

Benefiting Harris Township residents through the Clay Fire Territory

By Jeff Broadwick (board member) and Ken Lindsay (trustee)
How do you provide fire protection without widespread access to fire hydrants?

Very well thank you, and getting even better according to the experts. Your fire department is working hard to keep you safe. Recent improvements include a new well and a discount on a solution to the most common cause of residential fires.

Providing fire protection is the most important role of an Indiana township. There are 13 townships in St. Joseph County, including Harris Township, whose residents have a great fire department named the Clay Fire Territory (CFT). A few years ago, Harris joined with two other townships (Clay and German), Roseland and Indian Village in the Clay Fire Territory. That's why you see the Clay Fire sign outside the two fire stations in Harris Township - one at Elm Road and State Road 23 and the other at Bittersweet and Anderson roads. Harris Board Member Jeff Broadwick and Trustee Ken Lindsay sit on CFT's five-member oversight board.

CFT recently earned a stellar rating, which might lower your home insurance premiums. This is a tribute to the hardworking men and women of the fire department. For more information, see the CFT website (<http://www.clayfd.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/152>).

Just recently, a new fire well was completed in the downtown Granger area, near Big C Lumber.

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In the past few years, CFT got a great deal on a gently used ladder truck, then upgraded and standardized on fire engines, which can bring 1,500 gallons of water to a fire, in addition to the numerous tankers which can bring additional water. These improvements and the new well are part of CFT's water strategy, which addresses the lack of fire hydrants and city water sources, a unique challenge for such a populated area.

Harris and Clay townships advocated for additional new fire hydrants installed along Gumwood Road by the county and City of Mishawaka. That line was later extended through Harris Township, east along Brick Road, then south on Fir Road. The hydrants have since been used to battle a house fire in the Waterford Green subdivision.

CFT provides fire prevention education, distributes smoke detectors, sells reflective address signs so your house is more visible in an emergency, and can help you properly install a child's car seat. And now, discounts have been arranged on proven, easy to install stove-top fire suppression devices. Ever left a pot on the stove? It is a common occurrence and the leading source of home fires and injuries. Units are available for as little as \$35.

Go to clayfd.com or call (574) 272-2144 for more information.



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