

Pine Knoll Shores Fire Department



The Fire Department had nine calls during the month of June. Two calls involved structure fires, the major one being a second floor room at the Crystal Coast Resort resulting in approximately \$30,000 damage. The Atlantic Beach Fire Department provided mutual assistance on this call. An additional 195 hours of training occurred during the month. The most extensive training was a six-hour course on Incident Command attended by twelve personnel.

On June 10, the Fire Department had a picnic, with the help of EMS volunteers, at Brock Basin. It was also attended by on-duty Police Department members. The weather was great as well as the camaraderie amongst the groups.

Properly located and properly operating smoke detectors are important in providing you with early warning of a fire, particularly when you are sleeping. As a minimum, smoke detectors should be located in the hallway outside each bedroom and in a hallway outside the kitchen. The detectors outside bedrooms should be close enough to the rooms so they can be heard when the bedroom doors are closed. Areas outside your living space that might be considered for locating detectors are your attic and garage. Detectors should be mounted on ceilings; however, if only wall mounting is practical, they should be mounted on the wall as close to the ceiling as possible.

Smoke detectors can be powered by battery or by your home's electrical power circuits. Detectors powered by your power circuits are extremely reliable except if a power failure occurs. If your detectors are powered by battery, change the batteries twice a year at the time when you adjust your clocks for the change between daylight savings and standard time. This will ensure your batteries have sufficient power to activate an alarm. There is a detector, the most reliable type of all, that is powered by the home's electrical power and has batteries as well for back up. All types of powered detectors have a button on them that you can push that will activate the detector with a noise signal to show you that the detector has power to it. Some detectors have test buttons that also simulate smoke or test for sensitivity. This tests the detector for its ability to sense smoke and sound an alarm. Most detectors do not have this capability; therefore, to insure your detector will sound the alarm if a fire occurs, safely burn incense or a piece of rope or string in an ashtray in the vicinity of the detector to see if it sounds an alarm. Purchased cans of aerosol spray (canned smoke) that simulate smoke can also be used for testing. Testing the detector's ability to sense smoke and sound the alarm is

recommended as frequently as once per month. Check the manufacturer instructions with your smoke detector for the recommended procedure for your particular situation.

Smoke detectors have proven invaluable in saving lives. Take care of your detectors to insure they'll take care of you in the event of an unwanted fire emergency.

Submitted by: Robert Middlestead



The Aquarium recently opened another new exhibit in the viewing gallery. This one features the diminutive sea horse. These fanciful and fascinating animals are a favorite of visitors.

Surprisingly, sea horses are related to mackerel, salmon and tuna, and unlike fish, which have scales, sea horses are equipped with a highly modified skeleton that forms rigid "armor plating." In addition to their unusual appearance, sea horses have a most unique reproduction process - it is the male that carries and gives birth to the 200 or so young!

The Aquarium continues to have many programs for youngsters this summer. If you have a young angler in the family, sign him or her up for "Fishing Just for Kids" on Aug. 2 or 10. There's also "Breakfast With the Animals," "Snorkeling for Beginners," and "Sea Wizards," "Sea Squirts" and "Aquatic Explorers." All these programs are designed with young folks in mind. Check the Aquarium's summer calendar for dates, times and registration information.

"Creature Feature Fridays" are ongoing through Aug. 11. These special days feature films, games, discovery stations and live animal programs focusing on specific animals. August 4 is Shark Day and Aug. 11 is Reptile Day.

For a complete listing of summer activities, stop by and pick up a calendar, or call 247-4003 to request a calendar by mail. You can also get a complete listing of activities on our Web site at www.ncaquariums.com.

The Aquarium is also recruiting volunteers, especially for weekends and evenings. If you have a few hours to spare and enjoy people and marine life, call Volunteer Coordinator Marlene Anderson at 247-4003, ext. 134.