department in the top 7% of the country. Ratings of 10 are considered to not meet ISO's minimum criteria and ratings of 1 are classified as exemplary. **In Indiana, only 56 of 1,762 departments received a rating of 3 or lower.**

This ISO rating is a determining factor in insurance rates available to homeowners and commercial businesses in the area. WRTFD's high rating could mean lower insurance rates for you.

## We are Ready: WRTFD Standards of Cover

We are constantly checking and double-checking to make sure we are using our resources effectively. We evaluate our operational readiness through response times and resource allocations to make sure we are serving the Center Grove community at the best of our ability.

We look at dispatch times – from the time the phone rings to the time dispatch alerts us; turnout times – time from when the station is alerted to the time the truck leaves the station; and travel time to the scene.

**NFPA 1710: Standard for the organization and deployment of fire suppression operations, emergency medical operations, and special operations to the public by career fire departments.**

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sets a standard for response and deployment times for fire departments across the nation.

The NFPA's national standard for providing **advanced life support** care is eight minutes from the moment the fire apparatus leaves the station to the point it arrives on scene. The WRTFD **arrived within this timeframe or faster 96% of the time** in 2014. This means a paramedic is on the scene to provide advanced medical care within just eight minutes or less.

However, patient care begins much earlier. Because each crew member of WRTFD is EMT certified, firefighting crews are able to start basic care even before the ambulance crews arrive. The NFPA's national standard for providing **basic life support** care is four minutes from the moment the fire apparatus leaves the station to the point it arrives on scene. In 2014, the WRTFD arrived within this timeframe or faster 77% of the time in 2014.

WRTFD's ambulance crews respond from Station 53 and Station 52.

**WRTFD protects an area of approximately 26 square miles in the Center Grove area.** This includes the State Road 135 corridor, State Road 37, and includes approximately 28,000 residents. By constantly analyzing our performance data as well as customer service surveys, we can provide the most optimal standard of cover.

## HOT TOPICS

### What will be the biggest change in the department in the future?

*While it is still being discussed, the new route for Interstate 69 may force the department to relocate Station 53 and the department's Headquarters in the next several years. We have already purchased property where we could rebuild. Purchasing the property when the market was low potentially saved thousands in taxpayer dollars. Currently that property is being used as our training facility.*

### Why do I see the firetruck at the grocery store so frequently? Is this taking a firetruck away from a fire run?

*Each 24-hour shift is responsible for their own food for meals. The crews will take an engine to the grocery while shopping on their shift which keeps the entire crew intact. If a call comes in, they can quickly jump in the engine and get to the scene without delays. Plus, this is a great time for our firefighters and EMTs/paramedics to meet the community they serve and become familiar with the building we may respond to during an emergency. If you ever have a question or want to see inside the firetruck when you see us out during a non-emergency, please ask! We are your fire department and would love to have a chance to meet you.*



The daily operations of WRTFD's three station department falls under the helm of Chief of Operations Casey Arkins. Three Battalion Chiefs and more than 140 firefighters, EMTs and paramedics work together to ensure the smooth running of the day-to-day operations of the department.

### 2014 By The Numbers

In 2014, our crews responded to **2,677 emergency calls**. This was a slight increase of 6% from the previous year. Of those calls less than 4% were true fire situations. In fact, more than 70% of WRTFD's emergency calls are for rescue and emergency medical services (EMS). This is one of the reasons that **100% of WRTFD's crew members are certified EMT's** and more than 35 crew members have received advanced training as licensed Paramedics.

### 99% Property Values Saved

Last year, WRTFD crews responded to potential fire calls at properties with a total value of nearly \$5.5 million. With the quick action of our crews, less than one percent of that total was actually lost to fire.

### Dispatch Consolidation: Getting to you ASAP

In 2014, Johnson County consolidated its 911 dispatch centers to one central location. For you, this means quicker response times to emergency situations. The change to one central location allows for dispatchers to save time by being able to contact all emergency responders without delays. This is particularly helpful when more than one department is needed at a scene. WRTFD Fire Chief Jeremy Pell helped direct the consolidation efforts as a longtime member of the Johnson County 911 Committee.

### Out with the Old: In With The Shiny Brand New

The typical life expectancy of a ladder truck is 15 years while an engine truck needs replacing every 10 years. WRTFD's ladder truck and one engine were reaching their efficient lifespan costing funds for repairs. In 2014, these aging vehicles were sold to make way for brand new state-of-the-art vehicles. The sale of the old vehicles together with funds set aside from previous years allowed the department to purchase the new equipment without loans which saved thousands in tax dollars. Together, the two vehicles cost more than a \$1.7 million and are now being used by Station 51. You may have noticed that the older yellow color scheme is now being transitioned to a sleek black and red paint scheme. They are a thing of beauty.

### Specialists in Our Field

WRTFD is the Building Collapse Response Team for Johnson County. For example, if a car runs into a building, our specially trained collapse teams will secure the building and ensure that it is structurally sound enough for the

building to be entered. In addition, our department also serves as Johnson County's Medical Decontamination Team. This team would be called to an emergency such as securing a meth lab scene.

### EMS: Backed by Community Health Network

WRTFD's medical crews are run under the medical supervision of Community Health Network and Dr. Ryan Bence, Medical Director. Each month Dr. Bence reviews all WRTFD's medical runs and meets with our EMS teams to provide expert medical advice and guidance. These sessions, called Audit and Reviews, are essential to keep our EMT and Paramedic staff up-to-date on the latest medical procedures to prepare for future emergency situations.



### I called for an ambulance. Why does a fire engine come too?

Many times, fire engines are closer than the ambulances and can get to you faster. All WRTFD firefighters are EMT's or Paramedics. All three of the WRTFD engines are equipped with advanced and basic life support equipment. So, if they arrive before the ambulance crews, they can assess the situation and start providing care which saves valuable time.



### How many firefighters are on duty each day?

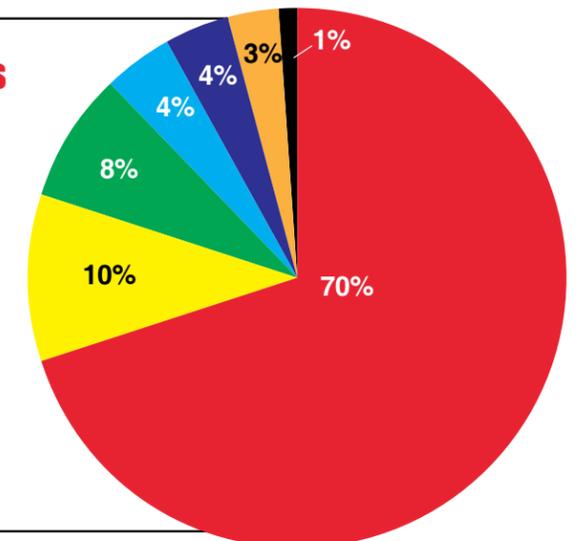
Every day, there are 21 WRTFD crew members ready to respond in an emergency. This includes our ambulance crews, Battalion Chief and the crews on the trucks.

### How many fire trucks does WRTFD have?

Among the three stations, we have three fire engines, one ladder truck, two advanced life saving ambulances and one tactical support unit ready to respond. We also have a collapse trailer and a decontamination trailer for our special operations teams. If a vehicle is out for maintenance, we have a reserve ambulance and engine so the community will not lose service.

### 2014 WRTFD Emergency Responses

- Rescue & Emergency Medical Services
- Good Intent Call
- False Alarm
- Fire
- Hazardous Condition (No Fire)
- Service Call
- Other



# TRAINING & SAFETY

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 86 firefighters lost their lives in 2014 in the United States. WRTFD's Chief of Training & Safety, Dale Saucier has dedicated his career to change that statistic. His number one goal is to make sure all WRTFD firefighters are trained and protected not only to return home safely after each shift but to enjoy a healthy retirement after their fire career is complete. To achieve this goal and to protect your community, he puts our WRTFD crews through thousands of hours of training each year.

## Goodbye Old Friend – Hello Training Opportunity

Before demolition began on the vacated Dannemiller Hardware and Pizza King on State Road 135, the WRTFD had an amazing opportunity to use the buildings for structural training. Aerial operations, roof ventilation and firefighter rescues were just a few of the training exercises performed. More than 500 hours of training were completed before the buildings were torn down to make way for the new Aldi.

## “Flood Town”

Many of our WRTFD crew members traveled to “Flood Town” at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center to learn advanced surface water rescue. If you have been in the Center Grove area long, you surely have heard of the flood of 2008 and will appreciate the importance of this advanced training. The water rescue team and the WRTFD rescue boat serve the community from Station 51.

## The Training House

WRTFD's Training House is not your typical Center Grove home. One step inside the door and you may find yourself maneuvering through fallen rafters or dropping through a collapsing floor. **In 2014, WRTFD purchased property on Morgantown Road** in the event that Interstate 69 causes the closure and rebuilding of our current Station 53 and Headquarters. The existing home on the property was the perfect opportunity to create a hands-on training facility.

**A firefighter survival course was constructed inside the house** with props simulating diminished clearance, entanglement and much more. This simulated course will help our firefighters quickly anticipate and maneuver through debris in a real fire.

The Training House has been used by several other fire departments, SWAT Teams, medical teams and other protection agencies for advanced training.

## FDNY: Special Guest of WRTFD

Did you know that today's **construction materials used in buildings and furniture burns eight time faster** than it did in 1970? WRTFD invited New York Fire Department's

nationally recognized expert on modern fire behavior to speak to our crews and crews from Johnson County and throughout the state. Held at Sugar Grove Elementary, the eight hour training course featured Lieutenant John Ceriello, FDNY, and was sponsored by the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

## Training That Goes Beyond Firefighting

Tobacco cessation, physical fitness, mental health and cancer awareness programs are just a few of the health and wellness opportunities offered to the staff and crew.

## 2014 Training Highlights

- Vehicle Extrication
- Water Rescue
- Firefighter Down CPR
- Structural Collapse
- Pump Operation and Hose Training
- Rope Rescue
- Ice Rescue

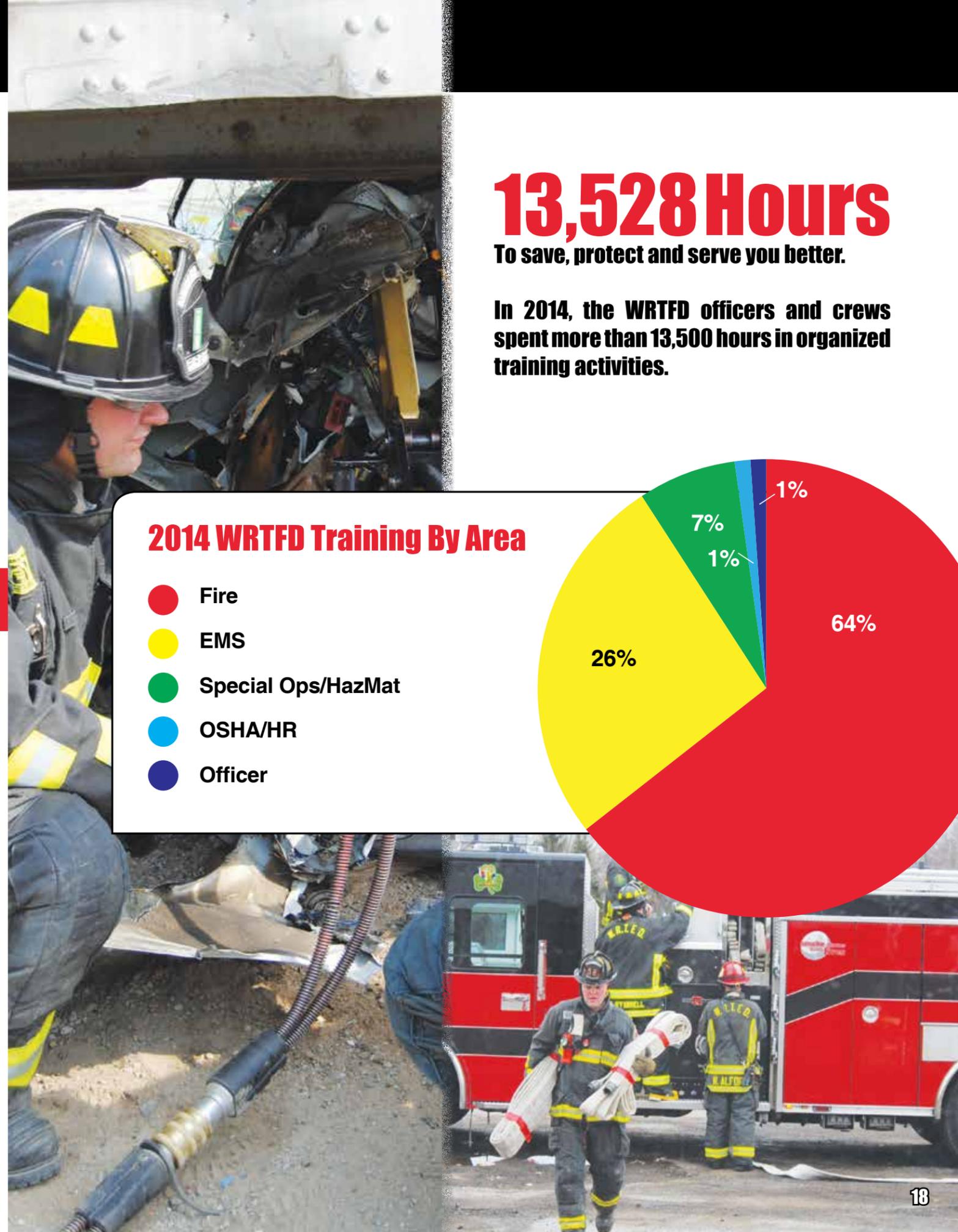
# HOT TOPICS

## Can any house or building be donated for live fire training?

*To ensure the safety of the community, there are strict guidelines on what buildings can be used for live fire training. In simple terms, a live burn cannot potentially endanger other structures or people. The building cannot be too close to the road or other buildings. If a building meets all the guidelines, it takes more than 100 hours of preparation time to notify government agencies, neighbors and remove materials such as siding, brush, shingles and more. But even without a live fire, there are many training exercises that can be done in a vacant building.*

## What are the requirements and hours of training needed to become a WRTFD employee?

*To become a WRTFD employee, you must have completed basic firefighter training before being considered as a candidate at the WRTFD. Certifications must include Firefighter I and II, Hazardous Materials Operations, EMT-Basic and Technical Rescue Awareness. During the hiring process, candidates take a written test, complete a rigorous physical agility test and interview process. Once hired, employees are required to complete a 40-hour orientation before receiving their “rookie” status.*



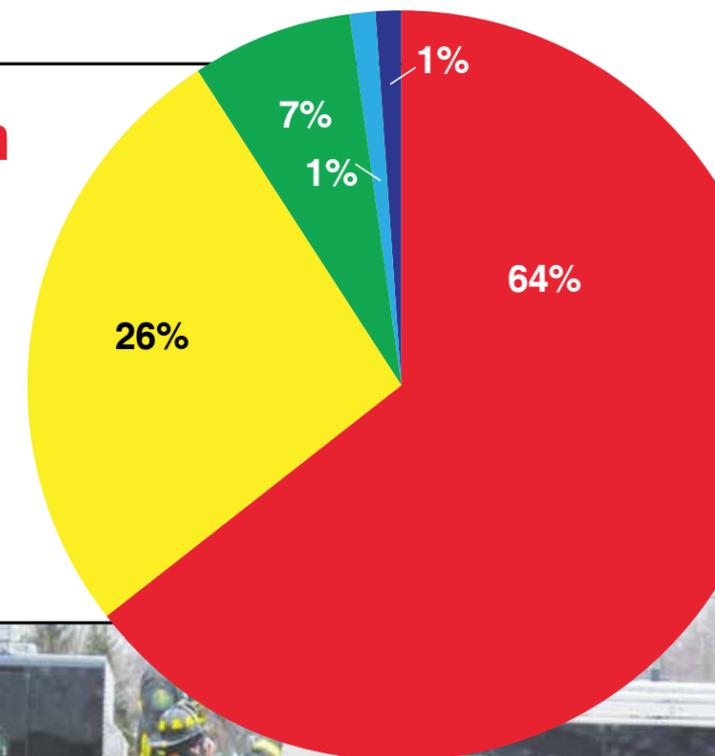
# 13,528 Hours

To save, protect and serve you better.

**In 2014, the WRTFD officers and crews spent more than 13,500 hours in organized training activities.**

## 2014 WRTFD Training By Area

- Fire
- EMS
- Special Ops/HazMat
- OSHA/HR
- Officer



# FIRE PREVENTION

The WRTFD Fire Prevention Division is staffed by two full-time and two part-time professionals who put the safety concerns of the community above all else. Fire Marshal Michael Arany and Deputy Fire Marshal Matthew Partain and two part-time inspectors, Charlie Fraker and Kevin Johnson are continually out in the Center Grove community inspecting structures, investigating fires and meeting with builders to ensure safety.

## Fire Prevention: In Real-Time

In 2014, the Fire Prevention staff inspected more than 500 public and commercial businesses in the Center Grove area. In fact, our goal is to inspect 100% of all commercial business sites at least once a year. Beginning in 2015, as they inspect the building, they also make a computerized floorplan which notes all the key safety points.

These floorplans can be accessed from the WRTFD trucks. This allows firefighters to know exactly where the quickest access points for the building are, as well as the location of stairs, electric and gas shutoffs, and alarm panels even before stepping off the truck. This real-time information can save both lives and thousands of dollars in damage to the structure.

## Our Community is Growing: Fire Prevention is There Every Step of the Way

Like all thriving communities, the Center Grove area is ever-changing and growing. From concept to the grand opening, the WRTFD Fire Prevention staff works with developers and contractors at every step when a new or updated construction is planned in the community. The Fire Marshal and his staff review plans, advise contractors and ensure all current codes are met. In fact, in 2014 alone, the Fire Marshal conducted more than 200 construction inspections on 46 construction projects. Ensuring that construction projects are compliant with state codes and local ordinances helps to make sure that buildings are as fire safe as possible. Fire prevention efforts don't stop when the opening ceremony is over – it continues for the life of the building with yearly inspections and updates to floorplans.

## Investigations: Finding a Cause

14 formal fire investigations were conducted by the WRTFD fire prevention staff. Anytime there is a fire where the cause is unknown or the loss was significant, the Fire Prevention Division is called to the scene. Their expertise can help spot signs of the use of accelerants, faulty wiring and much more. Their findings not only provide the cause of the fire but can provide us with data that can help to prevent other fires.

## Decoding the Codes

In their very basic form, current fire and safety codes are used to protect the community. Every year, the Fire Prevention Division staff receives continuing education to

keep up-to-date on current codes. This helps the Prevention staff educate businesses and residents when compliance issues arise.

## Fire Prevention Bureau of the Year

WRTFD's Fire Prevention Division was named the 2014 Fire Prevention Bureau of the Year by the Fire Inspectors Association of Indiana (FIAI).

## GPS Fire Hydrant Project

In 2014, WRTFD Lieutenant Ryan Cox and the Engine 52 A-Shift crew collected GPS data and manufacturer information more than 1,400 private and public fire hydrants in our district. This information was used to update the department's maps. In addition, the Fire Marshal is working with the county Geographic Information Systems director to get this information into a computerized map format that would allow firefighters to quickly locate hydrants on the way to a fire. Bargersville Fire Department has recently started collecting hydrant data as well which will be added to the system.

# HOT TOPICS

## Why do I need a burn permit to just burn a few limbs and leaves?

*White River Township instituted a local ordinance requiring a burn permit for open burning. The primary reason for issuing burn permits is to educate the public on the requirements for open burning within White River Township as defined by the local ordinance. These requirements were designed to ensure the safety of all citizens and their property within the township and minimize the amount and type of pollutants released into the environment.*

## Why does the fire department still show up after I call to say it was a false alarm?

*When a fire alarm occurs, the 911 dispatch center is immediately notified. From there, the appropriate fire trucks are alerted and sent to the location of the alarm. This process happens rather quickly. When a homeowner or business owner calls to notify their private alarm company of the false alarm, the fire department is usually already on the way. As a courtesy, at least one fire truck will continue to the location of the alarm to visually ensure all persons and property are truly safe and secure. Also, records are kept of how often a false alarm may occur at any given address. If a particular address has frequent false alarms, the fire department can alert the owner or occupant that the fire alarm system may have faults or defects and may be in need of service.*

## Why is the fire department always asking for the keys to my business?

*If your business has a fire protection system, such as a fire alarm with smoke detection or a sprinkler system, that system is monitored 24/7. When the monitoring company receives an alarm from your system they notify the local 911 Dispatch Center, who in turn dispatches the fire department. At that point, they begin trying to contact keyholders from your business' emergency contact list. The fire department is normally on scene within just a few minutes of being dispatched. Rather than forcing entry or waiting for a keyholder while a potential problem exists inside, they enter your business using the keys you provided, which are kept on-site in a miniature-sized vault called a KNOX Box. Once inside, firefighters can use the information from the fire protection system to quickly locate and address the issue, and then they typically wait for the keyholder to arrive to pass on information about what caused the alarm and make sure the fire protection system is properly reset.*

## Why do I have two inspectors visiting my construction site?

*Most cities and towns have a construction review and inspection process that involves members of the building department and the fire department to varying degrees. This is considered best practice because the members of the two departments have different strengths. For example, a building inspector may be better qualified to review plumbing work, while a fire marshal usually knows much more about fire protection systems. Outside of cities and towns, construction projects are typically overseen by a county building department and the local fire department is rarely involved. In order to provide the best level of service to citizens and businesses of White River Township, the White River Township and Bargersville Community Fire Departments have adopted the White River Township Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance. This ordinance gives the fire marshals of the two departments the authority to enforce the fire and building safety codes adopted by the state and includes a number of local amendments which strengthen the minimum code requirements. The result is a model similar to what is seen in a city, and because White River's jurisdiction includes a small portion of the City of Greenwood, the local amendments are nearly identical.*

## Why do I have to pay someone to tag my extinguisher every year? Can't you guys look at it when you come?

*The Indiana Fire Code and NFPA 10 Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers both have requirements for servicing fire extinguishers. They must be maintained at least annually by a person who has been trained by the manufacturer to inspect and work on their product. Unfortunately, this means that your fire inspector can't take care of it for you.*



# LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

In a single day, WRTFD's Life Safety Officer, Craig Zollars, can find himself in a sea of third grade students teaching fire safety, breathing into a CPR dummy while teaching a room of adults CPR techniques and even on his hands and knees navigating a group of preschoolers through a smoke-filled safety trailer. Obviously our Life Safety Officer position is not your typical 9-5 desk job but it is one that can save lives!

**100% of all Center Grove elementary students from kindergarten through 3rd grade are educated on fire and life safety every year.**

## Life and Fire Safety in the Schools

The best way to fight a fire or repair an injury is to prevent it from happening in the first place. In 2014, Craig Zollars educated every Center Grove kindergarten through 3rd grade student on life and fire safety! In total, the Public Safety Education Division was part of **122 events and connected with more than 7,500 children with safety messages last year.**

## Center Grove Middle Schoolers: Ready to Save Lives

In 2014, every seventh grade student taking physical education at Center Grove was instructed on the **American Heart Association CPR methods.** In all, more than 600 students became CPR certified and are now ready to save lives. According to the American Heart Association, nearly 383,000 out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrests occur each year. The majority of those cardiac arrests happen in the home so these middle school students certainly have the skills to save the life of a family member or friend.

Craig Zollars and his team of instructors also provides CPR classes for health and school professionals as well as for the general public which makes our community a safer place to be.

## Child Safety Seat Fitting Station: Partnering with Riley Hospital

Life Safety Officer Zollars is also a certified child safety seat installation instructor while several WRTFD employees are certified car seat technicians. Together, they help make sure that children are safe during every car ride. WRTFD partners with Automotive Safety Program at Indiana University School of Medicine to provide instruction and even free car seats for families in need. In 2014, 133 seats were inspected and 43 free car seats were provided to families in need. If you need a car seat inspected for proper fitting, please call WRTFD Headquarters at (317) 888-8337 for an appointment.

## Christmas Angels: Toy and Clothing Drive

With the community's help, we get to bring a bit of Christmas cheer to families in need every December. With our partners at the United Way of Johnson County, WRTFD sponsors a

toy and clothing drive. **Staff, crews and many volunteers from the community purchased toys and clothing for a record 230 children in 2014.** The Christmas Angels program is a 100% donation-based program thanks to the generosity of area businesses and individuals. Thanks to our WRTFD crews, community partners and businesses for making Christmas brighter for many Center Grove and Johnson County families.

If you would like to sponsor and shop for a family in 2015, please contact our WRTFD Headquarters for more information.



## Would You Like Fries with that?

Don't be surprised if your WRTFD firefighters, EMTs and Paramedics are your waiters at a Center Grove area restaurant. Last year, our crews served as wait staff to raise money for the Christmas Angels program at Texas Roadhouse and Culver's.

## Bike Safety: Have Helmet – Will Travel

Bike Rodeos are one of our most popular events at WRTFD. Who doesn't like riding around on a bicycle? It's the Life Safety Education Division's job to make sure that everyone does it safely. WRTFD held six Bike Rodeo's in 2014 where the staff instructed children on the skills to become better bicyclists, how to avoid typical crashes and the importance of a proper fitting helmet. Thanks to a generous donation by the Sertoma Club of Greenwood and Johnson County Safe Kids, WRTFD was able to handout 334 free CPSC approved bicycle helmets in 2014.

## 1,500 pounds of Strawberries and Still Growing: 2014 Strawberry Festival

The WRTFD's Strawberry Festival has been a community favorite since 1992. What began as a small one-day community event has grown into a major two-day event with food, fireworks, balloon rides and more. In 2014, more than 1,500 pounds of strawberries and 2,500 shortcakes were served by local volunteers and WRTFD firefighters.

The Festival allows the WRTFD crews to connect with the community they serve. It's a great way for the staff to meet face-to-face in a non-emergency situation. Held at Sugar Grove Elementary School, all fire engines, ambulances and ladder trucks are ready for exploration. Any profit from the festival is used to supplement WRTFD's education and outreach program.

## Here's a few more reasons why our Public Education Program is so AMAZING:

- Our public education staff officer, Craig Zollars, is certified by the National Fire Academy as a Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Specialist. He has received extensive training to deal with juveniles who are at risk.
- In 2013, Zollars was awarded the Connie K Gibbs Child Safety Advocate Award for outstanding dedication to child safety.
- Our mobile WRTFD Life Safety Trailer contains a model kitchen and bedroom and can fill with harmless smoke which allows our firefighters to teach children how to escape a fire safely. The trailer can even mimic severe weather conditions such as lightening and earthquakes.
- You may have seen Patches, our robot fire dog, driving around in his firetruck. He helps us teach prevention education in schools and community by answering questions from adults and children.
- Zollars and his team of instructors certified more than 3,000 students and adults CPR and CPR/First Aid in 2014.

## HOT TOPICS

### I heard that car seats have an expiration date. Is that true?

*Actually it is! Almost all car seats today have an expiration date printed on the bottom. It is recommended that you not use a car seat that is more than six years old. The changes in heat and cold can deteriorate the plastic and make the seat unsafe for your child.*

### I don't think I have an emergency but I'm not sure. What should I do?

*If something doesn't seem "right" or if you are on the fence about calling 911, please call! Sometimes a delay can be a huge factor in saving lives and property. We would much rather send an engine and ambulance to your home and find nothing seriously wrong than have to respond to an escalated problem later. Please do not feel like you are a bother or that your problem is too small. This is our job and we love to help!*

### How often should I replace my smoke detector?

*Smoke detectors should be replaced at least every 10 years. Make sure you change the batteries once a year. Sadly, three out of five home fire deaths occur in properties without working smoke detectors. If you need a smoke detector or know of someone in need, please stop by WRTFD Headquarters. The nonprofit organization, Friends Forever, has generously donated smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to WRTFD to distribute to the community. Friends Forever was founded by the parents of four Center Grove High School graduates and Indiana University students who lost their lives in a fire in Bloomington.*



Whether it is an article in the daily and weekly local papers or posts through social media, the WRTFD continually looks for avenues to reach out and communicate with the Center Grove community.



### Tweets that Make a Difference

In 2014, WRTFD tweeted 326 times. That's an average of 27 times per month! Social media like Twitter helps our staff communicate in real-time with the community. In 2014, tweets included information on road closures, school delays and emergency responses. That's a ton of information in just 140 characters!



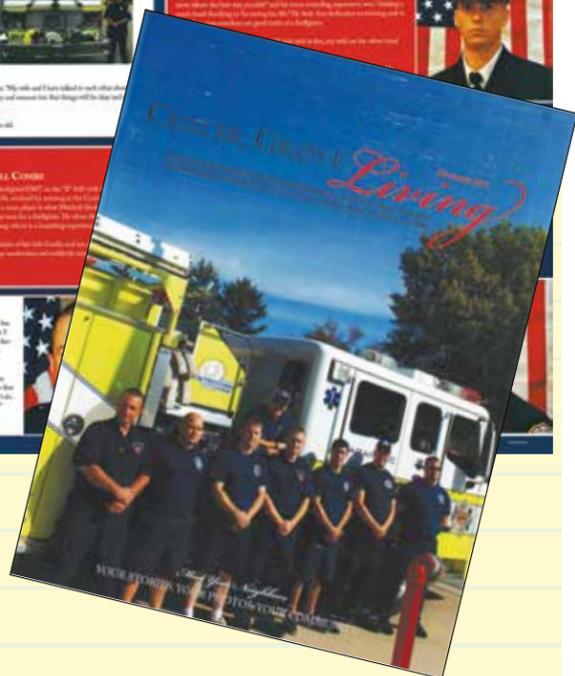
### Thumbs Up! To Date, the WRTFD Facebook Page has Nearly 3,000 Likes!

We love to post pictures and updates on our crews in action during real calls, training exercises, public programs all while including a bit of bragging on our crews. Thanks to our community for sharing our posts and giving us the "thumbs up."



### Did You Read all About Us?

In November 2014, Center Grove Living Magazine which is distributed in several Center Grove neighborhoods, did an amazing profile on the crew members at WRTFD Station 51. It was a fantastic way for us to reach out to our neighbors. The crews shared their thoughts on protecting your community and even their favorite firehouse meal.



### We traded firehoses for hammers for the day!

In April 2014, 15 WRTFD staff members joined firefighters, sheriffs and police officers from across Johnson County for the first-ever "Hero Build" organized by the Habitat for Humanity of Johnson County. With the help of many talented volunteers, the "Hero Build" provided a home for a single mother and her two small children built by the heroes of our county. The WRTFD staff donated more than 136 hours of labor to the effort.



CAPT. GREEN WINS THE CHILL COOKOFF

CAR ACCIDENT DEMO AT STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL



*"It's humbling. I look at myself as an average person that's trying to make this community a little bit nicer. It's also an incredible responsibility. My job is to serve every single person in this community, that's 28,000 people that rely on me to keep them safe and to be there to help on their worst day. To do that job, I make sure that the people who are going out there to save lives are prepared and equipped to do it."*

- WRTFD Fire Chief Jeremy Pell  
Quote from story in Center Grove ICON

### Hoosier Burn Camp: Boating Trip

We are always proud of our WRTFD crews but having them spend the day boating made us really proud. Several WRTFD crew members spent the day boating on Lake Monroe with the children of the Hoosier Burn Camp. Great day on the lake with some truly amazing heroes.



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