

The action taken by the Siloam Springs Board of Directors to create a **Rural Fire Membership program is now underway**. Effective May 01, 2013, residents with homes and or property **outside of the City limits, and within the Siloam Springs Fire District boundaries**, can join the Siloam Springs Rural Fire Membership program.

Section 38-88 of the City's Municipal Code was amended to provide for an annual voluntary fee of **\$50 per occupy-able structure and \$10 per unimproved parcel to relieve residents of the cost of a bill**, should fire units be dispatched to control a fire on their rural property.

The cost of a rural fire bill without a membership could run anywhere from several hundred to several thousand dollars according to Fire Chief Jeremy Criner. "Think of this like an insurance policy. Fifty dollars a year is must cheaper than several thousand" Criner said.

Annual signup for this program will run from July 01 to June 30 each year.

Below are the most FAQ and answers to help you negotiate the program.

- How do I know if I qualify?
 - **If you are not in the City limits of Siloam Springs yet remain in what Benton County has identified as the Siloam Fire District and you are not currently being served by a neighboring Fire Department such as Gentry or Gallatin, then you are eligible for the program.**
- How much is a membership?
 - **The cost is \$50 per year (July 01 to June 30) for each occupy-able structure and \$10 per year to protect adjoining unimproved parcels.**
- How do I sign up?
 - **You can sign up at Fire Station # 1 which is the FD Headquarters, located at 1450 Cheri Whitlock Drive, during normal business hours, Monday through Friday.**
- Can I sign up online?
 - **No, not at this time.**
- How do I prove my membership?
 - **Each participant will be issued a certificate of membership and entered into our data base for verification purposes.**
- What if I join one year but let my membership lapse?

- **If we are called to respond with fire units to your property, you will in all likelihood get a fire bill for the services we provided.**
- Do City Residents need to join?
 - **No, City residents are provided this protection as part of their residency within the City.**
- Is there a limit to the number of times the fire department will respond to a member's property without billing?
 - **Yes, the City may bill residents after two or more responses if it is determined that the fires were created out of neglect or at any time when illegal burning is taking place such as during Red-Flag or County ordered burn ban days.**
- If I join the program in the month of January, will I have to pay again before July 01 of the same year?
 - **Yes, if you want to insure the continuous of membership. We do not pro-rate the dues for members who sign up later in the year.**

For more information on the Rural Fire Membership Program please call 479-524-3103.

Jeremey Criner
Fire Chief
Siloam Springs, AR