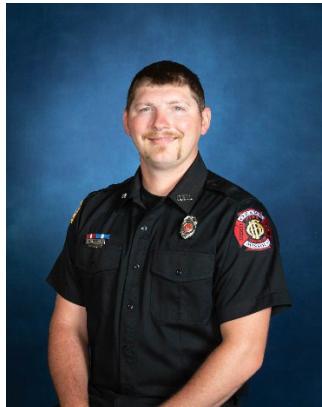


Ozark Fire District Media Release



October was Fire Prevention Month and this year's theme was "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape." This year was a major success as we took the fire prevention initiative to every Ozark elementary school and presented the children with public safety education material and truck tours. Crews love interacting with community members, especially children since we are children at heart. This year, we were able to provide educational information to more than 1,200 children. We were also able to distribute more than 78 battery-operated smoke detectors at no cost to citizens through neighborhood smoke detector programs.

We would like to congratulate Austin Essick on his recent promotion to the rank of Engineer. Engineer Essick has been with the organization since 2019 and excelled as a firefighter. He will serve as the operator of the district's apparatus and step-up officer when required. We are extremely happy for Austin and the hard work he put in to achieve this promotion.



A bittersweet event will occur for the Ozark Fire District in December. Battalion Chief Shawn Martin has announced his retirement, which will be effective December 9, 2022. Chief Martin has been with the district since 2015 when he was hired as one of the initial 3 Battalion Chief Officers. Shawn previously served with the Springfield Fire Department for 20 years, 2 months, and 2 days and was promoted to the rank of Captain before retiring. Shawn served as the International Association of Firefighters Local 152 Secretary for 6 years before becoming the President and serving for 7 Years. We are blessed to have had Chief Martin with the Ozark Fire District. Over the past 7 years, he has been influential in developing the organization's policies and procedures, collective bargaining negotiations, and working to maintain district equipment and medical supplies. We wish him all the success in his future endeavors, and he will be missed tremendously.

Ozark Fire District Media Release



The holiday season is upon us and as always, we want to encourage citizens to be fire-safe in all they do. Tis the season to fry a turkey or bake a ham. Please ensure you have conducted the proper research before attempting this for the first time. Visit the linked video for fire prevention tips on how NOT to fry a turkey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFnn9Ab1n9Q>. Always remember to check that the stove is off when you're finished cooking. One of the causes we see when fighting residential fires is combustible material left atop a stove that has been left on. Be safe and have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday.

Respectfully;

Aaron S. Heaton

Assistant Chief

aheaton@ozarkfire.org

[Ozark Fire Protection District](#)

Station: (417) 581-4436

Fax: (417) 581-4496

