

**Robertson
Fire
Protection
District**

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**PROUDLY
SERVING THE
CITIES OF
HAZELWOOD
& BRIDGETON**

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Robertson Report



Volume 1

2018 SPRING EDITION

Mayor and City of Hazelwood Violating State Law and Court Decree

When the City annexed part of the Robertson Fire District, under state law and a court decree, they agreed and are obligated to pay the Fire District the district's tax rate on behalf of the property owners in the annexed area. The Mayor and City of Hazelwood are withholding this money from the district. Their actions are unlawful and in violation of a court order and their "oath of office" to uphold the laws of the state.

Robertson had been working diligently with the City to expand the district to cover the Hazelwood Fire Department service area and to bring the employees of the Hazelwood FD into the district with no loss of seniority or rank. This "merger" was going to be submitted to the voters. A phone poll was held in December by the City and District to get an idea of resident support, which came back around 30% supporting and 40% undecided. The City wanted the vote on the April 2018 ballot. RFPD supported a vote being held in August 2018, thus giving time to educate residents and time to collect signatures for a petition to place it on the ballot. This "merger," if approved, would have provided financial stability for both the City and the Robertson Fire District.

The RFPD Board of Directors had been meeting weekly with some members of the Hazelwood City Council on the merger. The last meeting was held on Dec. 19th, 2017 where the voting dates were debated. The next day when Robertson FPD gave full support for an Aug. 2018 ballot item, the Mayor and majority of the Council passed a Resolution stating their intent not to pay Robertson as required by law, and that they were going to take over fire and EMS service in the annexed area.

These unlawful acts by the Mayor and City has given the Robertson Fire Protection District no options except to file legal actions against the City of Hazelwood, to protect the interests of the Fire District, the residents, and the services that we provide.

The residents of the Robertson Fire Protection District received a letter from the City of Hazelwood and a follow-up letter from the Robertson FPD, which provided the 'rest of the story.' To see a copy of both letters and the latest news about this issue, visit the District's website at: <https://rfpd.org/>.

2018 RFPD Easter Egg Hunt

The Robertson Fire Protection District firefighter/paramedics will be hosting the 7th annual Easter Egg Hunt for our residents on March 24th at the Early Childhood Development School. The actual Easter egg hunt will begin promptly at 10am. We ask that you arrive by 9:45am so that your RFPD firefighter/paramedics can place your child in the appropriate aged hunt. The Early Childhood Development School is part of the Hazelwood School District. This school is located at 5323 Ville Maria Lane. All of the RFPD fire trucks and ambulances will be there to help out with the event and to mingle with the residents. This is always a great event. The men and women of the Robertson Fire Protection District are truly grateful for all of the support that we have received from our community over the years. We are proud to serve you and we are always ready for anything.





RFPD Smoke Detectors

Did you know that your RFPD firefighters will come to your house to check your smoke detectors for you? We have been providing this free service for over 20 years. If your smoke detector needs a battery, we will replace the battery. If your battery-operated smoke detector is non-functional, we will replace the smoke detector on the spot. All of these services are free of charge to our residents. All that you have to do is call RFPD Station 1 at (314)291-6180 and request to have your smoke detector inspected. The duty officer will send a truck to your residence to solve the issue. Excellent service to our residents has always been the number one priority of the RFPD. Your safety is our business. Be safe!

Free CPR Classes For Residents

Learn
CPR
Save Lives

The Robertson Fire Protection District will be hosting American Heart Association (AHA) "Heartsaver" **CPR classes** to our residents **free of charge**. Several RFPD firefighter/paramedics have taken the necessary classes to become AHA CPR instructors. The key to a successful resuscitation is early "high quality" CPR by trained individuals. We believe that teaching as many RFPD citizens as possible in CPR will save lives in the future. The free CPR dates for 2018 will be held on **May 7th and October 16th at 6:30pm**. The classes will be held at the RFPD Administration Building located at 12641 Missouri Bottom Rd. Please contact RFPD Station 1 to register at 291-6180. Speak with the captain to sign up for this class.



2018 RFPD FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT DATES



The RFPD 'Family movie night' is back in 2018. The RFPD firefighters have been hosting movie nights for over 10 years now. The dates for the movie nights are April 27th and October 26th. Be sure to mark these dates on your RFPD calendars! The movie nights will be held at RFPD Station 1 located at 12641 Missouri Bottom Road. If you have never been to one of our movie nights, you are missing out. At our movie nights, the firefighters set up a giant screen in the engine bay along with 75 chairs. We always show a 'family friendly' movie that the entire family can enjoy. Before and during the movie, the RFPD firefighters will be serving the residents popcorn and refreshments. In addition, the firefighters will be passing out glow necklaces and other fun items for the kids. The movie will begin playing at 7pm. Come early to mingle with your RFPD firefighter/paramedics before the movie. All of our fire trucks and ambulances will be there on display for you. Feel free to take pictures with your favorite RFPD fire truck or your favorite RFPD firefighter. This event is always a lot of fun for the firefighters to host. See you 'at the movies.'



WWW.RFPD.ORG





RFPD Firefighters on USAR Team

The Robertson Fire Protection District is proud to announce that two of its members: Captain Jeff Rudloff and Private Eric Bethel have been accepted onto the Missouri Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team. This is quite an honor to be accepted on this prestigious task force and says a great deal about RFPD's continued commitment to the fire service. There's a tremendous amount of training that goes with being on Missouri Task Force 1. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) established the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System in 1989 as a framework for structuring local emergency services personnel into integrated disaster response task forces. Today there are 28 national task forces staffed and equipped in the United States to conduct round-the-clock search and rescue operations following; earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, hazardous materials spills and catastrophic structure collapses. Congratulations to both RFPD members and thank you for your service.



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Open House

Please join us on **March 31st, 2018** for donuts, coffee, and fellowship. This event will be held at **RFPD Station #1** located at 12641 Missouri Bottom Rd. from **9 a.m. until 11 a.m.** All of the RFPD fire trucks and ambulances will be on display for pictures. **We will provide Tony's Donuts, and beverages.** Sparky the Fire Dog will be on hand as well to mingle with the kids. The RFPD firefighters always look forward to community events such as this because it gives us a chance to say thanks to our residents for all of their support. This is always a very popular event, so come early and spend a morning with your firefighters.

RFPD Community Outreach Program

We are pleased to announce the RFPD Community Outreach Program, designed to bring interested residents a better understanding of what we may be called to do at a moment's notice. We are looking for residents of the RFPD interested in experiencing supervised evolutions that may include: vehicle extrications, live fire drills, rope rescue, just to name a few. Everything is voluntary and your safety is our main concern. It's a fun and exciting way to see what your firefighter/paramedics do on the job. **You must live within the fire district and be 18 years of age or older.** If interested, please email Captain Paul Peebles at ppeebles@rfpd.org. Depending on the level of response, openings may be limited, so please don't hesitate.



Fire Ground Survival Training



Fire ground survival wall breach

In the fire service, firefighters must be ready for anything and everything. You never know what the next call will be. With this in mind, the RFPD is always looking to keep our firefighters sharp in all aspects of the fire service. During the month of February, 2018, the RFPD hosted a rigorous training program called 'Fire ground survival.' This is essentially a 'worst case scenario' training program designed to test a firefighter's ability to get out of a hazardous environment if they were to get separated from their crew. The training was held at the training maze located at RFPD Station 2. The training consisted of many parts, including finding your air pack in a zero visibility environment and donning the pack, breaching a wall, a wire entanglement prop, a window bail-out drill, and following the hose line out of the structure. This is very difficult training, but it is excellent training because it all of the personal skills that a firefighter must have to escape a life or death situation.



**Robertson Fire Protection District
Board of Directors & Chief Officers**

Joan Noel, President
Mike Conley, Secretary
Jen Parkin, Treasurer

Don Miner, Fire Chief
Maynard Howell, Assistant Chief
Todd Phillips, Fire Marshal
Darnell Wade, Medical Officer

Admin. Building (314) 291-6671
RFPD House One (314) 291-6180
RFPD House Two (314) 291-6670

Mission Statement

The primary Mission of the Robertson Fire Protection District is to protect the lives and property of our citizens from the effects of fire, emergency medical incidents, hazardous situations, and other disasters.

Through immediate response to emergency needs, rapid suppression of fire, competent application of life saving techniques, and public education, we dedicate ourselves so the quality of community life is increased by the security and peace of mind we promote by our actions.

We are committed to serving our community with professionalism, excellence, and devotion to duty by maintaining and improving the skills of our personnel. The Robertson Fire Protection District recognizes our personnel as our greatest resource and the key to our success.

“Proud To Serve, Always Ready”

RFPD Says Goodbye to Firefighter Bill Helms after 39 Years of Service

The Robertson Fire Protection District would like to wish Private Bill Helms a long and fulfilling retirement after 39 years of service to the RFPD residents. Bill was honored by co-workers, friends, and family on the morning of January 10th, 2018 at his retirement ceremony. Bill served as the engineer of RFPD’s ladder truck for the majority of his career at the RFPD. His dedication to the residents of the RFPD was obvious every shift that he worked. He was a great engineer of ladder truck 5025 and an even better coworker and friend to all of us at RFPD. Congratulations!



Robertson Fire Protection District
12641 Missouri Bottom Rd.
Hazelwood, MO 63042