

THE FIREHOUSE SCENE



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Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District

July 2020

Fire Chief Don Shoevlin

Editor Sheryl Drost

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Photo by Sheryl Drost



FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK
BY FIRE CHIEF DON SHOEVLIN

The dog days of summer are upon us. These last couple of weeks has seen a steady increase in temperatures and minimal rainfall. Remember to keep yourself hydrated, do not forget about your pets, and check on our neighbors! Also, I ask with this dryness to minimize open burning.

As we finish the month of June, and the first half of 2020 (where did it go), your fire department responded to 257 calls. Through the first half of 2020, we have responded to a total of 1591 calls. The call breakdown is 1213 medical calls and 378 fire/rescue related.

Last year at this time we had responded to 1598 calls. I do not want to jinx anything, but our COVID symptoms calls have slowly diminished. We will continue to remain proactive with this pandemic in following our guidelines that were set in place to protect you and ourselves from the possibility of exposure. I ask us all to continue our social distancing and protection as we begin to slowly return to a small sense of socializing.

Congratulations to Sam McNames and Kyle Swanson who will be promoted to Lieutenant at the end of this month. Every member plays important roles on and within the fire department. I have the utmost confidence in their ability, knowledge, and commitment. We can expect nothing less than their aspiration to carry out the mission statement of HRFD and remain committed to provide a professional service to our communities of which they deserve.

The past month we ordered a new ambulance which will replace one of our older ambulances in the fleet. It is designed to allow our functional positioning which in turn will allow our paramedics and EMT's to do their job more expediently and efficiently. We are looking to have it in service sometime in January 2021.

I have been informed that three major events have been canceled in our district. National Night Out, Mud Volleyball, and the Roscoe Lions Fall Festival will not be happening. They all are working to make a strong return in 2021. The COVID pandemic has had an effect on all of us in many ways. I ask all of us to assist our small businesses in the district by supporting them whenever it is possible. Do we really realize the effect and support they give to our communities?

Your continuous and generous support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me, this is your fire department.

Don't forget to keep up on the progress of your fire department by visiting our website www.harlemroscoefire.com, we can also be found on Facebook, so go ahead and friend us.

Stay safe,
Chief Shoevlin



We are currently accepting applications for part-time EMS/Firefighters along with firefighters.

Are you a caring individual looking for an opportunity to grow in the public safety world? Are you a person looking for challenges and working with a superb group of individuals? Watch our video on our Facebook page.

If you are, then we are looking for you. Applications may be filled out Online at our web site or picked up at Station One which is located at 10544 Main Street in Roscoe IL, 61073 (mask required). Any questions should be directed to the Chief or Deputy Chief of the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department.

PAPER MILL FIRE

BY CHIEF SHOEVLIN

Firefighters were dispatched for paper bales on fire at 10400 N Second on June 17th. Upon arrival of the first unit, numerous bales of cardboard were discovered burning along the exterior wall of the structure.

The fire was extending into the building which was a recycling plant. The fire was brought under control quickly.

Thank you to Rockton Fire, South Beloit Fire and North Park Fire for their assistance. The building sustained approximately \$15,000 damage.



EXCAVATOR ACCIDENT

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to an excavator accident on Knights Armor Lane in Roscoe on July 2nd.

The resident had been using an excavator to dig in his back yard when it overturned, pinning him underneath. Firefighters secured the excavator with cribbing and chained it to a tree. Then using the "Jaws of Life", the excavator was lifted and cribbed and firefighters were able to free the man.

He was transported to the hospital by Harlem-Roscoe Ambulance. Thank you to Rockton Fire for their assistance at the scene.





IS HAND SANITIZER EFFECTIVE AGAINST COVID 19?

The best way to prevent the spread of infections and decrease the risk of getting sick is by washing your hands with plain soap and water, advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is essential, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing one's nose. If soap and water are not available, CDC recommends consumers use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

DID YOU KNOW HAND SANITIZER HAS AN EXPIRATION DATE?

Yes, hand sanitizers have an expiration date. Should they be used after the expiration date? We fact-checked with Snopes.com on this claim and here is their summary. "Based on guidance from the CDC and experts, hand sanitizers should be used as a secondary option to hand-washing, and are less effective at killing germs after they've been opened and their expiration date has passed. The alcohol content in sealed containers, however, possibly remains almost the same after the expiration date because it has not been exposed to air."

<https://www.snopes.com/fact.../hand-sanitize-after-expiration/>

CAN HAND SANITIZERS START A CAR FIRE

Experts say alcohol-based hand sanitizer is flammable, but can only ignite if a flame is introduced. Although leaving small amounts of ABHS in your car does not pose a significant fire risk, it should not be kept in vehicles because high temperatures can lower its disinfectant ability.

However, it is advisable to not store any bottles of 'clear' liquid such as water bottles or hand sanitizers in the direct sun light in your car because they could start a fire by refracting sun light. The conditions must be just right, and the bottle has to be clear, and sunlight has to pass through it at the right angle. Also key is the rounded shape of the bottle. On a sunny day, the light shines through the front windshield, through the bottle, and that clear liquid focuses the light — and its heat — onto one point. That concentrated beam can exceed 400 degrees on a darker surface within seconds. That's hot enough to spark a fire.

<https://www.today.com/health/firefighters-warn-leaving-bottled-water-your-car-could-start-fire-t115225>

HAND SANITIZER RECALL

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-advises-consumers-not-use-hand-sanitizer-products-manufactured-eskbiochem>

Update [6/29/2020] FDA is alerting consumers of Saniderm Products and UVT Inc.'s voluntary recall of Saniderm Advanced Hand Sanitizer. Following FDA's recommendation, two distributors – Saniderm Products and UVT – agreed to recall Saniderm Advanced Hand Sanitizer packaged in 1-liter plastic bottles and labeled with "Made in Mexico" and "Produced by: Eskbiochem SA de CV."

The UVT hand sanitizer is labeled with lot number 0530 and an expiration date of 04/2022.

The Saniderm Products hand sanitizer is labeled with lot number 53131626 and "Manufactured on April/1/20."

FDA has identified the following products manufactured by Eskbiochem:

All-Clean Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-002-01)

Esk Biochem Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-007-01)

CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 75% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-008-04)

Lavar 70 Gel Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-006-01)

The Good Gel Antibacterial Gel Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-010-10)

CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 80% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-005-03)

CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 75% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-009-01)

CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 80% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-003-01)

Saniderm Advanced Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-001-01)

FDA tested samples of Lavar Gel and CleanCare No Germ. Lavar Gel contains 81 percent (v/v) methanol and no ethyl alcohol, and CleanCare No Germ contains 28 percent (v/v) methanol. Methanol is not an acceptable ingredient for hand sanitizers and should not be used due to its toxic effects.

Consumers who have been exposed to hand sanitizer containing methanol should seek immediate treatment, which is critical for potential reversal of toxic effects of methanol poisoning. Substantial methanol exposure can result in nausea, vomiting, headache, blurred vision, permanent blindness, seizures, coma, permanent damage to the nervous system or death. Although all persons using these products on their hands are at risk, young children who accidentally ingest these products and adolescents and adults who drink these products as an alcohol (ethanol) substitute, are most at risk for methanol poisoning.

FDA reminds consumers to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing one's nose. If soap and water are not readily available, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend consumers use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent ethanol.

FDA remains vigilant and will continue to take action when quality issues arise with hand sanitizers. Additionally, the agency is concerned with false and misleading claims for hand sanitizers, for example that they can provide prolonged protection such as 24-hours against viruses including COVID-19, since there is no evidence to support these claims.



Celebrating 80 Years

RESCUE *by Sheryl Drost*

Next month's Issue - *Medical*

Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters have always devoted their time and expertise to train and become well-versed in the different types of emergency rescues and to acquire the best equipment possible. Although the most common rescue is the motor vehicle accident, there have been water, ice, trench, rope, farm, as well as several animal rescues. *(Check out our website for more photos of rescues!)*



RESCUE BOATS

In 1960, the department had one boat and motor bought with proceeds from a Coon and Ham Dinner. A second boat was added when Station Two was built to help cover the south end waterways. The boats have been used many times over the years during local flooding. Early Firefighter Jim Puhl's wife Jane remembered Jim taking water rescue class with some of the guys in the 1960s or 1970s. She said "In the flood of 1973, even parts of downtown Roscoe were underwater from the Kinnikinnick Creek overflowing. The firefighters spent a lot of time helping rescue people from their homes along the river and creeks." The district still has a few roads that flood often and the boats have been used numerous times to help residents.

The boats have been upgraded through the years and a rescue boat is still in service at each Station One and Two. The addition of the side scan sonar has helped tremendously and equipment for both water and ice rescue is updated as new technology evolves. The department is part of the Winnebago Water Rescue Team and have responded to many mutual aid requests over the years and participated in many monthly trainings. The most viewed pages on the department's website to date, continues to be the 2010 rescue of the Husky from the frozen Rock River and the 2017 rescue of a dog from Legend Lakes!

RESCUE TRUCKS THROUGH THE YEARS



RESCUE NO.6

In 1960, Chief Cobby Rogers said the department's biggest need was a rescue unit that could be taken on fire calls and be available for other emergencies such as drowning, heart attacks, or similar rescues. The Firefighter's Association purchased a bread truck for \$500 and used the proceeds from their 1960 Coon and Ham Dinner to paint and equip the new truck. A second bread truck Rescue No.7 replaced the first one around 1965. The trucks carried just the basic tools: air tanks, ropes, a tool box, hand saws, jacks, gas tanks, chains, and hand tools.



SQUAD NO.7

When the second bread truck was no longer serviceable, a GMC pickup truck with utility boxes on the sides for tools was used. They put the generator, tarps, back boards, and other long or large items in the back of the truck.



SQUAD NO.1, 741, 742

The need was apparent for a good rescue truck and by 1973 the firefighters had raised enough money to purchase the new rescue squad. It has been called Squad 1, 741, and 742 over its lifetime. It was a Pierce V-8, four wheel drive vehicle with dual wheels on the back. The truck was equipped with storage on the sides, a winch, a boom on the front, a slide in unit on the passenger side for a generator, and two 500 watt quartz lights for illuminating an accident scene. The truck was well used over the next twenty-five years. This was the first truck that could carry a patient.



SQUAD 741

A 26 foot Pierce Rescue Squad was purchased in 1989 for \$118,000. The new truck had a generator that ran off the motor freeing a large compartment for carrying rescue tools. It could now carry six air tanks. It also had 300 foot lengths of electrical cord on each side. It had the capability of filling 40-50 air tanks in the field. There was plenty of room for all extrication tools used by the department, as well as the large smoke-ejector fan.



NEW SQUAD 741

In 2005, the Pierce Rescue Squad 741 was replaced with an Alexis Rescue Truck and cost \$342,021.00. The truck is still in service. It has a HME P2 Custom Chassis with a 20 foot box and is ten feet three inches tall with a six person cab. It has a six cylinder, 350 HP Cummins Engine, two Simo pumps to run hydraulic tools, 6 x 6,000 psi air cylinders, 35 Kilowatt Generator, and a 23 foot telescoping light tower with a 9000 watt light system. It also has a specially made front bumper that holds quick attack hydraulic tools such as the Jaws of Life, two roll out 100 foot reels, a cooler box for drinking water, roof top coffin storage container for basket stretcher, ladder, tarps, ropes, a two bottle upright air tank fill system, drop down, slide out trays and boards for easy access of tools, a 250 pound oil dry hopper, air lines, electricity off both sides, and a winch that can be deployed from all four sides.

This truck has been heavily used and is the backbone at many major accidents. Capt. Mike Huffman said, "It's just a big tool box on wheels. We have stripped almost every tool off of it several times on some big extrication scenes."



TECH RESCUE TRUCK 747

In 2007, a Freightliner truck was purchase for \$201,941.00. It was designed to carry enough equipment for specialty rescues; it also has a toilet as well as hot and cold water. It can be used for extended calls, bad weather, as well as technical and disaster-types rescues. It carries many specialty tools and equipment.



SUMMER BEATING THE HEAT

BY DEPUTY CHIEF JOHN BERGERON

When winter comes, all we can think about is how nice it will feel when the weather is warm again. However, there is a major difference between warm weather and intense heat. In this article, we explain how to determine the difference and how you can combat intense heat this summer.

It's summer, and it's hot. That's usually a good thing. People living in the northern states spend long winter months looking ahead to their break from the cold. They are happy to relieve the discomfort of hot summer days by cooling down with dips in the pool and picnics in the shade. But there's hot, and there's really hot. And it looks as if really hot, the dangerous and deadly kind, is the type of heat we can expect for the foreseeable future.

The Risk:

The human body can experience considerable physical stress when temperatures and humidity rise. Everyone is at risk to some degree, but extreme heat, more than any other type of severe weather, can impact the health of vulnerable members of a population. The very old and the very young are at increased risk, as are overweight people and those whose health is already compromised by sickness or disease. In recent years, excessive heat has caused more deaths than all other weather events, including floods. However, with a bit of knowledge of the risks, and a little advance preparation, the odds of surviving are greatly improved.

Preparing for a Heat Wave:

1. Listen to local news and pay attention to weather conditions; be aware of both the temperature and the heat index. The heat index is the temperature the body feels when the effects of heat and humidity are combined. Exposure to direct sunlight can increase the heat index by as much as 15° F.

2. Understand the following terms you might hear during a weather forecast:

Excessive Heat Watch - Conditions are favorable for an excessive heat event to meet or exceed local Excessive Heat Warning criteria in the next 24 to 72 hours.

Excessive Heat Warning - Heat Index values are forecast to meet or exceed locally defined warning criteria for at least 2 days (daytime highs = 105 -110° F).

Heat Advisory - Heat Index values are forecasting to meet locally defined advisory criteria for 1 to 2 days (daytime highs = 100 -105° F).

3. If you have any type of air conditioner (window unit or central air) make sure it is in working order.

4. Make sure your home is well insulated – this helps keep heat in during the winter and heat out during the summer.

During a heat wave keep your house as cool as possible:

1. Place temporary tin-foil reflectors in the windows to reflect sunlight.
2. Cover the windows in your home that receive morning and afternoon sun. (Closing drapes during the day will make a difference, but outside awnings and louvers will stop the heat before it hits the window.)
3. If the temperature drops in the evening, open all doors and windows to promote as much air circulation as possible. When the sun rises, close everything again to keep the indoors cool for as long as possible.
4. Eliminate extra sources of heat such as incandescent light bulbs, computers, or appliances left running. Eat foods that do not require you to use the oven or stove to prepare.

Keep yourself cool:

1. Stay indoors to reduce your exposure to the heat. Head downstairs. Hot air rises, so the lower levels of a home will be cooler than the upper levels.
2. If you do not have air conditioning, consider spending the warmest part of the day in public buildings such as libraries, schools, movie theaters, or shopping malls. Many cities extend the hours of public buildings during a heat wave. Some cities also set up neighborhood cooling centers to help people cool down.
3. Use fans to promote air circulation through your home. Circulating air can cool the body by increasing the perspiration rate of evaporation.
4. For a homemade "air conditioning" system, sit in the path of a fan that is aimed at a pan filled with ice or water. Soak your feet, wear a wet bandana or towel around your neck, or take cool showers or baths throughout the day.
5. Keep yourself healthy and safe:

Stay well hydrated; you'll need to consume more water than you usually do when it's hot. Drink sufficient amounts of fluids before you feel thirsty to prevent dehydration. Avoid alcoholic beverages and caffeine, as these can act as diuretics and promote dehydration. Eat appropriately. It's important to keep eating but adapt your eating habits. Eat well-balanced and light meals regularly, rather than two or three large meals. Large or protein-packed meals take more work to digest which could cause your body temp to increase. Heat can kill by pushing the human body beyond its limits. In extreme heat and high humidity, evaporation slows down, and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal temperature. Understand the difference between heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

Heat Cramps: A type of heat illness, are muscle spasms that result from loss of large amount of salt and water through exercise. Heat cramps are associated with cramping in the abdomen, arms and calves. This can be caused by inadequate consumption of fluids or electrolytes.

Heat Exhaustion: A heat-related illness that can occur after you've been exposed to high temperatures, and it often is accompanied by dehydration. There are two types of heat exhaustion: Water depletion: Signs include excessive thirst, weakness, headache, and loss of consciousness. Salt depletion: Signs include muscle cramps, nausea and vomiting and dizziness.

Heat Stroke: A condition marked by fever and often by unconsciousness, caused by failure of the body's temperature-regulating mechanism when exposed to excessively high temperatures. Heat stroke is a severe medical emergency and can be life threatening.

For Seniors: You Can Beat the Heat

As we get older, our body can't adjust to changes in air temperature — especially heat — as quickly as it did when we were younger. That puts us at risk for heat-related illnesses.

You also may be at greater risk for heat-related illnesses if you have a chronic health condition or take certain medicines that interfere with normal body response to heat. Some medicines also restrict the body's ability to sweat.

But you can still enjoy a safe summer by taking a few precautions when it gets hot. Unless your healthcare provider has told you to limit your fluids, drink plenty of cool liquids like water or fruit and vegetable juices. Don't wait until you're thirsty. Do not drink alcohol, because you'll lose much of the fluid it offers.

Ways to keep cool

If you can't afford air conditioning:

- Open your windows at night.
- Create a cross breeze by opening windows on opposite sides of the room or house.
- Cover windows when they're in direct sunlight. Keep curtains, shades, or blinds drawn during the hottest part of the day.
- Dampen your clothing with water and sit in the breeze from a fan.
- Spend at least 2 hours a day (the hottest part, if possible) in an air-conditioned place like a library, senior center, or friend's house.
- Ask your local area agency on aging if there's a program that gives window air conditioners to seniors who qualify. If you can't afford to run your air conditioner, ask your local area agency on aging or senior center if they know of programs that can help you with cooling bills.

Other ideas:

- Ask a friend or relative to drive you to a cool place on very hot days if you don't drive. Many towns or counties, area agencies, religious groups, and senior centers also supply these services. Don't stand outside waiting for a bus.
- Dress for the weather. Some people find natural fabrics like cotton to be cooler than synthetic fibers. Light-colored clothes feel cooler than dark colors. If you aren't sure what to wear, ask a friend or family member for help.
- Don't try to exercise, walk long distances, or do a lot when it's hot.
- Avoid the sun.
- Take cool baths or showers.
- Don't go to crowded outdoor places when it's hot outside.
- Listen to weather and news reports. In times of extreme heat, there will often be local sites where people can go to cool down.

Who's at risk?

- Your health and lifestyle may raise the threat of a heat-related illness, the NIA says. These health factors may increase your risk:
- Poor circulation, inefficient sweat glands, and changes in the skin caused by normal aging
- Heart, lung, and kidney diseases, as well as any illness that causes weakness or fever
- High blood pressure or other conditions that need changes in diet. For example, people on low-salt diets may face an added risk (but don't use salt pills without asking your health care provider)
- The inability to sweat caused by some drugs. These include diuretics, sedatives, tranquilizers, and certain heart and blood pressure medicines
- Taking several drugs at once for various conditions. Don't just stop taking them: Talk with your health care provider
 - Being substantially overweight or underweight
 - Drinking alcoholic beverages



How to handle heat illnesses

Heat stroke, heat cramps, and heat exhaustion are all forms of hyperthermia, the general name for a range of heat-related illnesses. Symptoms may include:

- Headache
- Nausea
- Skin that is dry (no sweating), hot, and red
- Muscle spasms
- Extreme tiredness after exposure to heat

If you suspect someone is suffering from a heat-related illness, Call 911 and do these things:

- Get the victim out of the sun and into a cool place — preferably one that is air-conditioned.
- Offer fluids, but not alcohol or caffeine. Water and fruit and vegetable juices are best.
- Encourage the person to sponge off with cool water.
- Urge the person to lie down and rest, preferably in a cool place.

Call 911 if you suspect heat stroke. Possible symptoms of heat stroke include:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Confusion or agitation
- Sluggishness or extreme tiredness
- Seizure
- Hot, dry skin that is flushed but not sweaty
- High body temperature
- Loss of consciousness
- Rapid heartbeat
- Hallucinations

ACCIDENTS PHOTOS BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHERYL DROST & DUTY OFFICERS



06/10/20 I-90



06/19/20 Forest Hills Rd. and West Lane Rd.



06/21/20 Mitchell Rd.



06/22/20 Hwy 251 and Swanson Rd.



07/02/20 Love Rd.



07/07/20 Hwy 251 & McDonald Rd.



06/29/20 11604 N. 2nd St.



HRFD CRUNCH TIME CANCELED

As we are all aware, there are challenges we are facing now that were planned and all Fire Departments are trying to work through it and focus on the safety and welfare of its members and their families. We just wanted to reach out to you all to inform you of the current situation, that we are suspending Crunch Time Vehicle Extrication Learning and training symposium for 2020

I know this is not what any of us wanted, but there are so many variables and concerns that have to be considered.

Many agencies are not prepared or are not in a position to support or allow their teams and members to start training. With this in mind we have to put our focus on what is best for the majority and not the few who are able to train and possibly compete.

We have followed the advice of our health agencies as well as the recommendations afforded us and agreed on the decision to suspend the 2020 event. We do hope you are focusing on the health and welfare of yourselves and your families.

Please stay safe, stay healthy, be positive through these rough times. Sincerely, *HRFD Captain Mike Huffman*

COMMUNITY CANCELATIONS

Mud Volleyball

National Night Out

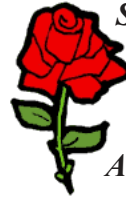
Roscoe Fall Festival

ACCIDENT



07/07/20 i-90 mm 4.5

Gone, But not forgotten



*Some people come into our lives,
And quickly go.
Some stay awhile,
And leave footprints in our hearts.*

- Dispatcher Jen Anderson's mother, Jane Anderson passed away on May 27th.

Our deepest sympathies and prayers go out to Jen and her family.

Happy to hear that Dispatcher Ron Canode is on the mend from his heart surgery!



Birthdays

July 2020

John Bergeron 1st
Ken Krause 9th '70th'
Greg Wernick 9th
John Morgan 16th
Taylor Larson 17th
Tim Bergeron 21st '50th'
Tyler Ebany 28th

August 2020

1st Lawrence Sarver
10th Sarah Brickson
14th Tim Schrader
14th Dylan Lackey
27th Al Bach
27th Mike Sherbon

The Firehouse Scene

The Firehouse Scene is a monthly newsletter produced by the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Prot. Dist. #1

Fire Chief - Don Shoefflin
Editor & Layout - Sheryl Drost

The Firehouse Scene is available at Station One - 10544 Main Street in Roscoe and on the department's website after the second Sunday each month:

E-mail submissions to Sheryl: hfrdsdrost@gmail.com

Summertime Burn Safety



Summer is the time to enjoy vacations, camping, picnics and the Fourth of July; however, summertime also brings fires and burn injuries due to fireworks and outdoor cooking.

Know how to prevent a burn while you enjoy outdoor activity this summer.

- ▶ Wear short sleeves or roll them up when cooking on the grill.
- ▶ Use long-handled barbecue tools.
- ▶ Keep a 3-foot safe zone around grills, fire pits and campfires.
- ▶ Attend public fireworks displays; this leaves the lighting to the professionals.



First aid for burns:

- ▶ Place the burn in cool water for three to five minutes.
- ▶ Cover the burn with a clean, dry cloth.
- ▶ See your doctor if the burn is larger than your palm.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.



Click here to add image.

