



# Ozark Fire Protection District Press Release



With almost half of the year gone, your Ozark Fire District has been as busy as ever. As of May 20, 2024, crews have responded to 1656 calls for service. Every month of this year has been a record month for response calls. If this keeps going, we will have over 4000 calls by the end of the year. Even with all of these calls, crews find time to hone their skills and be out and about with the public. You may see the crews anywhere within the district doing some sort of training. If you do, feel free to stop by and have a chat with them.



The fire district has kicked off its 2024 Citizens Fire Academy class. This class introduces a few area residents the different aspects of what firefighters do. This year, thirteen residents were chosen through an application process to attend our event. This is a nine week course that shows the students how to use extrication tools, drive apparatus, use a fire extinguisher, perform CPR, fight vehicle fires, and understand what it is we do when the alarm goes off.



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As always, we encourage everyone to be fire-safe. Ozark Fire District provides free CPR/Fire extinguisher classes on the first Thursday of the month at our headquarters. Go to <https://www.ozarkfire.org/events> to sign up for these free courses. As always, Ozark Fire District will come out to our district residents and change smoke detector batteries or smoke detectors for you. A few other safety tips for the summer months:

**1) Grill safely:**

- a. Always use your grill outdoors, keeping it away from siding and deck railing.
- b. For gas grills, check the gas supply line for damages and replace it, if needed.
- c. If you are using charcoal, use an electric or chimney lighter that allows you to use newspaper rather than lighter fuel.
- d. Always wait until your grill cools completely before putting it away, especially if you use a grill cover.

**2) Leave fireworks to the pros:**

- a. When it comes to fireworks, you are playing with fire.
- b. The best choice is to pack a picnic basket and catch some of the amazing fireworks displays hosted by professionals in your community.
- c. If you do choose to enjoy consumer fireworks, make sure they are legal.
- d. Dress smart – no bare skin or loose clothing if you are near fireworks.
- e. Always use fireworks away from buildings, overhead branches or trees, dry grass, or combustible fuels.
- f. Keep a water hose or fire extinguisher within reach and know how to use it.

**3) Always keep kids and pets away from fire:**

- a. Keep kids and pets away from campfires, fireworks, candles, matches, and lighters.
- b. Avoid playing games with flying objects like baseballs, basketballs, or plastic discs anywhere around the grill, torches, or candles.

**4) Never leave any flame or fire unattended:**

- a. Whether you're grilling, using a fire pit, or toasting s'mores around the fire, never leave any flame or fire unattended, and put out any fire before you leave it.

For further information or to have your smoke detectors checked, please contact us at the District HQ (417) 581-4436 M-F 7 am-4 pm or visit our website for more information.

Respectfully;

**Jeffrey Owens**

Assistant Chief

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