

FIRE PREVENTION AWARENESS

ACCIDENTAL



Remember to have a **CLEAR PATH** out of your home. Do not store boxes in stairways or hallways. Total Damage: \$130,000



Lisa Beck, emergency communications dispatcher, sits at the enhanced 911 system linking calls to emergency response teams.

ELECTRICAL



Electrical Malfunction on a truck loader. Total Damage: \$175,000

UNATTENDED



Damage from an unattended scented candle sitting on a plastic outdoor table.

Emergency 911 system

Fire and Emergency Services Division

Are personnel prepared to handle an emergency on Aberdeen Proving Ground? In the event of an emergency what number should be dialed? What if someone is in a remote area of the post and in an area where there is no telephone, what should they do?

The Fire and Emergency Services Division is concerned that not everyone on Aberdeen Proving Ground is familiar with the APG 911 system. Aberdeen Proving Ground has two dedicated 911 systems. One is located in the Edgewood Area fire station and the other is located in the Fire and Emergency Services, building 2200.

Use any telephone on the installation to dial 911. If using a cellular phone, dial 410-278-7220 in the Aberdeen Area, or 410-676-0960 in the Edgewood Area. Both of these numbers connect directly into the APG 911 system.

People believe they can pick up their cellular phone and dial 911, but the problem is that it depends on what tower picks up the signal. If someone is down range in the Aberdeen Area and dials 911, the signal could be picked up in Philadelphia, or if they are in the Edgewood area, the signal may be picked up by Baltimore County. Although the time delay in transferring the call may only be in seconds, in an emergency seconds count.

If callers cannot remember the seven-digit number, do not panic - proceed and dial 911. Remember to tell the emergency operator that you are at Aberdeen Proving Ground. If there is access to the APG Radio system, use the radio and call Range Central in the Edgewood Area. The Range Central call sign is 803. In the Aberdeen Area, contact B tower at their call sign 800. The operators of Range Central and B Tower will then activate the 911 system.

Many people say that they are afraid to use the 911 system in fear of getting in trouble. Andre' A. Fournier, a fire protection specialist with the Fire and Emergency Services Division, stated "Anytime you feel that you

need immediate attention dial 911. We rather you be safe than sorry."

False alarms will be considered as "good intent" calls and the person reporting the incident will not be charged with making a false alarm. Examples of when 911 should be dialed include a fire alarm sounding; oil or fuel spills of any size and quantity; any release of hazardous materials; odor of smoke; smell of something burning; vehicle accident with or without injury; an illness or injury; chest pains; natural gas leak; liquid propane leak; discovery of an unexploded ordnance; cave-ins; confined space rescue; water rescue; boat in distress; and bomb threats.

In recent months, the fire department has received several calls from people who have called to get their fire extinguishers refilled. It is only then that the fire department discovers that the occupant has used it to extinguish a fire.

The Fire and Emergency Services Division reminds everyone who works and lives on APG of the requirement to report any fire that occurs on the installation. Local fire regulation, APG Regulation 420-1 states, "All personnel will report any fire regardless of how small or even if the fire has been extinguished."

Do not wait a couple of hours before calling the fire department; the fire department should be notified immediately.

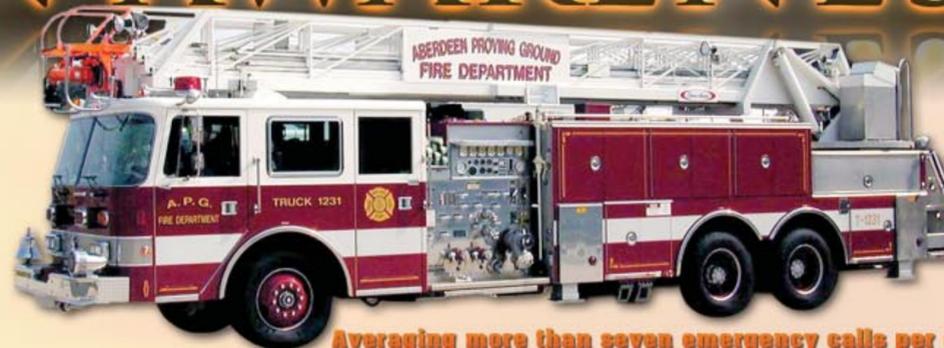
Do not be afraid to use 911 to report a fire that is out. The Fire and Emergency Services Division has to investigate all fires, no matter how small, or whether it is government or non-government property.

For more information regarding emergency notification procedures, call the Fire and Emergency Services Division at extension 410-306-0572, or visit the fire stations.

BATTERY



Battery and battery charger Damage: \$16,000



Averaging more than seven emergency calls per day... Last year the A.P.G Fire Department responded to 2850 calls.

National Fire Prevention Week 2004

Fire and Emergency Services Division

Every fire safety team starts with firefighters, but they can't do it alone. Effective fire safety depends on teamwork. The Fire and Emergency Services Division of Aberdeen Proving Ground will join 30,665 fire departments, representing 1,079,050 firefighters across the nation in observing National Fire Prevention Week, which will be observed Oct. 3-9. For over 80 years the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has been an official sponsor in developing themes for National Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "It's Fire Prevention Week: Test your smoke alarms".

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign touches on three simple essential safety lessons that everyone can learn, according to Andre' A. Fournier, fire protection specialist for the Fire and Emergency Services Division.

The first lesson to learn is how to practice a home or work fire escape plan. "Many people are injured by trying to escape their own house," said Fournier. "Take time during National Fire Prevention Week and conduct a home inspection. Pay close attention to your way out of every room in your home. Remove items from stairways and landings. During the middle of the night, in a smoke filled house, you are not going to see these items, you could fall down the stairs and injure yourself. Check the hallway and remove items that would hinder a clear passage to an exit door."

The second lesson is installing and testing smoke alarms. Fournier also reminds people to test their smoke alarms. Four out of five fatal fires occur in the home.

"Roughly 70 percent of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, or no working smoke alarms" said Fournier. "Smoke alarms are the great safety success story of the 20th century, but only when they are working properly. Battery operated smoke detectors should be tested once a month. It's a sound you can live with."

"If you have a battery-operated smoke detector, this is a good time to replace the batteries and conduct fire drills."

A recent study conducted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission on smoke detectors revealed that smoke detectors begin to lose sensitivity after 10 years of use. Smoke detectors are appliances, just like toasters and stereos. Unlike other appliances, these devices function quietly in the background. Its alarm, in response to a real smoke situation or to testing, is the only evidence that it works. A stereo that does not play will not lead to tragedy, but a worn-out smoke detector, failing to sound in a fire could. Therefore, replacement of smoke detectors every ten years is recommended. Every state in the United States has laws requiring that smoke detectors be

installed and fully operational in residential occupancies. Yet 85 percent of fire deaths last year occurred in residential fires.

Fournier said the third lesson is look for home hazards. "Take time and conduct a fire safety inspection, you will reduce your family's risk of being harmed in a home fire"

Keep cooking areas clean and clear of materials that could catch on fire, such as potholders, towels, paper towels, rags, drapes and food packaging. Replace or repair electrical devices with loose, frayed, or broken cords. Smokers need to make sure ashtrays are large and deep and won't tip over. Always have a metal can such as a coffee can to discard smoking material before discarding into the household trash.

The fall season is quickly approaching. This means cooler evenings and the use of alternative heating methods to take the chill out of the air. Give space heaters plenty of space. Space heaters should be at least three feet (one meter) away from anything that can burn. Always make sure to turn heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed. If using solid-fueled heating equipment such as wood or coal stoves, or fire places, make sure that the chimney has been inspected and cleaned by a qualified professional annually.

Despite steady progress through public education programs in fire safety, U.S. fire deaths relative to population remain among the highest in the world. Every year, thousands of people die in home fires and tens of thousands more are injured. In 2003, 105 fire fighters across the nation paid the ultimate sacrifice in protecting life and property and tens of thousands more were injured. In FY 2004, the Aberdeen Proving Ground fire department responded to 2850 fire and emergency calls.

"That means, on the average, we responded to more than seven emergency calls per day," Fournier said. "Out of the fires we responded to, 12 fires resulted in significant fire damage totaling \$518,369.19, which was a big jump from the previous year of only \$7,500. The three largest categories of fires were, house fires, vehicle fires and equipment malfunction."

Everyone can do better and Fire Prevention Week can show us how. Aberdeen Proving Ground will join other fire departments during National Fire Prevention Week by conducting unannounced fire drills throughout the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas of the installation, to make sure that employees and residents are prepared in the event of a fire.

Only a portion of buildings on this installation are connected directly to the fire department. Anytime a fire alarm is activated, someone needs to dial 911 and report the activation. Building occupants may know the sound of the fire alarm, but they may not know an alternate way out of their building. The only way to make sure that everyone knows how to get out of a burning building, is to practice fire drills. It could be life saving information.

Remember to replace the batteries in household smoke detectors when changing the clocks in both the fall and spring. Practice fire prevention every day of the year.



Remember: Big fires start small



Be sure to have a fire extinguisher in the home



Check smoke detector batteries often

2004 Fires with reportable Damage

Date	Location	Type of Fire	Government Loss	Non-Government Loss
Dec. 10, 2003	Building 3514	Vehicle Fire	\$2,345	
Dec. 30, 2003	Building E-1942	Building Fire (Cigarette Butt)		
Feb. 19, 2004	Building 1134	Vehicle Fire-Loader		\$175,000
April 13, 2004	3854-A Citizen Court	Quarters Fire	\$100,000	\$30,000
May 21, 2004	Building 450	Chamber Wall Fire	\$1,000	
July 7, 2004	3708-F Republic Court	Quarters Fire (Kitchen)	\$1,000	
Aug. 11, 2004	Building 456	Battery and Charger Fire	\$15,924	
Aug. 17, 2004	Building 2342	Electrical wire Short		
Aug. 19, 2004	3815-E Pride Court	Quarters Fire		
Sept. 2, 2004	Building E-3832	Building Fire	\$183,000	
Sept. 14, 2004	Building E-4301	Vehicle Fire	\$100	
Sept. 17, 2004	3833-D Independence Court	Quarters Fire	\$5,000	\$5,000

ELECTRICAL



Malfunction of electrical equipment Damage: \$183,000