

Perry Township Volunteer Fire Department

“Serving Perry & Union Townships Since 1959”

Fall/Winter 1995

P.O. Box 7051 - Evansville, IN 47719

On February 14, 1995 two rescue trucks and six fire and medical personnel were tied up on a medical run at USI student housing. Another nine members were standing by two stations in case another emergency occurred. Suddenly our dispatcher blared across our radios. “Attention Perry Township. Auto accident with injuries on Highway 62 at Boehne Camp Rd.” This is the type of emergency run you never know what to expect. While enroute Central Dispatch advised our units that extrication would be needed. What a Valentines day this turned out to be.

Upon our arrival we found a two vehicle auto accident. The driver of one vehicle was not injured but what we found in the other vehicle was to be a life and death situation. The second vehicle was in the ditch on the south side of the eastbound lane of Highway 62 which contained one female patient. As other emergency vehicles arrived on the scene, and the extrication equipment was being readied, the first firefighter went straight to the vehicle and began assessing the patient.

Trista Skinner was a 20 year old driving home from a friends house when a vehicle turned into her, causing severe injuries to her that would change her life forever. The dash of her vehicle was smashed

down over her legs. Obvious injuries were to the head, face, pelvis and both legs. It took approximately 30 minutes to get her out of the car because of the massive damage. A door and the roof had to be removed, the steering wheel bent back and the dash pulled off her legs. Time was beginning to be a big factor in her outcome. She was immediately loaded into an ambulance where advanced medical care continued while enroute to the hospital. Would she make it or not since she had severe head injuries?

In May of this year Rita Skinner, Trista's mother, stopped by our fire station to visit with all the fire and medical personnel that had helped on that tragic Valentines day. You can imagine the feeling of all the Perry Fire Dept. members when Trista climbed out of the car and walked into our meeting room. Trista has had several surgeries and has been through intensive physical therapy. When she walks it is noticeable that she has had an injury, but other than that, she is a very happy and lucky young lady.

How does Rita Skinner feel about the emergency response of February 14th? “You guys saved my daughter's life.” This is one of the greatest rewards our department could ever receive.



Trista's car just after firefighter's had extricated her.



Trista stands with some of her rescuers from PTVFD

TO THE RESIDENTS OF PERRY AND UNION TOWNSHIPS

What a year we had in 1994. It turned out to be the busiest year yet for The Perry Township Fire Department. We made a total of 478 fire, medical and auto accidents to beat the old record set in 1992 of 419 emergency runs. And with the June 8th, storm of 1995, we are on another record pace for this year.

The June 8th, storm set another record for us in 1995. We had a total of 20 emergency runs on June 8th, and another 14 runs on June 9th. These emergency runs ranged from lightning striking and igniting an underground gas line, transformers blowing, power lines down, to a search of a missing person and the most dangerous, a resident being struck by lightning.

I can't say enough about the firefighters and medical personnel on your fire department. You cannot imagine the dedication they have for you in case there is an emergency. On June 8th, we had a total of 37 Fire Department members that responded to those 20 emergency runs. Several of us never got back home until mid morning on June 9th, just to come back and respond to those 14 other emergency runs. You truly can depend on your fire department no matter what time of day or what type of emergency you may have.

But we cannot do this without your dedication and support. Again we have enclosed an envelope for your tax deductible donation. We are always ready to respond for you. Please help us continue our training and modernizing of our equipment to keep you with the best possible emergency department around.

As of July, 1995, we are again on a record pace. We have already had 327 emergency responses in our continually growing area. USI has added a new building, we now have a hotel on the west side we cover, new subdivisions are always going up and we have to maintain our equipment and grow with our coverage area. We have already trained 4 new divers this year, and are setting up better water rescue services. We are constantly training for new and better emergency responses.

We just had 4 department members return from Indianapolis for three days of extensive training and updating of their emergency medical skills. We have at least three nights of 4 hours of training each and every month. We have had firefighters in courses throughout the state for advanced training. All of which return to your fire department and updates all the members with the latest in firefighting and medical technology.

Please take just a few minutes of your time and mail in your tax deductible donation to your fire department.

Sincerely,

Wayne Willoughby,
President PTVFD

Bob Doerr,
Chief PTVFD

Did You Know???

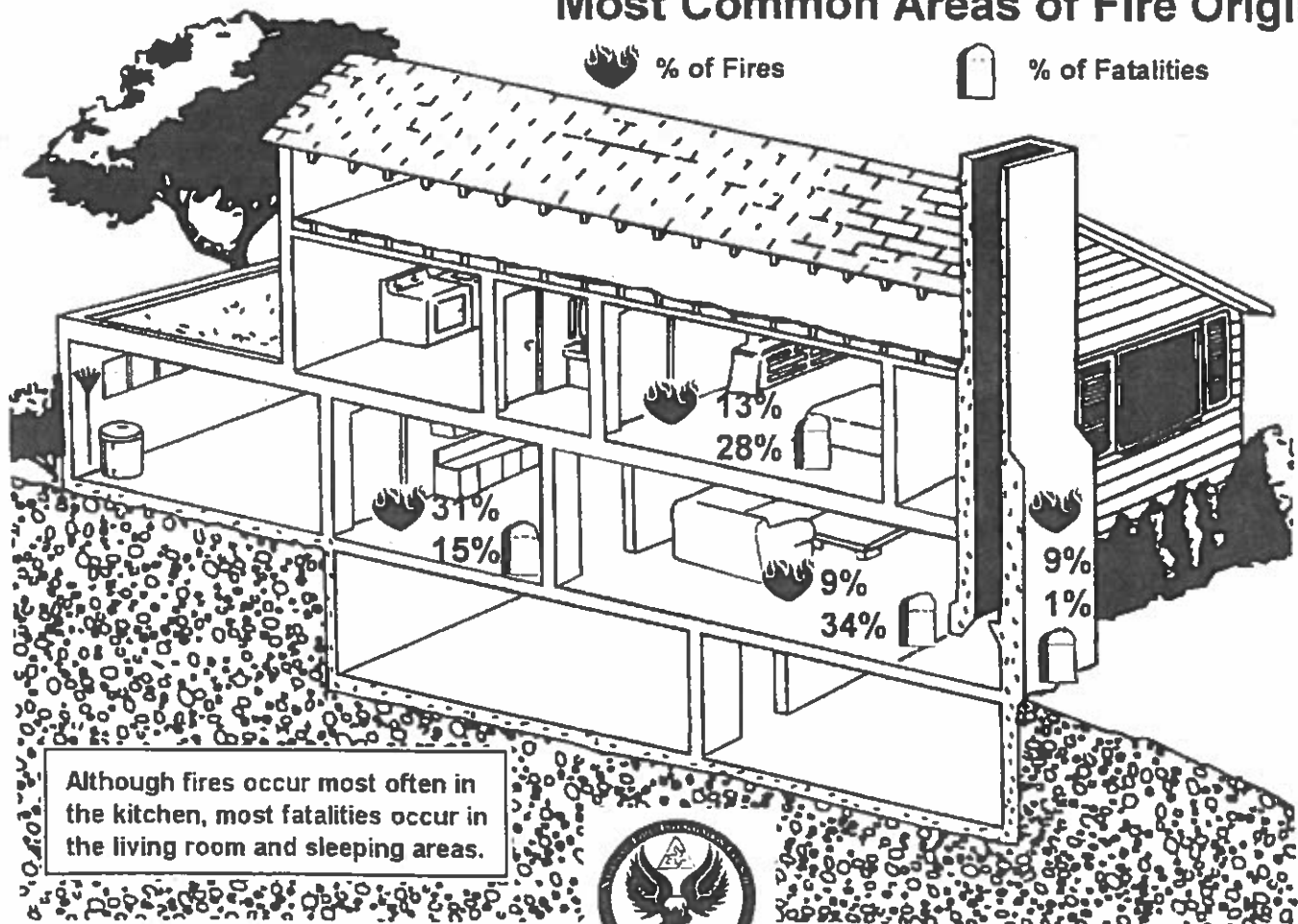
Firefighting is a very expensive business to be in and buying new fire trucks for your protection can tax a fire departments budget quickly. For example, replacing a fire truck like our Engine 4 (a 1000 gallon pumper) would cost in excess of \$175,000. For departments with the dreams of buying a new Quint (a ladder truck with pumper capabilities) would cost well in excess of \$600,000.

WHERE ARE YOU?

The Perry Township Volunteer Fire Department needs your assistance. All too often when emergency vehicles are dispatched, precious time is lost because your name and/or address, to which we have been "dispatched", is not visible on the mailbox, sign post, house, etc. Often times the name and/or number has faded or weeds or trees limbs may be obscuring the view. All that is needed is a clearly printed name and/or address. Routine maintenance is also appreciated. Lives have been lost because the ambulance, police, fire or rescue crew could not locate your residence. It is extremely important that name and/or address be visible at night, especially on roads and streets where there are no street lights.

Another concern is the lack of street/road signs. These may be missing or obscured also. If your street/road sign has been vandalized, damaged or is missing for any reason this may also slow down emergency response. Please report any missing or damaged signs to the Vanderburgh County Garage. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Most Common Areas of Fire Origin



Although fires occur most often in the kitchen, most fatalities occur in the living room and sleeping areas.

Source: 1993 National Fire Incident Report Data
Pub Date 5/95 (PP)



N.F.I.C. "Fighting Fire With Facts"

**Perry Township Fire Departments Top 10
Run-Makers of 1994**

1.	<i>Robert Doerr</i>	471
2.	<i>Paul Kuester</i>	310
3.	<i>Steve Anderson</i>	303
4.	<i>Bob Leggett</i>	291
5.	<i>Tim Montgomery</i>	281
6.	<i>Gary Barr</i>	266
7.	<i>Keith Kuester</i>	264
8.	<i>Tom Burnett</i>	227
9.	<i>Larry Krack</i>	225
10.	<i>Brandon Fagin</i>	223

1995 Top 10 Run Leaders Up To Sept.

1.	<i>Robert Doerr</i>	373
2.	<i>Bob Leggett</i>	279
3.	<i>Steve Anderson</i>	257
4.	<i>Wayne Willoughby</i>	257
5.	<i>Paul Kuester</i>	245
6.	<i>Tim Montgomery</i>	239
7.	<i>Mary Jean Weiss</i>	220
8.	<i>Gary Barr</i>	192
9.	<i>David Roos</i>	188
10.	<i>Cecil West</i>	186

Fire & Things To Remember!

- Make a habit of checking your home before going to bed. See that appliances and portable heaters are off and all fireplaces and cigarettes are out.
- Remember, even wooden doors hold back fire. It takes 10 to 15 minutes to burn through a wooden door. In the event of a fire, feel doors first with the back of your hand. Do not open a hot door.
- Insist on regular cleaning & servicing of home heating equipment by a reputable service company.
- Do not re-enter a burning home to attempt to save anything. Fire grows quickly and your attempt to save something from the house, could be a fatal one.
- Be sure all family members know how to open windows & screens.
- In the event of heavy smoke and heat, don't panic and run. Crawl to the nearest exit.
- If you see smoke in your house, Call 911!*

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Fire Department**
P.O. Box 7051
Evansville, Indiana 47719

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Evansville, IN 47708
Permit No. 2866

RESIDENT ***
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EVANSVILLE, IN 47712