



Madisonville Fire Department

FAQ

Q. Are backyard fire pits legal in Madisonville?

A. Portable fireplaces are legal in Madisonville for use under the following conditions:

- They must be constructed of steel, concrete, clay or other noncombustible material
 - They should be kept at least 20 feet from a structure
 - Use only solid fuels like firewood
 - Must be attended at all times by a responsible person with means for extinguishing the fire available immediately at hand
- Portable fireplaces and grills ARE NOT allowed on porches and decks at multifamily homes such as condos and apartments.

Q. Can I have a grill on the balcony of my apartment/condominium?

A. Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

This does not apply to electric grills that do not produce open flames

Q. How can I schedule a fire truck or ambulance at my function?

A. Please contact Lt. Matt Reeves at 270-824-2134 Mon-Fri from 7-4.

Q. Why does the emergency equipment run with lights and siren, then just turn them off?

A. On occasion, the fire engine and ambulance will be driving with lights and sirens and then suddenly turn them off--perhaps only to turn into a shopping center parking lot or side street. Be assured that when this happens it means we have received information that the caller or incident is no longer a dire emergency. It is what we call "being cancelled". Any or all of the apparatus may continue to drive to the call or perhaps some will return to the Fire Station.



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Q. Why do I see firetrucks at Grocery Stores or restaurants?

A. Our firefighters work 24-hour shifts, which means that they eat, sleep, and work at the fire station for 24 hours at a time. Occasionally they need to go to the store to purchase food to prepare meals for the day, but they are still on duty. They do not have the freedom to go anywhere they want for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. They are in service and prepared to respond immediately, even from the grocery store, if they get a call. If you notice they are carrying emergency radios.

Each crew of firefighters stays together throughout their entire 24-hour shift to ensure they can respond to an emergency, with the proper equipment, from any location within minutes. This is why you may have seen firefighters leaving their carts and running out of grocery stores or restaurants. When they receive a call, they leave immediately and come back later to finish their grocery shopping or enjoy their meal. There are also benefits to our crews eating and preparing meals together. A 2015 Cornell University study found that "Firefighter platoons who eat meals together have better group job performance compared with firefighter teams who dine solo."

Because of the importance of building this camaraderie we encourage our crews to eat meals together each shift. This gives the firefighters an opportunity to discuss the calls they have run, share emotions, and build bonds that directly correlate to effective teamwork in an emergency situation.

Being out in the community also gives us a chance to meet with residents and get to know the people in our neighborhoods, which makes us better first responders. If you see us out and about stop and say hi. We're always happy to answer questions, give kids a chance to see the fire truck up close, or hear what's happening around town.

Q. Can I burn trash, debris, leaves, or building materials?

A.: No. You can only burn brush in the City, and then only with a permit.

Q. How do I obtain a burn permit.

A. Contact 270-824-2148 and ask for the Shift Commander on duty.

Q. How can I get a mobile home or camper inspected?

A. Please contact the Department of Housing Building and Construction, Manufactured Home Division 502-573-1795



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Q. Can I buy a Madisonville FD T-Shirt?

A. Madisonville Fire does not sell any polo or t-shirt.

Q. Will Madisonville Fire Department fill my swimming pool?

A. Madisonville Fire Department does not fill swimming pools. We suggest that you contact Madisonville Water Department at 270-824-2140

Q. Can I volunteer with Madisonville Fire Department?

A. Currently we do not have a volunteer program.

Q. How can I get a Madisonville Fire Department patch?

A. Madisonville Fire Department does not give away or sell patches.

Q. Will I get a bill for using Fire Department Services.

A. No. Madisonville Fire Department does not bill.

Q. Why does a fire engine come to my medical emergency?

A. All fire engines carry EMT's (emergency medical technicians), and they are medically trained first responders.

Q. Where can I get my blood pressure checked?

A. You can get your blood pressure checked at any fire station.

Q. Can I have a birthday party or private function at a fire station?

A. No. The fire department does not allow private parties or functions to be held at our fire stations.

Fire Chief John Dunning

98 E Center St, Madisonville, KY 42431

270- 824-2140