

# JOINT PRESS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[www.countrysidefire.com](http://www.countrysidefire.com)

[www.libertyville.com/81/Fire-Department](http://www.libertyville.com/81/Fire-Department)

*Via E-Mail*

February 1, 2019

For More Information: **Jeff Steingart, Fire Chief**  
Phone: (847) 367-5511      Cell: 847-421-6365  
**e-mail: [jsteingart@countrysidefire.com](mailto:jsteingart@countrysidefire.com)**  
Countryside Fire Protection District  
600 N. Deerpath Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Rich Carani, Fire Chief  
Phone: (847) 362-5664      Cell: 847- 344-1474  
**e-mail: [rcarani@libertyville.com](mailto:rcarani@libertyville.com)**  
Libertyville Fire Department  
1551 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville, IL 60048

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## Countryside Fire District & Libertyville Fire Department Teamed Up to Prep & Respond During Polar Vortex

In the early stages of planning for the worst and hoping for the best during the polar vortex, the Countryside Fire Protection District and Libertyville Fire Department quickly teamed up to staff a unit with one extra firefighter/paramedic from each agency from 7 AM to 7 PM Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to compliment the already on-duty crews and keep ambulances and fire trucks available for true emergencies. The crew used one of Countryside's pick-up trucks and equipped it with gas leak detectors, tools, a ladder, portable heater, a battery jump pack, shovels, medical and other gear.

Libertyville and Countryside are dispatched from the same consolidated 911 center, so deploying the unit was easily coordinated and tracked.

During the period from Tuesday morning through Thursday evening CFPD & LFD responded to a total of 94 incidents; 36 in Libertyville and 58 in Countryside's District. The co-staffed unit responded to 35 of those incidents; assisting ambulance calls to with patient care and movement, aided a few stranded motorists, dug out some fire hydrants, handled gas and water leaks, fire alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, replacing malfunctioning smoke detectors and aided at vehicle crashes and other incidents.

Chiefs Steingart and Carani recognized the need to have additional personnel available during this time of potential higher risks during the cold and related incidents. It was a perfect opportunity to share resources cost effectively. Fortunately, there were no major fire incidents.

First responders expect as the days ahead warm up, they will be faced with water leaks that will start showing themselves. Residents and businesses are reminded that water leaks present their own hazards such as electrical problems, saturated drywall collapsing and snuffing out pilot lights. Extreme caution should be exercised if a torch is being used to thaw or repair pipes. Also be mindful of falling icicles from buildings.

Be sure you have working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms in your home.

Should you require emergency assistance, Call 911.

For more information visit: [www.countrysidefire.com](http://www.countrysidefire.com)      [www.libertyville.com/81/Fire-Department](http://www.libertyville.com/81/Fire-Department)      [Ready Illinois](#)

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*The Countryside Fire Protection District is an Internationally Accredited Agency by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and provides service to a 24 square mile district that includes Vernon Hills, Hawthorn Woods, Long Grove, Kildeer, Indian Creek and Unincorporated areas of Lake County*

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*The Libertyville Fire Department Serves 31.6 square miles that includes the Village of Libertyville, the Libertyville Fire Protection District and a portion of the Rockland Fire Protection District including the Villages of Green Oaks, Mattawa and Unincorporated areas of Lake County.*