

THE CALL

EAST POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT BI-MONTHLY GAZETTE

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

by Fire Chief Corey Thornton

October 4-10, 2020 is National Fire Prevention Week. It is a time when Fire Departments across the country place emphasis on the importance of Fire Safety. With the Coronavirus causing individuals and families to spend more time at home, the National Fire Protection Agency decided to make Kitchen Safety the focus of this year's Fire Prevention Week. Cooking continues to be the number one cause of home fires and fire injuries, with unattended cooking being the leading cause of kitchen fires. Therefore, in this issue of THE CALL, we provide you with cooking safety tips to help guard you and your family in the kitchen.

The Fire Department has also expanded its staff with the graduation of Fire Recruits to become newly sworn Firefighters. In this issue, we introduce you to the newest members of our Firefighter family who will help us in our mission of protecting you and the environment.

Of note, we also provide you with the history of how Fire Prevention Week started, including the "Moo Tale" that many held to for years as being the source of the Great Chicago Fire, a blaze that changed the Fire Industry's approach to fire safety.

Here's hoping you and your family remain safe and vigilant, as you continue to follow social distancing guidelines and wearing masks as directed by the CDC to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Honored to Serve,

Chief Corey Thornton



EAST POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT *Recruit Graduation Ceremony*

Winter-Spring 2020 Recruit Class





CITY OF EAST POINT GRADUATES RECRUITS

After a grueling screening process that narrowed the pool of Firefighter applicants from nearly two hundred to eight, followed by Recruit school being placed on hold for 30 days due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Winter-Spring 2020 Fire Recruit class prevailed, graduating on October 29, 2020.

Named "The Haggard 8," by EMS/Training Chief Timothy Evans, this class has the distinction of being the only class in the Department's history to be held during a pandemic. They are also to be commended for every Graduate successfully passing the State Check offs and Exams with impressive averages. Fire Chief Corey Thornton congratulated the graduates for overcoming the odds, and not allowing obstacles to deter their mission, goals and focus to become City of East Point Firefighters.



Graduation of Winter-Spring Class of 2020



Above: Firefighter Recruit Graduates enter



Above: Fire Chief Corey Thornton addressing the Firefighter Recruit Graduates

Graduation of Winter-Spring Class of 2020



Above: Master of Ceremony, Christopher Butler (podium front). Chief Thornton's Command Staff (left to right) Deputy Chief William Tate, Fire Chief Corey Thornton, Fire Marshal Chief Marcus Anderson, Chief Charles Kendrick, EMS/Training Chief Timothy Evans



Above: Fire Chief Corey Thornton administering the Firefighter's Oath

Graduation of Winter-Spring Class of 2020



Above: EMS/Training Chief Timothy Evans informing Firefighters of their Fire Station Assignments



Above: Newly sworn Firefighters are formally presented to guests in attendance, and to the audience of 100 viewers who watched the ceremony online due to Social Distancing guidelines.

Graduation of Winter-Spring Class of 2020



Above: EMS/Training Chief Timothy Evans holding gift presented by the Graduating Class, inscribed with the class Mantra, "No Excuses." The Mask worn with "H-8" is an abbreviated reference to the name Chief Evans gave the class of 8 men and women, "The Haggard 8."





Winter-Spring Class of 2020

Congratulations

(Pictured left to right above)

Firefighter Eris Mackey

Firefighter Elijah Dobson

Firefighter Krista Dyer

Firefighter Ky'Erra Kelly

Firefighter Kristin Shelton

Firefighter Rameau Sokoudjou

Firefighter Darion Myles

Firefighter Corey Lumpkin

Fire Prevention Week

Established in observance of the Great Chicago Fire and a turning point in fire safety



On the evening of Sunday, October 8, 1871 a fire started in a southern area of Chicago, Illinois that burned until the early morning hours of Tuesday, October 10, 1871. The conflagration started near the city's west side and spread to the north and east killing an estimated 300 people and leaving 100,000 homeless. In its wake, more than 2,000 acres of land burned and 17,450 buildings were destroyed resulting in \$200 million in damages. The catastrophic event became known as the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, and it served as a catalyst for change in the Fire Service in the way fire safety was viewed and handled.

The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) has publicly observed Fire Prevention Week now for nearly a century, since 1922. However, it is President Calvin Coolidge who is credited with establishing a week long national observance, which the country continues to observe today. Then and now, Fire Prevention week serves as a time when Fire Departments around the nation educate people on how to prevent fires and respond when confronted with the emergency.



The Cow Tale and others on how the the Great Chicago Fire started



A City in Ashes. A look at the widespread damages caused by the Great Chicago Fire



Up From The Ashes. The Chicago Fire Training Facility marks the spot where the Great Fire of Chicago allegedly started.

MYTHS SURROUNDING THE CHICAGO FIRE



Photo: Depiction of Catherine O'Leary and her cow kicking lantern.
Image courtesy of Chicago History Museum/Getty Images

A Woman, Her Cow and a Flame

Mystery and intrigue as to how the Great Chicago Fire started has fascinated inquiring minds for decades. While there are several tales of what the catalyst of the blaze may have been, one story in particular has become legendary. At the center of the account are a cow and an Irishwoman by the name of Catherine O'Leary.

As the tale goes, the fire was sparked as Mrs. O'Leary was milking one of her cows that kicked over a lantern. Flames are said to have raced from the O'Leary barn through the entire city of Chicago. While authorities agree that the fire started near the O'Leary barn, there's no evidence that a spooked cow started the uncontrollable inferno or even that Mrs. O'Leary was present. She gave testimony that on the night of the fire, which started around 9:00 P.M., she tucked the cows in early, and that she herself retired a short time later.

MYTHS SURROUNDING THE CHICAGO FIRE



Photo: Cottage of Mrs. Catherine O'Leary and husband, Patrick O'Leary.
Credit: Chicago Historical Society and J.H. Abbott Stereograph, 1871

Speculation and Conjectures

Historians and Reporters have offered their own accounts of how the fire started. Some speculated that boys smoking near the O'Leary barn are to blame. Others said a drunken neighbor of the O'Leary's was the culprit. There was also a narrative that a burning meteorite entering earth's atmosphere spewed particles that started several fires on October 8, 1871 in Chicago, as well as Wisconsin and Michigan.

Although the Chicago Fire was an incident that received the most attention, it was not the biggest fire during that period. The Peshtigo Fire, deemed the greatest forest fire in America, was also raging at the time. It burned 1.2 million acres, killing 1,152 people and destroying 16 towns. Peshtigo, Wisconsin was the town hardest hit, and was destroyed within the time span of one hour.

A CITY IN ASHES

AND DAWN OF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



Photo: Aerial View of Chicago after the Great Fire
Image Credit: Chicago History Museum; Getty Images; Time Magazine

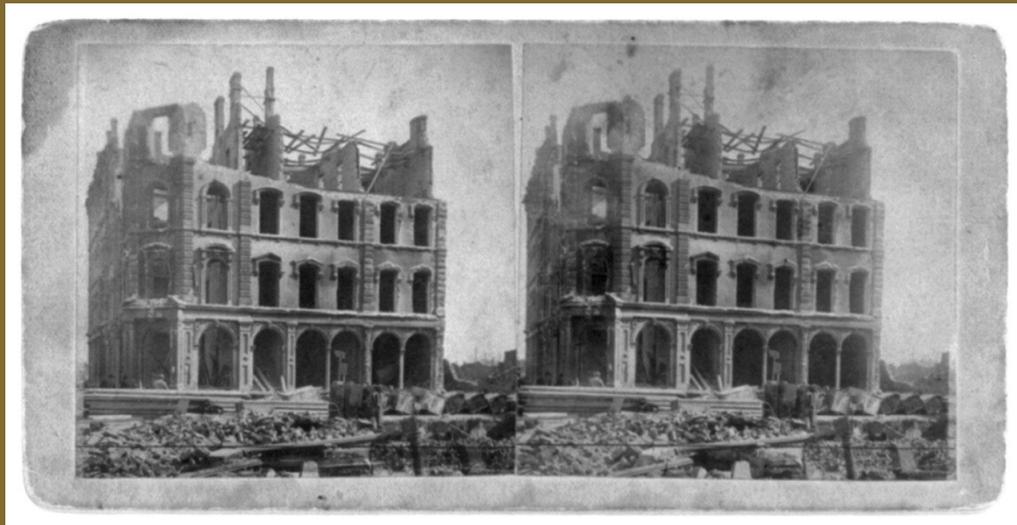


Photo: Building in ruins
Image Credit: Library of Congress

A CITY IN ASHES AND DAWN OF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



Photo: Painted Cyclorama of the Great Chicago Fire
Image Credit: Library of Congress



Photo: Stereograph of Sherman House on October 9, 1871
on day two of the Great Chicago Fire
Image Credit: Library of Congress

A CITY IN ASHES

AND DAWN OF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

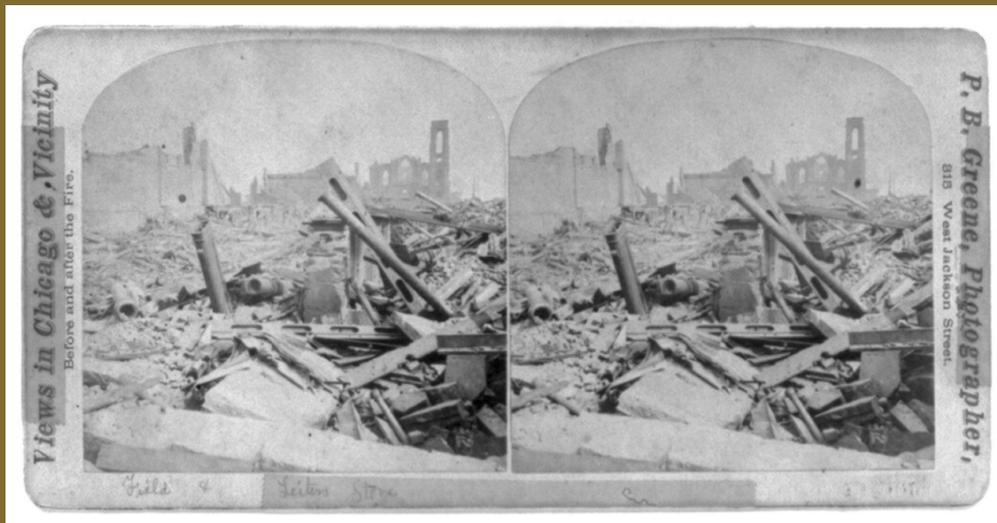


Photo: Store in Ruins
Image Credit: P.B. Greene, Photographer
Library of Congress



Photo: Area of Chicago in the wake of the fire
Image Credit: The Associated Press

A CITY IN ASHES

AND DAWN OF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



Photo: Building Destroyed
Image Credit: G.N. Bernard, Photographer
The Associated Press

A CITY IN ASHES

AND DAWN OF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



Photo: Building Shell
Image Credit: The Library of Congress



Above: The Robert J. Quinn Fire Academy in Chicago, Illinois, erected on the site where the Great Chicago Fire allegedly started. The bronze sculpture pictured left is the "Pillar of Fire," created to commemorate the tragic event that occurred in 1871.

Up from the Ashes

The year 2020 marks the 149th anniversary of one of the most devastating fires in American history. It was indicated that the heat of the Great Chicago fire, which broke out on the evening of Sunday, October 8, 1871, was so intense that it was not until a day or two later that an assessment of the damages could begin.

The location of the fire was said to occur on the property of Patrick and Catherine O'Leary, in a barn where Mrs. O'Leary was milking a cow that kicked over a lantern. According to authorities, Chicago at the time was a booming city, labeled the fastest growing in the United States, with a burgeoning population of 300,000 citizens. To keep up with the fast expansion, the city was built speedily with structures being made of wood, which was the material most readily available. When the fire started it moved swiftly through densely packed streets consuming everything in its path, including major department stores, banks and hotels.

Standing today in the very spot where the fire started is the Robert J. Quinn Fire Academy, one of Chicago's sprawling Firefighting training facilities. The Chicago Fire and the Peshtigo Fire (which erupted in Northeast Wisconsin during the same period, forever changed the Fire Industry giving way to a stronger set of rules, practices and codes. On the 40th anniversary of



Ground Zero of where the Great Chicago fire, began site of the O'Leary's cottage and barn . The Firefighter emblem with 1871 marks the exact location of the Barn where the fire brokeout.

the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America - which today is known as the International Fire Marshals Association - determined that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should be observed as a time to inform the public on the importance of fire prevention and safety. In a 1920 proclamation, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the country's first National Fire Prevention Day, followed by President Calvin Coolidge in 1925 establishing a week long national observance, after 15,000 lives were lost to fire in the previous year. Fire Prevention week was officially established and continues to be observed today.

Exonerated More Than A Century Later

After being blamed, ridiculed and shamed for starting the Great Chicago Fire, Katherine O'Leary was finally exonerated more than a century later. The Chicago City Council exonerated Mrs. O'Leary in a 1997 ordinance, clearing her of any wrongdoing.

Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

"COOK WITH CAUTION"

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.



Cooking and Kids

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 metre) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

FACTS

- ❗ The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ❗ Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards





Sparky Teaches Fire Safety

Your children can enjoy lessons on fire safety from Sparky the Fire Dalmatian through interactive games, animation, sing-alongs and more.

Visit: <http://www.sparky.org/>





At the end of the day our mission is to make sure every man and woman in our dynamic Firefighting force returns home safely. In the words of one of our Fire Recruit Classes:

"Unified We Survive"

(2007 Winter-Spring Fire Recruit Class)

Fire Chief Corey Thornton