

Winter 2016-2017



# Faribault Fire Department Hot Spots

Welcome to Hot Spots, the Faribault Fire Department newsletter. Hot Spots features information about the Fire Department's operations, training, response, safety tips, emergency management, and other points of interest.

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## A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF

Change is good...and winter has arrived! With the changing seasons comes the need to change our behaviors. We have to slow down while driving, walking, etc. We need to be careful with heating appliances and candles. We need to be prepared for the changes in weather, too.

Enjoy the changing seasons and each others company.

Stay warm. Stay safe.

## FLEET FACTS — 2116



2116 is our tanker/tender and its main job is transporting water.

2116 is a 1990 International 4900 series chassis with an Engle water tank.

Below is a list of its specifications:

- 245 HP International Diesel Engine
- 2,200 Gallon water tank
- 350 Gallon per minute water pump
- Flip up drop tank storage rack

2116 is our hydrant when we don't have a hydrant. We count on 2116 to bring us water for all of our fires outside of the city limits. It has a drop tank stored on the side of the truck that can be set up next to the main truck pumping water and then it unloads into that tank. When emptied, 2116 will then return to the city to re-fill with water and keep repeating this process until the fire is extinguished.

The on-board water pump works well when we stand-by at extinguished fires to ensure there are no flare-ups or to put out grass fires.

If you see 2116 cruising down a road somewhere in the country, odds are there is or was something burning nearby.

Stop in or let us know if you would like to take a closer look at 2116.

# WINTER DRIVING

Like it or not, winter has arrived ...bringing us snowy and slick roadways. The MN Department of Public Safety website provides great public safety information on a variety of topics, including the following winter driving safety tips:

- Always buckle your seat belt!
- Brake properly to avoid skidding. If driving on snow or ice, start slowly and brake gently. Begin braking extra early when approaching an intersection.
- If you start to slide, ease off the gas pedal or brakes. Steer into the direction of the skid until you regain traction. Then straighten your vehicle. If you have antilock brakes, apply steady pressure.
- In fog, drive with headlights set on dim or use fog lights.

- In rain, fog, snow or sleet, stay within the limits of your vision. If it is too difficult to see, pull off the road and stop. Turn on hazard blinkers.
- Decrease speed and increase following distance on hazardous roads. Your speed should adjust for conditions without becoming an impediment to traffic flow.

For more winter safety tips, go to <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/winter-driving.aspx>

# HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

to keep you, your family, and guests safe this holiday season!

## DID YOU KNOW?

2 out of 5 home decoration fires are started by candles.

The 3 leading causes of Minnesota fires are cooking, heating, and open flames.

Nearly half of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

## Decorating Safety Tips:

- Use flameless candles if possible.
- Blow out all candles whenever you leave a room.



- Keep all exits clear of decorations and clutter.
- Turn off decorative lights when you leave home or go to sleep.
- Check the water level of fresh-cut trees daily so they won't dry out.
- Don't overload outlets or power strips.
- Make sure all extension cords are rated for the location being used in - interior or exterior.
- Never place cords under



carpets/rugs. Foot traffic may break down cord insulation, starting a fire.

- Use a tree stand that will securely hold your tree.
- Place your tree in a safe location where children or pets won't tip it over.

## Cooking Safety Tips:

- Never leave food cooking on the stove unattended and check items in the oven frequently.
- Smother grease fires with a pan lid and turn off the burner.

## Heating Safety Tips:



- Keep space heaters three feet away from combustibles.
- Don't leave a space heater unattended or turned on while asleep.
- Inspect heaters before use. Ensure safety shields and electrical components are intact.
- NEVER burn your gift wrap in the fireplace! It burns too hot and too fast to be controlled.

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## WINTER EMERGENCIES

Winter driving is something we all have to deal with, whether as a driver or a passenger.

Getting into an accident, getting stuck, or having mechanical issues may be common, but in winter, they can quickly become emergencies.

**Are you prepared for a possible winter driving emergency?**

A cell phone is a great tool (if the battery is charged) to contact someone if you do have an issue.



## Keep a winter survival kit in your vehicle.

Basic items to keep in a winter survival kit include:

- Blankets
- Candy bars/food bars
- Plastic flashlight & spare batteries (Reverse the

batteries in the flashlight to avoid accidental switching on and burnout.)

- Jumper cables
- Shovel
- Hand warmers
- First aid kit
- Snowmobile suit
- Heavy/warm boots
- Red bandanna or cloth

Store your survival kit and

safety items in a container in the passenger compartment so they are accessible in case the trunk is jammed or frozen shut.

Be careful,



and be safe!