

## Trailer Wanted

- The department will soon be in the market for a 16' enclosed trailer. Our ideal trailer will be similar to a toy hauler with fold up bunks along with air so that the firefighters can have a rest station while fighting large grass fires but still have room to haul equipment to a fire scene.
- If you have one you are looking to sell or donate, contact board secretary David Franklin by calling 293-9399 or e-mailing dfranklin@ussok.com.

## ANNUAL MEETING NOW SEPTEMBER 10!!

We voted in 2009 to have the annual meeting moved from the hot month of June to the cooler month of September. Our first September meeting was in 2010 during the last weekend of the month, which unfortunately is also the same time as the state fair. So this year it will be moved up to a fair free weekend, September 10th at 5pm. Come enjoy food, tour the station, elect the next year's boards members and meet the firefighters. You'll get another mailing in the fall with the meeting details.



Annual Meeting  
September 10!!!

## About the fire department

Located at 6424 S. Midwest Blvd, Guthrie, OK 73044, the Sooner Volunteer Fire Department operates under Title 18 of Oklahoma Law and provides fire and medical first responder services for South Central Logan County.

Formed in the summer of 1996 it was originally based at the Central Christian Camp. The Sooner Volunteer Fire Department was incorporated in 1997 and moved to its current home in 1998, which we later expanded as funds became available.

In 2005, 2 A.E.D.'s were added to compliment the firefighters trained as Medical First Responders.

### Funding Source

Title 18 means that while the department does receive a share of Logan county sales tax dollars that make up over 50% of the department's

budget, the rest is made up from dues and grants. In other words, your membership makes a big difference in the department's ability to respond to emergencies. It does no good to have a fire truck without gas to make it go! ***Fire runs to non-members incur fees depending on the type of fire and number of trucks responding.***

While we are a Title 18 department, some nearby homeowners have voted in their area to have a Title 19 department. What this means is that their property taxes include fees to support their fire department in addition to the sales tax share they receive. So while you may speak with your



neighbors in other areas and wonder why they aren't asked to join a fire department, realize that they are already paying, just in a different way.

### Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid agreements with area fire departments means that Sooner Volunteer Fire Department has back up coverage for all fire calls and provides back up coverage to other area agencies.

## Grilling hot dogs caused major grass fire

Recently on January 29th, 2011 a moment's misjudgment by a grandfather cooking hotdogs with his grandchildren led to a grass fire nine miles east of the station in our neighboring fire district. While the volunteers of the Meridian fire department were paged out, a brush pumper and water tanker from Sooner VFD also rushed to the scene. Seeing the size of the fire firefighters quickly called out another brush pumper and tanker from Sooner VFD as other departments also began to respond to the scene. Eventually, 18 fire departments and 50 agencies total worked together to put out a blaze that scorched over 2,000 acres with the smoke visible for miles. News reports stated that at one point over 25 separate grass fires were burning throughout the state on that Saturday.

While some people may only look upon this fire as the tragedy that it was, I also see beyond the tragedy of lost homes and property to recognize the first, no lives were lost and secondly, most of the departments that responded were volunteers. You may not realize this but 78% of the firefighters in Oklahoma, measuring over 13,500 men and women, are volunteers. I'm proud to say that while I'm not a firefighter, I have a chance to help out where I can, volunteering as the Sooner Volunteer Fire Department's membership secretary.

I also want to thank you for doing your part by being a member of our department! If your membership has expired or is due for renewal, please send \$75 to the department at the address above and complete the form on the reverse if there are any changes, especially if you have added a storm shelter. If our information is out of date or incorrect, please give us a call at 282-9494 (in an emergency, call 911) or e-mail [dfranklin@ussok.com](mailto:dfranklin@ussok.com) and let us know the correct info or to take you off our mailing list.

- David Franklin, membership secretary

## New Tornado Siren Installed

Logan County Commissioner Jim Pierson along with the Logan County Emergency Management office worked to apply for a grant for tornado sirens for district 2. The Sooner Volunteer Fire Department offered to host one of the sirens and it was installed on February 20th of this year and is ready for our 2011 storm season. It will be tested with a short blast each Wednesday at noon.

## New Trucks in Service

The Sooner Volunteer Fire Department has added a new (to us) fire engine, a 1996 E-One that we purchased from another Logan County Department. We have also upgrade one our tankers by swapping out an older truck chassis with a newer surplus forestry truck. The new truck features a heavier chassis that is better able to handle the water tank. Thanks go out to our volunteer Fire Fighters who worked to get these trucks fire ready.

*Fire in the grill, under hot dogs and burgers, is a welcome sight at the family cookout. But fire anywhere else can make your summer kick-off barbecue memorable for all the wrong reasons.*

### Safety tips

- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup.
- Never leave your grill unattended.

### Charcoal grills

- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

### Propane grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

### Sparky says:

"Thanks for a great 2010 Fire Prevention Week"  
Fire Prevention Week 2011 will be observed October 9-15.



### Volunteer as a firefighter!

If you are between the ages of 18 and 45, are physically fit and have clean driving and criminal records, you can serve as a volunteer firefighter.

Call the station at 282-9494 and an officer will call you back with more info.

# Sooner Volunteer Fire Department Membership Form

**Your membership supports the operations of the department such as firefighter training, gear and more. Non-members are charged for fire runs depending on the type of fire and number of trucks that respond.**

*Please complete the following information and forward it along with \$75 to:*

**Sooner Volunteer Fire Department  
 Attn: Membership  
 6424 S. Midwest Blvd  
 Guthrie, OK 73044**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: Guthrie                      State: OK    Zip: 73044

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Pri Phone Type:  Cell  Work  Home  Other

Secondary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec Phone Type:  Cell  Work  Home  Other

Tertiary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Third Phone Type:  Cell  Work  Home  Other

Directions to your home, please include nearest cross street/road, include a map if that will help:

**The County's emergency management office has asked us to track storm shelters, so please fill out the form even if renewing!**

The following information will help us in case of a house fire, *this information is optional.*

Do you have children living in the home?  No  Yes - If yes, list names and ages below.

Do you have anyone living in the home who is disabled?  No  Yes - If yes, list below.

Do you have pets in the house?  No  Yes - If yes, list below.

Do you have a storm shelter?  No  Yes - If yes, list where it is located below.



Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Sooner Volunteer Fire Department

6424 S. Midwest Blvd  
Guthrie, OK 73044

In an Emergency, Call 911  
Phone: 405-282-9494  
E-mail: [dfranklin@ussok.com](mailto:dfranklin@ussok.com)



Member address label here

## 2011 Spring Newsletter



### NFPA SAFETY TIPS

- ▶ Discuss what to do in an evacuation. When told by officials, go immediately to a shelter as instructed or to the home of a friend or relative who lives out of the area. Find out about your local shelters beforehand.
- ▶ Know evacuation routes. Pre-establish several different routes in case certain roads are blocked or closed.
- ▶ Family members can become separated during an emergency. Be prepared by creating a plan for how to reach one another. Establish an out-of-area contact (such as a relative or friend) who can coordinate family members' locations and information should you become separated. Make sure children learn the phone numbers and addresses, and know the emergency plans.
- ▶ Quiz children every six months so they remember what to do, where to go, and whom to call in an emergency.
- ▶ Decide how to take care of pets. Pets are not allowed in places where food is served, so you will need to have a place to take your pets if you have to go to a shelter.
- ▶ Post emergency phone numbers (fire, police, ambulance, etc.) by the phone.
- ▶ Assemble a family disaster supplies kit and keep a smaller one in the trunk of your vehicle.

Learn more at <http://www.nfpa.org>