



Firehouse Notes

Mid June
2006

St. George Firefighters Stood Medical Standby for Habitat Project

The St. George Fire Department did its share in the 2006 Habitat for Humanity Hurricane Building Blitz. The Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge enlisted the aid of an estimated 400 volunteers from across the nation and a number of corporate and non-profit sponsors to build 10 houses in the Hidden Cove subdivision in Station 65's response area. The project also built four homes in Plaquemine. The houses we built during the eight day "blitz" from May 27th until June 3rd. One of the homes was sponsored by the NCAA and the Woman's Basketball Coaches Association in honor of long-time LSU Women's Basketball Coach, the late Sue Gunter.

Our part of the effort was to provide medical standby for the duration of the project at no cost to Habitat for Humanity. Having two of our firefighter/EMT's on the St. Croix Street building site was St. George's way of demonstrating to the citizens of the District and to the agencies involved in helping our citizens that we want to be part of the good things going on here.

The Legislature has Adjourned and the World is Still Turning

As with every session of the Legislature, some things happened we wish had not; Some things we hoped for did not happen; And, a few things turned out OK. And, like every other private, corporate and governmental citizen of the state, we will comply and live with the results.

The "State Pay" supplement remains at \$300 monthly, despite efforts to raise it to \$425. There is a promise to re-visit this next session.

Be Extra Careful with Fireworks

I know some of you live where the discharge of fireworks is legal. So, if fireworks are part your Fourth of July, be extra careful. It's awfully dry in very large parts of the state.

Do You Have Anything You'd Like to Share? ... Graduation, Wedding, or New Addition to the Family?

Somebody's Bound to Be Proud of Something Going On!

Do You Have a Backyard Pool?

We shared some general safety information with our neighborhood safety network, and would feel badly not sharing it with the family.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is warning about the increase in drowning deaths reported in inexpensive, inflatable pools. Parents and caregivers are advised to take steps that will help protect children from drowning hazards in all types of pools.

CPSC reports there are about 280 drowning deaths of children younger than 5 each year in swimming pools. In 2005, an estimated 2,100 children were treated in hospital emergency rooms for pool submersion injuries - mostly in residential pools.

CPSC has reports of 17 drowning deaths involving inflatable pools in 2005, up from 9 in 2004 and 10 in 2003.

Small inflatable pools, about 2-feet deep, can cost as little as \$50, and larger pools, up to 4-feet deep and 18-feet wide, can cost under \$200. These pools often fall outside of local building codes that require barriers, and may often be purchased without considering the barriers necessary to help protect young children from the dangers they present.

"Parents need to understand any pool poses a drowning risk," CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton said. "Consider the danger of water before investing in an inflatable pool."

Within two weeks of that release, a five year old child died in an above-ground pool in Baton Rouge.

I hope none of you has to answer this type of call this summer, and wish even more so that your family and circle of friends are not visited by such tragedy.

Let's make backyard pool and general water safety a priority!