



# AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

## A PUBLICATION OF THE PALATINE POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENTS



OCTOBER ISSUE

### Illinois Secretary of State's Emergency Contact Database



This database allows Illinois instruction permit; driver's license; and identification card holders to enter their emergency contact information into a voluntary, secure database. Starting in August 2009, in the event of a motor vehicle crash or other emergency situation where a person is unable to communicate directly, law enforcement may access this database to help them reach the person's designated emergency contacts.

If a person holds both an Illinois driver's license or permit and an Illinois identification card, the emergency contact information can be entered for both cards in one transaction. The information will only be associated with the record(s) selected by the participant.

Participants can add, modify, or delete their emergency contact information at any time by visiting this web page. Any modifications or deletions will overwrite all previously entered information.

Previously entered emergency contact information will not be displayed, in order to ensure the privacy and security of the

information. Participants can print the page containing their emergency contact information upon completion for their records.

Participants may select one or two persons as their emergency contacts, and are encouraged to share their participation with the emergency contacts they have chosen.

It is the responsibility of the holder of the driver's license, instruction permit, temporary visitor's driver's license and/or identification card to enter accurate data into the required fields, as well as to update contact data should any data change after initial enrollment in the emergency contact database. The Secretary of State assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the data entered by the holder of a driver's license (including commercial driver's license), instruction permit, temporary visitor's driver's license and/or identification card and disclaims any liability for damages, costs, and/or expenses, including, without limitation, consequential damages, arising or resulting from any inaccurate data or failure to update contact data.

If you would like to join, visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) and click on "Emergency Contact Database"

### School Traffic Safety

Summer break has ended and schools are open. Children's behavior is always unpredictable, and drivers need to be more cautious when they are near schools. Drivers should always slow down and watch for children where school traffic safety signs are posted. Illinois law requires all drivers to stop for school buses that have the stop sign extended, lights flashing, and are loading or unloading children (except when approaching the school bus from the opposite direction on a 4 lane road with 2 lanes for travel in opposing directions). Drivers must remain stopped until the stop sign is retracted and the warning lights are off. Drivers must come to a complete stop when crossing guards have a stop sign or flag displayed. Drivers must keep in mind that pedestrians have the right of way. Following these laws will help ensure a safe return to school for children and prevent injuries to pedestrians.





Everyone wants to have a safe and Happy Halloween for themselves, their guests, and their children. Using safety tips and common sense can help you make the most of your Halloween season, and make it as enjoyable for your kids as it is for you. The Palatine Police Department would like parents and youngsters to keep some important safety tips in mind.

## Halloween Safety Tips

- Make sure children are accompanied by an adult or responsible teenager when they go door-to-door. Go with them if you can.
- Instruct children never to eat anything until they are home and the treats have been examined. Do not allow children to eat any homemade goodies or food they may have received.
- Check the treat wrappers for signs of tampering.
- Call the police if there are any suspicious treats.
- Make sure children's costumes fit, are short enough to prevent tripping, and allow them to see well. Remember, using face paint makes it easier to see than wearing a mask.
- Tell your children to trick or treat in their own neighborhood, and to stay on well lighted streets. Daylight hours are best!
- Teach your children not to go inside or in the back or side yard of any home.
- If children are going to be out after dark make sure they carry a flashlight. Any amount of reflective clothing or tape is also a good idea.
- Know which friends your children will be with and which route they will be taking.
- Leave your porch light on so children will know it is ok to visit your home.
- Teach your children to use the sidewalks and to watch out for traffic.
- Keep costumed children away from pets. The pet may not recognize the child and could become frightened.

**TRICK OR TREAT HOURS**  
**3:00 PM UNTIL 7:00 PM**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER**  
**31<sup>ST</sup>, 2009**



## **HELPFUL HINTS!**

-  **Do not leave valuables in your vehicle, especially electronic devices such as phones, I-pods, and portable GPS units**



-  **Do not fall for any of the "wire money" scams out there. Scammers call pretending to be a loved one or law enforcement officer and ask victims to wire money for various reasons: someone is hurt, in jail, or some other emergency. If you are unsure, call a friend, family member, or the police for assistance.**

**LETS WORK TOGETHER TO PUT AN END TO THIS SCAM !**

-  **Watch out for unknown phone numbers on your caller ID. We've had some residents inform us that they have received calls from the "223" area code. This is the Mali republic in West Africa.**

**Typically reported was the caller posing as a debt collector. ALWAYS verify whom you are speaking with and take their information down to investigate. Never be quick to send checks or wire money. Call the Crime Prevention Unit at 847-359-9061 if you are in doubt.**



sign up for emergency alerts.

powered by Everbridge

[www.palatine.il.us](http://www.palatine.il.us)

## **THE VILLAGE OF PALATINE IMPLEMENTS EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

**Registration begins  
November 20 , 2009**

The Village of Palatine is teaming up with Everbridge Mass Emergency Notification System. The village's goal is to provide essential information quickly in a variety of emergency situations, such as flooding, tornadoes, missing persons, boil orders, or hazardous material spills.

Should an emergency occur, village personnel can notify residents in a matter of minutes. The Everbridge system delivers messages across all communication platforms, including cell and land line phone numbers, e-mail addresses, text messaging, fax, personal data assistants (PDA's), and pagers listed within the system. If phone lines are busy, the system will redial a predetermined number of times to make contact. If an answering machine picks up the call, the emergency message will be left on the machine. If the telephone rings without an answer, after a predetermined number of attempts, Everbridge will use the next contact path that has been supplied by each resident. You do not have to purchase any new equipment, and will only be notified of emergency situations that affect the area in which your home is located. The Everbridge system is currently loaded with every listed land line phone number from existing 9-1-1 data. Once residents register their preferred contact information, the Everbridge system will contact thousands of people in a matter of minutes.

### **TO SIGN UP FOR THE EVERBRIDGE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

Registration will begin on November 20, 2009. To register, go to [www.palatine.il.us](http://www.palatine.il.us) and click on the Everbridge Icon. Those without computers may access one at the Palatine Public Library.

### **TO DISCONTINUE RECEIVING EVERBRIDGE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION MESSAGES**

To remove your contact information from the Emergency Mass Notification System, go to [www.palatine.il.us](http://www.palatine.il.us) and click on the Everbridge Icon. This will directly link you to their site.

By opting out of the system you will no longer receive emergency or community notifications.

The Village of Palatine will never share or distribute your personal information, unless required to do so by law. Additionally, the village will never use your information for any purpose other than to send information pertaining to the Village.

## Outdoor Fireplace Safety



The cool evenings of autumn are an ideal time to enjoy the warmth of an outdoor fire. The Palatine Fire Department would like to make sure these times stay enjoyable, and remind you of a few important safety issues to remember.

First, the only outside fires that are allowed within the Village are those contained within an enclosed outdoor fireplace, with proper screening all around. This prevents embers from being carried or blown out of the fireplace and starting a fire in the vicinity. Open fires are NOT permitted. Make sure your fireplace is situated over a non-combustible area, and not on a wooden deck, as the deck could be ignited by the fire. Ensure that it is kept a safe distance from any structures or vehicles, and have a hose or bucket of water immediately available in case something unexpected happens.

As with any fireplace, only burn dry, seasoned wood; never building materials, scrap, lawn waste like leaves or garbage. In fact, some lumber is treated with toxic compounds like arsenic which can be released if burned. If your fireplace makes too much smoke, as from burning improper or wet materials, you could be in violation of Village ordinances and cited by the Police Department.

You should also keep an eye on the weather when you burn. If the wind is too strong, embers can be blown around even with a screen in place. Damp, foggy conditions can also cause smoke to hang close to the ground and not dissipate. It's best not to start a fire in such cases, to prevent any potential problems.

Finally, when finished with your fire, make sure it's completely out. A fire left smoldering overnight can leave smoke hanging in the area, which can lead to irritation or even health problems to people in the area who are susceptible, such as those with asthma. If you have any questions, please call the Palatine Fire Department at (847) 202-6340.

## Heating Appliances

October usually brings in the first days of cool temperatures that make us want to start up the furnaces after summer hibernation. Prior to using them, however, it is a wise procedure to have a qualified heating contractor come out and inspect your appliances.



They will make sure that everything is working as designed, and that no cracks exist in the heat exchanger, which will dump CO into your home. Depending on the size of the crack, this can cause families to get sick, or it can even kill the occupants. Remember that CO is colorless, odorless and tasteless. Fall and winter are busy times for heating contractors. Recognizing the need to have an inspection and scheduling that inspection early will allow you to be ready for the first frost, in a safely heated home.

For those with wood burning stoves or fireplaces, they should be inspected as well. When wood burns it gives off a by-product called creosote. This is a tarry substance that adheres to the sides of the chimney. If this is not cleaned on a regular basis, a large fire can cause this accumulation to ignite. And instead of having a controlled fire in the firebox, you now have a fire running the length of the chimney. If there are any cracks in the metal pipe or bricks, a fire can escape into the walls or floors and do tremendous damage until it is detected. The fire department must then do more damage to your home in the process of making sure the fire did not spread past the immediate area. All of this can be prevented by regular inspections. If you use your fireplace a couple of times a week, it should be inspected annually. If the fireplace is only used a few times a year, every other year should be sufficient. If you have just moved into a home with a fireplace and you are uncertain of its previous use, it is always better to have it inspected so you are ensured of starting with a clean slate.