



# Ozark Fire Protection District Press Release



The month of December is an amazing time of year as we spread Christmas cheer and fire prevention messaging throughout the community. The crews enjoy spending time with Santa and his elves as we deliver him to different venues around Ozark. Each year we have the honor of transporting Santa during the Annual Christmas Parade. We also have the pleasure of delivering Santa to Ozark Square to collect Christmas letters to Santa during “Friday Night Lights”.



During this time of year, crews take advantage of warmer days to get some outside training in. Crews practice hose line advancement so they can manage tricky corners inside a home. Honing these skills ensures that when the call comes, members will be prepared for any challenges they might face. During the colder months, crews will venture inside and work on maintaining certification requirements, studying calls from the past, and reviewing procedures.

# Press Release

The Ozark Fire Protection District would like to extend our warmest wishes for a safe and eventful holiday season. Thank you to our amazing citizens for a fantastic 2023. We can only dream about the exciting things that will happen in 2024. Over the past 12 months, the Ozark Fire Protection District has set into motion or completed the following items.

TASK	% COMPLETE	DUE DATE	STATUS
Station #1/Training Facility	10%	2025	Land purchased on North 9 <sup>th</sup> St
Station #2	100%	2021	Lease obligation was paid which allowed for the use of General Funds to add 3 additional firefighters to staffing.
Station #3	100%	November 2023	
Purchase of an Aerial Apparatus	100%	2022	Purchased a used Aerial Apparatus to fulfill the need of the District
Purchase of New Engine for Station #3	100%	October 2023	New Pumper/Tender purchased and should be in service by the time Station #3 opens back up.
Purchase of a New Engine or Aerial Apparatus	10%	2024	Gathering specifications for the apparatus that will fulfill the needs of the District.
Purchase New Brush Truck/Rescue	25%	2024	Gathering specifications for the apparatus that will fulfill the needs of the District. Chassis has been purchased

Station #3 continues to progress with an expected occupancy in late December. Pay close attention to the district website and social media as we prepare to unveil this project. Many months of hard work and oversight have brought this station full circle with a new gym facility, new gear storage and decontamination area, new driveway, and new living quarters. We are excited to get this station back up and functional.



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As always, we encourage everyone to be fire-safe. This month it is “Winter Fire Safety”. A few things to cover during the holiday/ winter season.

## 1) **Flue Fires**

- One of the most common causes of structure fires during the colder season.
- Have your flue cleaned and inspected annually
- Creosote is a highly flammable chemical compound that builds up in your chimney. A stray spark or high temperature in your chimney can ignite it. Chimney fires fueled by creosote can get to up to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. This can cause the chimney liner to crack and allow flames to spread to your home.

## 2) **HVAC Maintenance**

- A light smoky smell is typical when starting your furnace for the wintertime. If this smell persists, call 911 and evacuate your home.
- Your furnace and your air conditioner have different service needs, and having annual service done on your furnace in the fall, before the heating season, and on your air conditioner in spring, before the cooling season, is the best way to ensure all components are operating optimally.

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;

**Aaron S. Heaton**

Assistant Chief

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