

# National Fire Prevention Week

Oct. 6-12, 2024





# Illinois DCFS distributed smoke alarms to 1,368 Illinois families this year

**CHICAGO** - Fire Prevention Week™ is October 6-12, and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is promoting this year's campaign, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!™" by reminding the public about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.

In October 2019, DCFS launched a statewide program to provide free smoke alarms to families served by the department. To date, DCFS has distributed 6,135 smoke alarms to families across Illinois, including 1,368 this year, an increase of over 470 from the same time last year.

"We know that smoke alarms save lives, and providing free smoke alarms to the families we serve is a simple, and crucial, step we can take to keep them safe in the event of a fire," said Illinois DCFS Director Heidi E. Mueller. "It is also important for caregivers to test their



alarms once a month and practice a fire escape plan with their children so everyone knows what to do if the alarm sounds."

According to the Na-

tional Fire Protection Association:

Roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or no work-

ing smoke alarms.

More than one-third (38%) of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke alarms are present.

Working smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by more than half (54%).

Illinois law requires every household to have

smoke alarms within 15 feet of every bedroom and at least one on each floor of the home.

**See FIRE page 5**

## Chief Dave Sawlsville

44 years, A.A.S., B.A., CCEMTP



900 N. 2nd St.  
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**Lt. Jason Underwood**  
29 years, Ed.D., MPA, EMT-P

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**Lt. Jeremy Good**  
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**Lt. Zach Prewett**  
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Rochelle Community Hospital



**Brian Edwards**  
29 years, A.A.S., EMT-P



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**Ben Johnson**  
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**Josh Lewis**  
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**Jody Willis**  
15 years, EMT-P

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**Tyler Carls**  
15 years, A.A.S., B.S., EMT-P

**Rochelle Township  
High School**



*Tyler is a 2009  
RTHS graduate.*



**Kenny Dougherty**  
14 years, A.A.S., EMT-P



401 Cherry Avenue  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
815-562-5050



**Curt Helgren**  
14 years, EMT-P



Rochelle Community  
Consolidated  
School District #231

Central Elementary ~ Lincoln Elementary  
Tilton Elementary ~ Rochelle Middle School



**Javier Salinas**  
3 years, M.A., EMT-B



1381 N. 7th St., Rochelle  
Rochelle - 562-5207

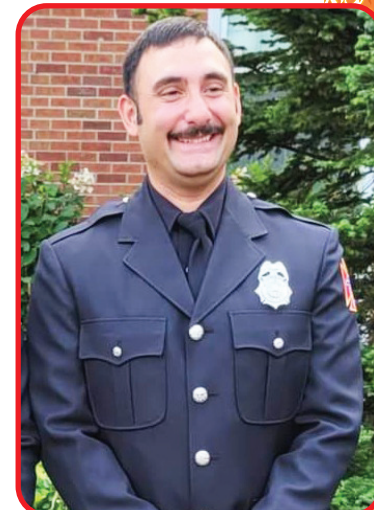


**Jonny Plaza**  
2 years, A.A.S., EMT-P

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# FIRE: Illinois DCFS details importance of smoke alarms

**From page 3**

Families served by DCFS may request smoke alarms from their caseworker or call their local field office to request one.

The National Fire Protection Association offers these guidelines to help keep families safe:

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, in hallways outside of each bedroom and on every level of the home, includ-

ing the basement.

Test smoke alarms once a month by pressing the test button to be sure they are working.

Replace smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Working smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan.

## Illinois DCFS

Currently celebrating 60 years as the nation's first cabinet-level child welfare agency, DCFS is

responsible for protecting children from abuse or neglect by responding to reports received by the Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-252-2873 (1-800-25-ABUSE) or childabuse.illinois.gov (non-emergency). With the goal of keeping children safe, DCFS strengthens and supports families with a wide range of services. In the event a child must be removed from the home, DCFS makes every effort

to reunite them with their family. When the best interest of the child makes this impossible (less than 4% of the time), DCFS is committed to pursuing guardianship and fictive kin as primary options.

About Fire Prevention Week: Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9 in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devas-

tating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres of land. For more information about Fire Prevention Week and fire prevention in general, visit [www.fpw.org](http://www.fpw.org).

## NFPA

Since 1922, the NFPA has sponsored the public observance of Fire

Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire.

Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

**David Montero**  
1 year, A.A.S, EMT-B



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**Noah Messer**  
2 years, A.A.S., EMT-B



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**Trey Lodico**  
1 year, A.A., EMT-B



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13 years, Administrative Asst. B.A., EMT-P



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### Montero sworn in as new RPD firefighter

A swearing-in ceremony was held during the Sept. 23 city council meeting for the Rochelle Fire Department's newest firefighter, David Montero. Montero began his fire service career in April 2022 with the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District Flagg Center station. He started working part-time with RFD in January 2023.

## Rochelle Fire Department — Paid On-Call



**Josh Valdivieso**  
19 years



**Austin Gillis**  
9 years



**Beth Smith**  
9 years



**Mike McGill**  
8 years



**Kyle Aldridge**  
6 years



**Cody Bakker**  
4 years



**Jeff Burfield**  
3 years



**Gregg Evans**  
3 years



**Becky Berkeley**  
2 year



**Chris Sawlsville**  
1 year



**Kortney Powell**  
1 year



**Jason Kepka**  
1 year





### Creston Fire Station

Pictured are members of the Creston Fire Station:  
 Back row: Ben Ward, Mackenzie Boehle, Jamie Swedberg, Chief Curt Ward, and Asst. Chief Gary Taylor. Front row: Mary Ward, Tyler Pellegrini, and Tyler Echelbarger. Not pictured: Josh Crawford, Noah Allgeyer, Dani Ward, Sydney Thorne, Wayne Williams, and Judy Williams.



### Hillcrest Fire Station

Pictured are members of the Hillcrest Fire Station:  
 Paul Cooney, Capt. Jim Brandt, Hannah Eldred, Anita Byrd, Joelle Buelta, Dani Kaecker, Justin Kaecker, and Chief Roger Johanning. Not pictured: Steve Buelta, Rolando Cruz, Michael Hynek, and Austin Gillis.



### Steward Fire Station

Pictured are members of the Steward Fire Station:  
 Mike Harmon, Brian Johnson, Gary Morgan, Asst. Chief Donny Arjes, Kortney Powell, Chief Galen Cardott, Terry Macklin, Eric Holden, and Zach Burkhart. Not pictured: Matt Moore, Rick Moore, Josh Harmon, Tyler Echelbarger, and Matt Davis.





### Ogle-Lee FPD Trustees

Pictured are the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District Trustees from left to right: Lance Noggle, Erik Petry, Rick Kasmar and Lonnie Sarver. Not pictured: Thad Hayes. The Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District serves the communities of Creston, Hillcrest, Flagg Center and Steward.

### Flagg Center Fire Station

Pictured are members of the Flagg Center Fire Station. Back row from left to right: FF/EMT Rob Olszewski, FF/EMT Kyle Aldridge, Capt/Medic Tyler Carls, Asst. Chief/EMR Rich Patterson, FF Dale Lippold, Chief Orville Good, Training Officer Mike McGill, and FF/EMT David Montero. Front row: FF James Rodriguez, Cadet Preston Borris, Cadet Madison McGill, and Probationary FF Chris Lowery. Not pictured: FF Matt Bolhous, FF/Medic Jon Plaza, FF/EMT Noah Messer, FF Jordin Dickey, FF Tommy Tourdot, Probationary FF Jacob Sprinkle, and Cadet Mason Bolhous.

