



BERGHEIM VFD NEWS – January 2018

CALL 911 TO REPORT AN EMERGENCY

KENDALL COUNTY BURN BAN IS ON

Call Boerne dispatch at 830-249-8645 if you see outdoor burning in the area.

PAUL KNOLL NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Paul Knoll has been named Bergheim VFD's 2017 Firefighter of the Year. Paul has a strong background in firefighting. He started his firefighting career in 1980 - 1985 serving as a firefighter, EMT, rescue squad and fire investigator for a fire department in northern California. He moved to the San Francisco bay area where he worked as a Police Officer and Fire & Explosion Investigator from 1992 - 2012. Paul joined the Bergheim VFD in 2016 and now serves as the department's Safety Officer. Congratulations Paul!



COLD WEATHER SAFETY

In this time of cold weather, here are a few tips to stay safe with fireplaces and heaters:

- Only burn hardwoods in fireplaces; soft woods generate too much heat. If you use synthetic logs, only burn one log at a time.
- Do not burn papers in the fireplace. Burning paper can be carried up the chimney, possibly igniting creosote deposits that may be in the chimney.
- You should never use lighter fluid, gasoline, or other flammable liquid to start or enhance a fire.
- Chimneys should be professionally inspected each year and cleaned after burning approximately one cord of wood.
- Make sure you have a spark arrestor on top of the chimney. It is a metal screen that covers the top of the chimney that prevents sparks from escaping and birds from building nests in the chimney.
- Space heaters need space and should be at least three feet away from anything that can burn.
- Never leave space heaters operating when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep.
- Electrical and kerosene heaters should be equipped with a cutoff device that will automatically shut off if the unit is tipped over or overheats.
- If you choose to install carbon monoxide detectors, choose models with a digital readout that are listed by Underwriters Laboratories (UL).