

*Bring your extinguisher for a test or refill. Refreshments. Drawings.*

**By Jan Rahn**

*Managing Editor*

An educational adventure during Chamber's holiday open house next week will provide insight and training for all ages at the Grant Volunteer Fire Department from 5-7 p.m. A fire extinguisher specialist will test and refill extinguishers.

A fire prevention safety trailer is being brought from North Platte to provide simulation of what goes on inside a burning home.

The public is invited to stop by the fire department at 4th and Central to tour the exhibit, as well as check out rescue equipment such as a second jaws of life and equipment used in grain bin rescue, fire trucks, nozzles, breathing apparatus and ambulances belonging to the fire department.

The fire prevention safety trailer is an educational tool that addresses safety issues and hazards within a "burning home" that has a living room, kitchen and bedroom. Firefighters will be present to educate children and adults on overall safety.

The simulation trailer coming from North Platte was purchased with investment funds, some of which came from the Grant Volunteer Fire Department.

Refreshments will be served and drawings held in the meeting room.

**Consider becoming a member and serve the community as an EMT or firefighter**

"I would like to be a part of the ambulance crew, but I don't want to go to any fires," said one interested individual.

"I can't stand the sight of blood, no one is going to force me to ride the ambulance," said another interested individual.

Both of these people can have their preferences granted to them when they join the Grant Volunteer Fire Department," said Fire Chief Don Softley.

"No one is forced to ride the ambulance, no one is forced to fight fires," said Softley—if a person wants to strictly be a part of the ambulance side of the fire department, they can. If they strictly want to respond to fire calls, they can.

The department is looking for members of the community who are interested in contributing to the heroic measures administered by those who serve as firefighters, EMTs or storm watchers.

According to Fire Chief Don Softley, the department is seeking additional personnel, and those individuals will be valuable to its function even if they are interested in only one aspect of what the volunteer fire department provides to the communities it serves.

"Become a part of the organization," said Softley, explaining that individuals who respond when summoned to help someone in need can greatly contribute even if they choose to be on only

one of the teams the department provides in emergency situations.

If a new male/female member desires to contribute to all areas of emergency response—that's even better.

There is always a place in the department for those willing to serve with whatever talents they possess.

Dedicated personnel see to the safety and well-being of area residents through the act of rescue—whether it's being involved in extinguishing a fire, providing emergency medical care, or responding to accident-related occurrences which have ranged from vehicle and grain-bin extrication to deer rescue.

The Grant Volunteer Fire Department is a vital part of the community, and additional personnel will assure the department continues to function with its current high-level reputation.