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PRESS RELEASE

Papillion Fire Department to Conduct Training Burn

PAPILLION, Neb., April 19, 2011 – The Papillion Fire Department will conduct a training burn on the morning of Friday, April 22. The exercise is a live drill. The department is assuring residents the situation will be controlled, but encouraging them to stay away from the location.

The house located at 244 E. 3rd St. will be prepped for the exercise at 7:30 a.m. on Friday. Department staff will practice extinguishing fires for two to three hours, starting around 8:15. A whole-house controlled burn will follow. Fire Chief Bill Bowes said he expects the house to be at its foundation around noon.

The owner offered the home for training purposes because they intend to build a new home on the property. The department staff will practice skills in search and rescue, ventilation and fire extinguishment during the exercise. “Training fires provide an excellent way to prepare our personnel for these situations and to perfect our skills,” said Bowes.

Older homes like the one in the exercise are often the ones least likely to be equipped with fire detection and safety equipment. The PFD will also be teaming up with IDEAL School (Papillion-LaVista School District’s alternative high school) to provide information on free smoke detectors and replacement batteries. In early May, literature will be delivered to homes in Papillion that will explain the details of the program. “We are excited about the opportunity to partner with the students at IDEAL School and provide a valuable service to the community,” Bowes said. “Fire prevention and detection is essential.”

The Papillion Fire Department is remarkable in both its scope and makeup. The Department staffs 41 full-time career firefighters, a rarity among cities the size of Papillion. This is made possible through the cooperation of the City of Papillion and the Papillion Rural Fire Protection District. The Department provides fire, rescue and EMS services and operates from two stations – one in downtown Papillion (146 N. Adams St.) and one at the southern end of town (11749 S. 108 St.). The only full-time fire department in the county, the PFD serves the city population of 18,894 and the rural fire district of more than 22,000.

“Excellent public safety is the cornerstone for a great quality of life,” said Mayor David Black. “We’re very proud of our Fire Department and the service they provide, and I’m glad to see them continuing to develop their skills and abilities with this live burn exercise.”

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