



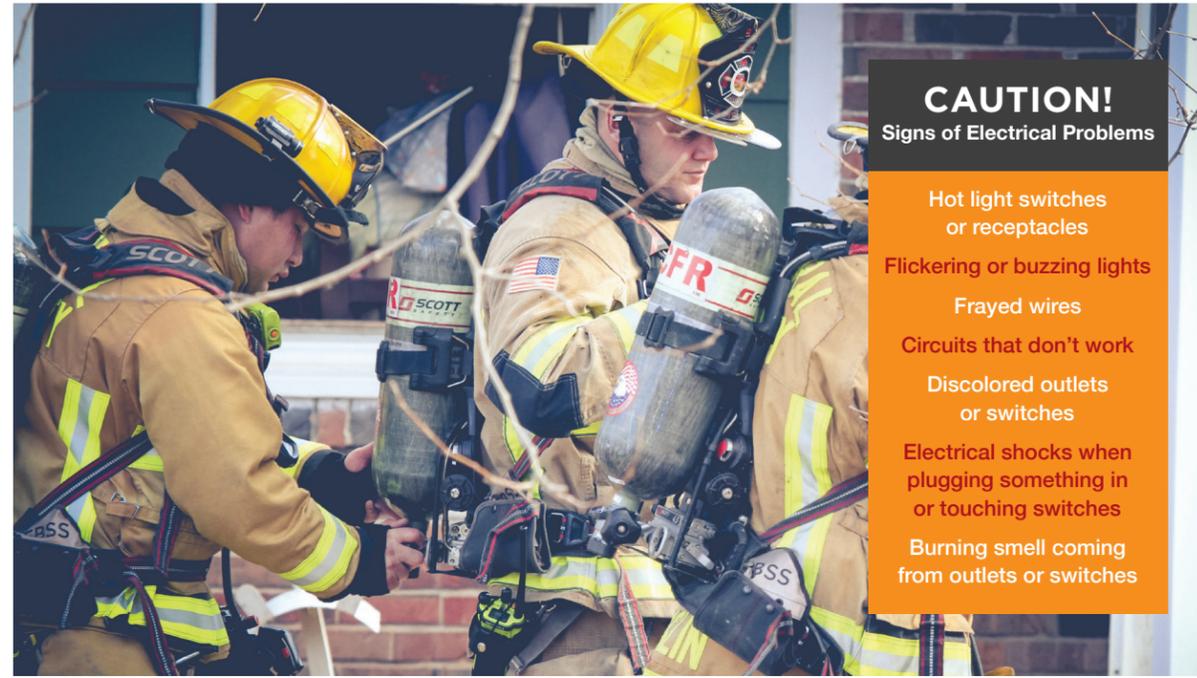
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Avoid DIY Disasters: Do You Have Copper or Aluminum Wiring? The Difference Matters.



CAUTION!
Signs of Electrical Problems

- Hot light switches or receptacles
- Flickering or buzzing lights
- Frayed wires
- Circuits that don't work
- Discolored outlets or switches
- Electrical shocks when plugging something in or touching switches
- Burning smell coming from outlets or switches

Tasked with updating those ancient light switches in the kitchen? Standing in front of the hundreds of options available at the home improvement store, you narrow it down to two choices — one is \$4, the other is 75 cents. But if you don't know which type of wiring is in your home, it's a decision that could cost you much more than the few dollar difference between the two switches.

Your home was built with either copper or aluminum wiring. Knowing which one you're working with is critically important when considering any electrical improvements or repairs.

Due to the exorbitant cost of copper in the late 1960s and early 1970s, many homes built during this time have aluminum wiring. It was quickly discovered, however, that the quality of the aluminum being used put these homes at a higher risk for fires. A study by the Consumer Product Safety Commission found that homes built before 1972 and wired with aluminum are 55 times more likely to have an outlet wiring connection reach fire hazard conditions than those wired with copper. This risk can increase if the wrong replacement parts are used or if rewiring is done incorrectly.

Copper and aluminum wired electrical systems are not interchangeable. They require different types of wiring, switches and connectors, with the aluminum components often being quite a bit more expensive than their copper counterparts.

"Beyond making sure you are using the correct type of wiring and connectors, working with electricity is tricky and dangerous, with a risk for electrocution injuries, home fires and more," CCFR Assistant Chief Steve Brown says. "When you are considering home improvement projects, leave the electrical projects to a qualified electrician. What might be a higher upfront investment will be worth it in the long run."

Brown has witnessed these types of fires as recently as this year, when an improperly wired electric cooktop set a house ablaze right here in the CCFR community.

If you have a home built in the 1960s or '70s, it can be tricky to determine whether you have aluminum or copper wiring because of the way it was originally labeled. If you think you might have aluminum wiring, it is important to have your home evaluated by a qualified electrician to determine whether it should be replaced or repaired. When hiring an electrician, ensure they are licensed and have experience with both aluminum and copper wiring.

Still trying to decide which switch to get? It's time to call an electrician.

DIY Disasters
Visit our website or follow us on Facebook for monthly tips to avoid DIY disasters.

Upcoming Events

Trivia Night
FRIDAY, FEB. 28
Benefiting the St. Peters Senior Center Home Delivered Meals Program

Veterans Appreciation Day
SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Easter Egg Hunt
SATURDAY, APRIL 11



Movie Night at the Firehouse
FRIDAY, MAY 1

Mud Volleyball Tournament
SATURDAY, JULY 11

For additional event details, visit facebook.com/centralcountyfire.



Community Outreach Around Town

- Delivered hundreds of toys to local children in need, which were donated to the Gifts for Kids Toy Drive and Toys for Tots event.
- Welcomed the community at the first-ever CCFR Community Outreach Fall Festival.
- Hosted more than 200 community members for photos during Santa at the Station.
- Donated \$2,500 to the Disabled Athlete Sports Association (DASA) and \$2,500 to the St. Peters Home Delivered Meals Program with funds raised during the 2019 Mud Volleyball Tournament.
- Hosted a Star Wars Movie Night at the fire station.
- Donated more than 100 new coats to local students attending Francis Howell School District elementary schools.

If you would like to help support the Central County Community Outreach program, call 636.970.9700 or email David Maupin at davem@centralcountyfire.org.

The Central County Community Outreach program is an independent nonprofit organization of off-duty firefighters who provide assistance to the community during times of need and help educate the community about fire and emergency prevention.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Central County FIRE & RESCUE
SPRING 2020
COMMUNICATIONS

CCFR By the Numbers

Aug. 1, 2019 - Feb. 1, 2020

Fire Calls
60

Emergency Medical Service Calls
1,697

Total Calls
3,356

Annual Inspections
2,307

Total Training Hours
6,389

BOARD MEETINGS

CCFR is governed by a three-member publicly elected Board of Directors. Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m. The dates and times are tentative and subject to change.

Meet the Board: Patricia Hamm



As a lifelong resident of St. Peters and treasurer of the CCFR Board of Directors, Patricia Hamm is dedicated to ensuring the District's tax dollars are used efficiently and effectively to keep the community safe.

community that she and her husband, three children and a grandchild call home.

She says that the board is committed to looking for ways to improve and adapt the Fire District as the St. Peters area grows and develops.

"As we look to the future, our District is going to start to notice a change in those who serve our community," she says, noting that many CCFR employees have been on duty for more than 25 years, since before the District was started in 1998. "I want to make sure that we are prepared for the next generation of first responders here in the St. Peters area.

"We are fortunate to have an exceptional team of professionals, and a community that is the lifeblood of the quality emergency services this team can provide. For that we are grateful, and will do whatever it takes to not let them down."

"The Fire District is the community's toolbox, ready to respond no matter what the emergency," Hamm says. "As a board member, I want to make sure our firefighters, EMTs and paramedics have the training and tools they need to do the job right and get the best outcomes in an emergency situation, while also being good stewards of our community's investment in the District."

Hamm became a member of the board 11 years ago because she wanted to make a difference in the growing

We're Ready For Spring Flooding. Are You?



A foot of water traveling 2 mph is all it takes to sweep away a large SUV, pickup truck or car.

With spring showers on the way, it is important to remember to avoid water-covered roads, and to never drive around a "road closed" barrier.

Within CCFR's boundaries, there are two rivers, as well as countless creeks, lakes and ponds. CCFR crews are ready to respond to water and ice emergencies in any of these bodies of water.

Over the past five years, the District has increased its ability to provide life-saving assistance in water emergencies, with more than 35% of CCFR's firefighters now trained in swift water rescue and operations. These crew members are all capable of safely rescuing victims utilizing the District's two boats, which are housed at Fire Station #5, the station closest to the Mississippi River.

The boats are considered one rescue unit, always traveling together on a specialized trailer that also carries equipment for water and ice rescue operations including 25 personal flotation devices and 15 dry rescue suits. To ensure the safety of victims and first responders, both boats are often together in the water for a rescue.

The 16-foot flat bottom aluminum boat can handle the swift currents often found in rivers and can transport up to six people. It can also be connected to other boats if needed.

The light and easily maneuverable inflatable boat was designed specifically for search and rescue operations. It is light enough that just two rescuers can carry it if the need arises.

"This is extremely beneficial during flooding events, where the depth of the water can vary drastically and require the boat to be lifted over or carried short distances," CCFR Captain Matthew Dermody says.

The boat can also remain stable in fast-moving water and be launched directly from the banks of the waterway.

These boats also allow CCFR crews to reach victims who are stranded in areas inaccessible by roads during flooding, and to provide mutual aid assistance to neighboring departments near the 10 miles of the Missouri River and 18 miles of the Mississippi River that pass through the District.

Top 5 Spring Weather Safety Tips

1. Never enter a water-covered roadway.
2. If you hear tornado sirens, take cover in a basement or windowless room.
3. Stay tuned to the local news during spring storms.
4. Keep your phone charged when bad weather is expected.
5. Stay away from floodwaters.

SAFE-T Update

The District continues to implement the community-created *SAFE-T (Securing A Future of Excellence—Together)* plan. A portion of this plan focused on working to ensure financial stability, which included building a reserve that could sustain District operations for six months. Through strong fiscal management, the District was able to reach this goal in 2019 while also reducing the general revenue tax rate by 5.5%.

Follow Us

Be the first to know about emergency situations, important safety recalls and more by following us at [Facebook.com/CentralCountyFire](https://www.facebook.com/CentralCountyFire) and signing up for email alerts at [CentralCountyFire.org](https://www.centralcountyfire.org).

Did You Know?

CCFR responded to a record-setting **6,643** emergency calls in 2019.

Thursday was the busiest day of the week in 2019.

CCFR saves nearly **\$30 million** in property from damage yearly.

Responding to First Responders



2019 HIGHLIGHTS
 Provided canteen services to 500+ first responders
 Assisted 14 local residents in need after house fires
 Volunteered at 17 community and District events
 Moved into the old CCFR Fire Station #5 on Ehlmann Road
 Received 501(c)3 nonprofit organization status

Look around an emergency scene and you'll notice a sense of organized chaos. Firefighters work to put out the flames, while police officers help secure the area and paramedics tend to the victims. In our area, you will also observe a team of volunteers working to support these first responders and help victims get back on their feet.

The CCFR Community Assistance Program (also known as REHAB-95 — a nickname derived from their signature red SUV) was started by a retired CCFR firefighter in 2015. Since then, nearly 40 volunteers have donated hundreds of hours to the community.

Volunteers for the program are there to help everyone on the scene. They provide victims with immediate assistance including clothing, food, shelter and one night in a hotel, along with connecting them to important community resources.

"There are many cases when a family loses everything in a house fire. This team of volunteers provides help right there on scene to help them start the recovery process," CCFR Assistant Chief Steve Brown says.

The volunteers assist first responders by providing canteen service, which includes water, coffee, snacks and, in some cases, meals.

"There are times when we are on the scene for hours at a time," Brown says. "The Community Assistance Program's canteen services help fuel our first responders and keep their energy up as they handle the situation. They are also an important resource for community members during their time of need."

The team also helps provide victims and first responders with relief from the outside elements. During the summer they set up cooling stations with shade, fans and iced towels and in the winter their shelters, portable heaters and other supplies provide a break from the cold.

The Community Assistance Program is made possible through the generous support of community donations and volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering with or donating to the program, please contact Mark Runge at ccfr.cap@gmail.com.