

## IN CASE OF FIRE, GET OUT, THEN CALL 911

### LAWN MOWER SAFETY



*Mowing a lawn: You and all of your neighbors do it every weekend of the summer, right? Operating a lawn mower, however, requires preparation and careful consideration of safety issues. According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 60,000 injuries are treated by hospital emergency rooms each year because of unsafe operation of power lawn mowers. Don't become a statistic and read on to safely mow your lawn and get your yard looking its best.*

**• Lawn Mower Maintenance**

Regular maintenance is important to keep your lawn mower running for a long time and keeping you safe. To prevent overheating and fires, carefully clean debris and grass clippings from the cutting unit, muffler, and small engine – do this when the mower is cool, and use a leaf-blower if you have one. Be sure all safety devices on the mower are in good working order.

**• Keep Track of the Kids**

Lawn mower safety is of the utmost importance when kids are out and about. Children should never ride as passengers on riding mowers or be towed behind. Be aware of where kids are and keep them clear of the work area. Objects can be thrown quite a distance from a mower, so keep children far enough away that they won't be hit.

**• Wear the Correct Attire to Mow**

Believe it or not, there is a right and wrong thing to wear when doing your yard work! One should don safety glasses or wraparound sunglasses, long pants, and sturdy, close-toed shoes.

**• Survey Your Yard**

Lawn mower blades can pick up and throw small objects like twigs, woodchips, and rocks, as well as small toys. Exercise caution while on hills or near drop offs, and when approaching corners or anything that might obstruct your view.

**• Be Careful On Slopes**

Mow across slopes with a push mower to avoid pulling the mower over your feet if you happen to slip. Mow up and down slopes with a riding mower to prevent the mower from tipping over. Do not cut wet grass.

**In Emergency,  
Call 9-1-1  
All other inquiries,  
call (314) 514-0900**

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SUMMER 2015

# MONARCH

## FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

**INTEGRITY • ACCOUNTABILITY • RESPONSIBILITY**

### MONARCH RESPONDS TO FLOODING



Monarch prepared for potential flooding by participating in regional planning events due to the extreme rainfall in our area throughout the spring and the early summer. Newly returned Deputy Chief Les Crews has proven invaluable to the District and the region as a key participant in the preparations for the possible flooding issues.

Deputy Chief Crews has decades of service in firefighting, EMS and many aspects of rescue operations. His years of experience

were called upon in helping plan and coordinate rescue operations due to high water and flooding throughout our area.

Monarch's new boat system, with a larger, more powerful, metal rescue boat coupled with a smaller, inflatable powered craft are designed for just such situations as this. Many Monarch personnel have been trained in swift water rescue as part of Monarch's efforts to provide the highest levels of service. Chief Crews is one of the primary Swift Water Rescue instructors for this part of the state.

The Command Staff is ready to deploy needed assets in support of regional rescue efforts having contingency plans in place. While the Board always hopes there is no need for rescue efforts as it means people are in harm's way, the men and women of Monarch stand ready to respond with the right assets at the right time to protect our residents and visitors.

### GANS RETURNS TO MONARCH BOARD



Monarch Directors Robin Harris and Jane Cunningham voted unanimously on May 1 to appoint Mr. Rick Gans to fill the vacancy created on April 20. Board President Robin Harris, who served for two years with Mr. Gans, from 2009 to 2011 said, "We are fortunate to be able to bring back a man who contributed so much to the District and its residents during his more than 13 years of service. His expertise in virtually all areas of the District's operations will be a great benefit to Director Cunningham and me and we look forward to working together in continuing to move the District forward."

Rick Gans first served on the Monarch Board in early 1998 when it was still the Chesterfield Fire Protection District. He was elected to two subsequent terms in 1999 and 2005, serving as Treasurer, Secretary and for his final five years as Board President. Mr. Gans served as the Monarch representative to the Central County Emergency 911 Dispatch Board during his earlier term and he was immediately elected by the Board to again serve in that position. He has also subsequently been elected as President of the District's Pension Board.

Mr. Gans has lived in the Monarch Fire Protection District for nearly 30 years, where he also owns a business. In 2010 Mr. Gans and his wife learned of oxygen masks available for dogs and cats and they generously donated a complete set of these masks to the District. They have been used several times to resuscitate pets in need of emergency care. Mr. Gans holds the distinction of being the longest serving Director in the history of the District and his leadership style has earned him the respect of Directors and Chiefs from across the St. Louis area. Gans said, "I am humbled to be asked to return to an elected position that meant so much to me for many years and I pledge to work harder than ever to improve the District's public image and its relationship with our residents and business owners. I also look forward to re-establishing the important past relationships I had with the firefighters and paramedics of Monarch."



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### MONARCH ASSISTS WITH CHALLENGING VEHICLE RECOVERY

Monarch FPD firefighters were called to assist Chesterfield Police with a vehicle recovery at Chesterfield Lakes Subdivision on Thursday, June 25, 2015. An SUV had accidentally entered the water and was lost. Monarch has two rescue boats which provide invaluable services to residents and businesses in emergency situations.

Fortunately, after the vehicle had gone into the water the previous evening, the driver escaped before his SUV drifted out approximately 250 feet from shore and sank in about 30 feet of water. The dive team from Metro West FPD found the search challenging due to murky water and only an approximate location given.

Once the vehicle was located, Monarch firefighters used their Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) to deliver a tow cable from a heavy wrecker to the dive team. The first attempt by paddling proved unsuccessful due to the weight of the cable and a head wind, so the outboard motor was attached to the IRB and the cable was delivered.

Once the cable was secured to the vehicle, the Monarch crew and the dive team cleared the water and the tow truck pulled the vehicle from the lake. Monarch also has a large, metal hulled boat for use in the Missouri River when needed. Chief Marsonette stated, "This mission was accomplished successfully by great teamwork, solid training, and topnotch equipment."



### QUICK ACTION SAVES YOUNG VICTIM FROM DROWNING

Our paramedics are often credited and thanked for saving lives and the praise is well-deserved. But there are also times when dedicated and trained individuals, or just someone who wants to make a difference, jumps in to avert a crisis. Such an event happened on July 14, 2015 at the Chesterfield Family Aquatics Center. Thanks to the quick thinking and well organized work of the on-duty lifeguards and a by-stander who happened to be a medical professional, a three year old boy was saved from a near drowning.

The crew of young lifeguards relied on their training and put a choreographed plan into action. The plan is designed to address not only the victim, but all the guests. "We train our people to provide 'Basic Life Support' in a structured manner designed to address the victim, the victim's friends and family, and the remaining guests to our facility" stated Chrissy Withrow, Vice President of Midwest Pool Management. "The goal was to provide life-saving efforts until the arrival of Monarch Fire Protection District's Advanced Life Support team," she continued.

"These young men and women did a great job prior to our arrival," stated Acting Battalion Chief Russ Adams. "Their efforts, along with the willingness of a trained guest, resulted in a positive outcome and a young life was saved," Chief Adams continued. "This is what we all prepare for," said Deputy Chief Harper. "The efforts of these dedicated young employees helped deter a tragedy," he continued. "Chesterfield Parks Department has always provided first-class support at their facilities; we can always count on a cooperative partnership with all Chesterfield Departments."

According to the Centers for Disease Control the number one cause of unintentional death for children under age five is accidental drowning. Since 2011 more than 200 children have died in drowning accidents. The Monarch Fire Protection District urges parents to not only be watchful of their children around water, but also to learn life-saving CPR. Monarch provides free CPR classes for our residents. For more information, call our Headquarters at (314) 514-0900.

The "Heros of July 14" will be recognized at an upcoming Monarch Board Meeting.

# way to GO!

### GRILLING SAFETY *With more Americans lighting their grills than ever before, it's important to remember that a fun barbecue is a safe barbecue.*

The following safety tips are designed to guide you through the grilling process. Remember, anytime you work with fire, there's a chance of getting burned. So, take precautions. Common sense and planning will prevent injuries.

- **Grills are for outside, only.**  
Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors – NEVER in your trailer, tent, house, garage, or any enclosed area. Carbon monoxide may accumulate and kill you.
- **Use in well-ventilated area.**  
Set up your grill in an open area that is at least 10 feet away from buildings, overhead combustible surfaces, dry leaves, or brush. Be sure to avoid high traffic areas and always barbecue in a well-ventilated area. Be aware of wind-blown sparks.
- **Establish a kid-free, pet-free zone.**  
Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- **Keep grill stable.**  
When using a barbecue grill, be sure that all parts of the unit are firmly in place and that the grill is stable (can't be tipped over).
- **Follow electric codes.**  
If electrically-operated accessories are used (rotisseries, etc.), be sure they are properly grounded in accordance with local codes. Electrical cords should be placed away from walkways or anywhere people can trip over them.
- **Use long-handled utensils.**  
Use barbecue utensils with long handles (forks, tongs, etc.) to avoid burns and splatters.
- **Wear safe clothing.**  
Wear clothing that does not have hanging shirt tails, frills, or apron strings that can catch fire, and use flame-retardant mitts when adjusting hot vents.
- **Keep fire under control.**  
To put out flare-ups, either raise the grid that the food is on, spread the coals out evenly, or adjust the controls to lower the temperature. If you must douse the flames with a light spritz of water, first remove the food from the grill.
- **Consider placing a grill pad or splatter mat beneath your grill.**  
These naturally heat resistant pads are usually made of lightweight composite cement or plastic and will protect your deck or patio from any grease that misses the drip pan.
- **Never leave a grill unattended once lit.**
- **Stay away from hot grill.**  
Don't allow anyone to conduct activity near the grill when in use or immediately following its use. The grill body remains hot up to an hour after being used.
- **Don't move a hot grill.**  
Never attempt to move a hot grill. It's easy to stumble or drop it and serious burns could result.
- **Keep it clean.**  
Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.



#### Charcoal grills

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire after it has been lit.
- 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 away from your house and garage.

#### 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, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

#### Grilling on decks and balconies

We are frequently asked about the use of barbecue grills on decks and balconies, and in close proximity to buildings. Charcoal grills, propane grills and other open-flame cooking devices are not permitted to be operated on combustible decks or balconies, or within 10 feet of combustible construction. The three exceptions to this are: 1) one- and two-family dwellings (including single family attached townhomes), 2) where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system and 3) LP-gas cooking devices having LP-gas container with a water capacity not greater than 2-1/2 pounds (typical 1-lb. portable camp stove size). These requirements come from the 2009 International Fire Code as adopted by Monarch ordinances.