

## **Darrell Hartmann, Fire Chief**

**607 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Brookings, SD 57006**

**(605) 692-6323 Phone**

**(605) 697-8353 Fax**

[bfchief@brookings.net](mailto:bfchief@brookings.net)

## **Education**

A man downs a six-pack of beer and gets in his car. While driving home, he swerves into an oncoming vehicle, killing his passengers. The man is later arrested and charged with involuntary manslaughter and driving while intoxicated. The same man allows his home wiring circuits to overload and the batteries in smoke detector go unchanged. A fire erupts burning his house down and killing his children. He is flooded with neighborly kindness and no legal action is taken against him.

How different are these two cases? In both, an individual is grossly negligent. When negligence on the road leads to death, he is arrested. When the same thing happens at home, he receives an outpouring of sympathy. Something is wrong with our attitudes about fire. And it is costing us dearly. Annually, an estimated 5,500 people die in fires, another 30,000 are injured. The total cost to the American public is estimated at nearly \$50 billion annually.

The Brookings Fire Department, along with the rest of America's fire departments, is improving response time's everyday. But for all of that our fire death rate is worse than in Western Europe or Asia. So what's the problem here? The answer can be summed up in one word: EDUCATION. We teach, every year during Fire Prevention month in October, how important knowing these steps for survival are and still lives are lost. So out of concern for your safety, we would like to join you at any time to teach these lifesaving measures to your group.

Fire safety is a life and death matter, and it's something people need to act on. We will be glad to come to your class, civic group, church or business to talk to you. Where your life or the lives of others are at stake, it's a crime just to do nothing. Remember that you're in charge. **Help us save lives, TODAY!**

The goal of our profession is to SAVE LIVES. We are ready and willing to educate you on how to stay alive when an emergency occurs. We train hard and educate ourselves because your life depends on it. But what happens before the Brookings Fire Department gets there? Do you know what to do? Your life also depends on you knowing how to survive when an emergency occurs.

Let us speak to your group or family about ways to keep everyone safe. Whether it is acquainting youngsters with firefighters and stop, drop and roll or teaching the adults how to react in an emergency, we will help. We will also be happy to let you tour our station and see what we do everyday! 🚒