



## Johnson County Fire Protection District

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Chief Larry W. Jennings  
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Board President Mark Lenger  
Board Vice President Aaron Collett  
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Secretary/Treasurer Mackenzie Schuette

### NEWS RELEASE – Monday, February 24, 2025

#### Johnson County Fire Protection District Responds to Four Structure Fires Amid Frigid Weather

WARRENSBURG, MO – As Johnson County and the surrounding areas experienced the recent extreme cold and winter weather conditions, the Johnson County Fire Protection District (JCFPD) responded to four residential structure fires. These fires, occurring during bitterly cold temperatures and snowy conditions, highlight the challenges firefighters face in winter fire response and serve as a reminder of the importance of home heating safety.

The fires occurred on the following dates and locations:

February 11, 2025, at 09:12 AM – 600 block of NE 115 Road

February 18, 2025, at 12:32 PM – 900 block of NW 50 Highway

February 21, 2025, at 03:03 AM – 600 block of NW 400 Road

February 22, 2025, at 4:18 PM – 600 block of NE 110 Road

Three of the four fires were determined to be accidental. One was caused by a wood stove, while two resulted from attempts to heat frozen pipes. The cause of the fourth fire remains undetermined.

Responding to fires in frigid conditions presents significant challenges for firefighters, including navigating icy and snow-covered roads, frozen equipment, and the physical toll on personnel working in extreme temperatures. Cold weather can cause water supply issues, with pumps and hoses freezing, making firefighting efforts more difficult. Additionally, firefighters face risks of frostbite and hypothermia while operating in below-freezing temperatures for extended periods.

JCFPD Captain Joe Jennings emphasized the added dangers of winter fire response: "Fighting fires in extreme cold is incredibly challenging. Frozen hoses, slippery surfaces, and the risk of frostbite all add to the dangers our firefighters face on scene. Even with these obstacles, our firefighters remained committed to their mission, adapting to the conditions to ensure the safety of the community."

Captain Jennings also offered important fire safety tips for residents during extreme cold:

**Use Caution with Heating Equipment** – Ensure wood stoves and space heaters are properly maintained and kept away from flammable materials.

**Avoid Unsafe Methods to Heat Frozen Pipes** – Never use open flames or space heaters in confined areas to thaw pipes. Instead, use safe alternatives like a monitored hair dryer or properly installed heat tape.

**Check Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors** – With increased use of heating appliances, ensure alarms are working properly.

**Keep Exits Clear of Snow and Ice** – In the event of a fire, clear pathways can be critical for safe evacuation.



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The District urges all residents to take extra precautions to prevent fires during cold weather and to stay aware of the risks posed by improper heating practices.

More information about the Johnson County Fire Protection District can be found online at [www.jcfpd.net](http://www.jcfpd.net) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/johnsoncountypd](http://www.facebook.com/johnsoncountypd).

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For more information contact:

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