

## A SAFETY MESSAGE ON LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

Joyce Fire & Rescue is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. In recent years, lithium-ion batteries have become increasingly common, powering everything from smartphones and laptops to electric vehicles and energy storage systems. While these batteries are convenient and efficient, they also pose certain safety concerns that everyone should be aware of.

### Potential Hazards



#### Thermal Runaway:

A chain reaction within the battery that leads to intense heat, smoke, fire, or explosion. Triggered by manufacturing defects, overcharging, short circuits, or physical damage.



#### Fire and Smoke:

Lithium-ion battery fires burn intensely and can generate toxic fumes, which pose inhalation risks to residents and first responders.



#### Recharge and Storage Risks:

Overcharging, using incompatible chargers, or storing batteries in hot environments can increase the likelihood of failure and fires.

### SAFETY TIPS FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

**Proper Charging:** Use only manufacturer-recommended chargers and avoid overcharging devices. Once a device is fully charged, disconnect it from the power source.

**Inspect Before Use:** Check batteries and devices regularly for signs of damage such as swelling, cracks, or leaks. Do not use damaged batteries.

**Safe Storage:** Keep batteries away from heat sources, direct sunlight, flammable materials, and in dry environments.

**Disposal:** Do not dispose of lithium-ion batteries in regular trash. Instead, take them to designated recycling or disposal centers.

**Handling Fires:** If a lithium-ion battery catches fire, evacuate the area immediately and call 911. Do not attempt to extinguish the fire with water, as this can make matters worse. They are not like other fires and are very difficult to put out.

### PREVENTIVE MEASURES / COMMUNITY ACTIONS

**Create Awareness:** Educate family members, especially children, about the dangers and safe handling of batteries.

**Advocate for Safe Manufacturing and Purchase:** Buy from reputable sources and check for safety certifications.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Keep a fire extinguisher rated for electrical fires (Class C) accessible in your home or workspace.

While lithium-ion batteries are a valuable part of our daily lives, understanding their risks and practicing safety measures are essential. Your vigilance can prevent accidents, protect your loved ones, and help keep our community safe.



### Winter Safety Thoughts

As the rain returns and the temperature quickly starts to drop it is a sure sign the winter season is rapidly approaching. It's important to prioritize safety to keep our homes and loved ones protected. Cold weather brings cozy fires and heating to our homes, but it also introduces new hazards that require awareness and precautions. Here are some essential winter safety tips to help ensure a safe and worry-free season:

#### 1. Heating Equipment Safety

- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from curtains, furniture, and other flammable objects.
- Never leave heating devices unattended, and turn them off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Have your heating system inspected and serviced annually by a qualified professional.

#### 2. Fireplace and Chimney Care

- Use a sturdy screen to prevent embers from escaping.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year to prevent creosote buildup, which can cause fires.

#### 3. Protect Against Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning

- Install CO detectors on every level of your home and test them regularly.
- Never use outdoor grills, generators, or other combustion devices indoors or in enclosed spaces.

#### 4. Safe Use of Candles

- Keep candles away from combustible items and never leave them unattended.
- Use sturdy, flame-resistant holders and extinguish candles when leaving the room or sleeping.

#### 5. Smoke Alarm Maintenance

- Check your smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries at least once a year.
- Ensure you have enough alarms in your home, especially near sleeping areas.

#### 6. Winter Driving and Outdoor Safety

- Drive slowly and cautiously on icy or snow-covered roads.
- Keep emergency kits in your vehicle, including blankets, food, water, and a flashlight.
- Clear driveways and walkways of snow and ice to prevent slips and falls.

Your safety is our top priority. By following these tips, we can all enjoy a safer winter season. If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Stay safe and warm!



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# JOYCE FIRE AND RESCUE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Introducing Your State-of-the-Art Fire Station & Apparatus Bay

**JOIN US AT OUR OPEN HOUSE  
NOV. 01 - 11AM-4PM**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED : BE A PART OF THE TEAM**



## Greetings from Chief Waters

### Announcing our Fire District's new Apparatus Bay!

I have been patiently waiting to write this newsletter for quite some time. We are SO proud to FINALLY announce the grand opening of our Fire District's new Apparatus Bay—a facility that represents a major step forward in how we serve our community. More than just a new building, this modern facility stands as a symbol of our commitment to safety, efficiency, and long-term service to our residents and visitors.

I would love to say this project was smooth sailing the whole way through without any hiccups along the way. However, like most projects of this magnitude, there were several false starts, numerous delays, hidden costs and fees, supply chain issues, cost overruns, some government bureaucracy surprises and occasional setbacks. Luckily, no fist fights or wrestling matches were reported 😊. Despite the frustrations, our construction team persevered and the project is nearly done. All that remains now is a little minor landscaping and then proudly hanging our Joyce Fire & Rescue signs on each end of the building.

### This project would not have been possible without your support

We couldn't be more proud of what we have created for our community and can't wait to show it off to you all. This project would not have been possible without your support, encouragement, and financial donations. We had over 30 community members donate a total of well over \$500,000 to help make this project a reality.

Trevor Baar and his company "We Do Dirt" led the way in donations by bringing in all of his people and equipment to do the dirt work phase of the project on a pro bono basis. This equates to roughly a \$150,000 donation. Trevor did this to honor the memory of former Joyce Fire & Rescue Commissioner Dave Erickson who was instrumental in Trevor's early business endeavors. The Gossett Foundation also stepped up in a huge way to offer \$100,000 if the community would match their generosity in honor of Mary F. Pfaff-Pierce. The community did just that and then some. Former State Congressman Jim Buck and his wife Donna, spearheaded the early fundraising efforts by offering to match up to \$50,000 in community donations, which again, you all did. Rounding off the top donor list was current Joyce Fire & Rescue Commissioner Dan Peacock who donated \$35,000 to our cause.

### Every donation, no matter how large or small was appreciated

We thank all of them along with all of the rest of you who donated. Out of concerns for your privacy we won't publish the remaining list of who donated what. Please just know, every donation, no matter how small or large, meant a huge amount to myself, our Commissioners, and my entire team of incredible volunteers. It takes a village...

THANK YOU ALL!



Chief Greg Waters

# A New Era for Our Fire District...

## Introducing Our State-of-the-Art Fire Station & Apparatus Bay

This new station is built to critical facilities infrastructure standards and replaces our previous building with a much more robust and advanced structure. Built with steel-frame construction and traditional stick-built framing, this composite facility is designed to last, meeting both the current needs and future growth of the district.

The building was built with a spacious, four-bay apparatus area capable of housing up to four emergency vehicles and other rescue equipment such as an ATV Rescue Vehicle and trailer. This expanded space enhances our readiness and response time by ensuring that vehicles and equipment are always mission-ready and protected from the elements.

One of the most exciting features is our indoor training tower that serves dual purposes. Not only is it used for technical rescue training, including rope rescues and confined space scenarios no matter the weather, but it also functions as a hose drying tower, allowing us to maintain critical equipment properly between calls.

### Designed With Volunteers in Mind Comfort, Resilience & Operational Readiness

This is more than just a place to park fire trucks. It's a hub for training, preparation, and rapid deployment—a true asset to the community we proudly serve.

Firefighting is one of the most physically and emotionally demanding professions in public service. Our new facility was thoughtfully designed to support the well-being of our volunteer personnel both during and after emergency responses.

At the heart of this focus is the crew lounge and fitness center—a comfortable, quiet space where responders can decompress after critical incidents or recharge between training sessions. Whether recovering from a difficult call or preparing for the next one, this space helps ensure our team is mentally and physically ready at all times.

Another standout feature is the station's self-sufficiency infrastructure. Equipped with a 3,200-gallon diesel fuel tank, the station can support extended operations during disasters or power outages. This is further reinforced by a 200 kW backup generator, which ensures continued functionality of all critical systems even when external power sources are disrupted.

In today's unpredictable world, being prepared for the unexpected is not optional—it's essential. These features reflect our proactive approach to emergency readiness and community resilience.

### Year-round functionality

Beyond function, the facility is also about professional growth. The integrated training tower and classroom space allow us to host ongoing drills and scenario-based training without leaving the station. This ensures our crews stay sharp and certified year-round.

### Built for Today, Prepared for Tomorrow An Investment in Community Safety & Service

This new fire station is not just a building—it's a community investment. Its design and construction reflect a thoughtful approach to both current demands and future challenges.

The transition from our older facility to this modern fire station has been a game changer. From upgraded insulation and HVAC systems to wider apparatus bays and safer exhaust removal technology, along with a bunker gear washing and drying station, every detail was chosen with safety and longevity in mind.

The combination of traditional craftsmanship and modern engineering ensures that the station will remain a vital hub of emergency response for decades to come.

### Looking Ahead

We look forward to welcoming members of the community during our upcoming open house on November 1st from 11am to 4PM. This event will give you an inside look at the equipment, training spaces, and operational capabilities that help us protect and serve you every day.

Whether it's answering a call at 3 AM, preparing for wildfire season, or teaching the next generation of responders, this facility is designed to help us do it all—better, faster, and smarter. If you can't make the Open House, please feel free to come by anytime for a complete tour of the facilities.

Again, on behalf of the entire Fire District, thank you for your continued support. This project wouldn't have been possible without the trust, support, and partnership of the community we're honored to protect.

*Please come by and see your new fire station soon!*

## Original Criteria for the Apparatus Bay Met

- Co-located/adjacent to existing Admin Building—obviously from a response time standpoint our responders need to be co-located with the apparatus
- Functional over fancy! We don't need an architectural glass or marble masterpiece like most towns, just a simple design that aesthetically matches the existing lines/design of the Admin Building but without going "cheap"
- Rugged, durable, and able to withstand significant adverse events, built to current building code of a critical facility
- Stick-built wood frame construction (a steel/hybrid building was selected)
- Energy-efficient/well-lit with plenty of ambient lighting
- Four apparatus bay doors and one garage style door at the opposite end (4 doors with drive-through option was chosen)
- A tower at one end for hose drying and rescue/ladder training
- A decontamination station
- Plenty of storage for equipment/supplies
- Sufficient shop/maintenance area
- A minimum of two bathrooms, utility room, and laundry room large enough for a bunker gear washer and dryer
- Backup power source
- Fitness center area for our staff and responders
- No sleeping quarters in building for 24-hour staffing. (Much safer for members if sleeping quarters are separate)
- Big enough for current and foreseeable future needs
- Do it right the first time!

