

# THE FIREHOUSE SCENE



is a publication of the

*Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District*

April 2020

*Fire Chief Don Shoevlin*

*Editor Sheryl Drost*



*Photos by Sheryl Drost*



**FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK**  
BY FIRE CHIEF DON SHOEVLIN

As the World Turns.

Spring has come in like a roaring lion, but as it has, it is different than what we are used to. Who would have ever thought as spring arrived that we would be fighting a virus of this magnitude? Covid-19/ Coronavirus, a name that is likely going to be hard to forget. A name as well as the effect that will be written in history books - the personal effect, the effect on businesses and the effect on first responders. It has challenged us on creativity to response, treatment, and disinfecting.

I am very proud to report however, our members have done an outstanding job. We have adapted to new guidelines. Our members have been creative in protection and our patient care has not suffered at all. It has been busy, not only with calls, but also with daily briefings of information obtained and development of better methods to protect everyone from this virus.

We continue looking at the what ifs and how to move forward should they come about. I commend our management team in their diligence to see we protect our membership as best as possible from this virus. It is my intent to see we do not take short cuts from protecting our members and their families.

On a positive note we are still trying to get out to assist in some birthday drive by parties. I like to think of it as partying at a distance. It is just something little to do the help the kids celebrate.

Many events locally, statewide, and nationally have been canceled. Unfortunately, our annual Spring Dinner was one of them. We have postponed it and are uncertain as of now, when it may be rescheduled.

Another item affected is the burning of yard waste, leaves, and agriculture vegetation. The Village of Roscoe, Village of Machesney Park and the Village of Rockton have all banned this burning temporarily. Recreational fires are still permitted in a contained fire pit. I urge you to contact them directly should you have any questions.

April 4th 2020 was our 80th anniversary. It is my intention over the remainder of 2020, to relive some history by sharing information not only here in our newsletters, but on our Facebook page. I have asked for articles as mine to be on duty, pride, and tradition of our fire protection district. My article this month fell a little short with this pandemic, however our members have a duty to act, and I can assure they are. We are living up to the tradition set by those before us and doing it proudly, virus or no virus. We are working for you, so please stay home for us.

Your continuous and generous support does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me, this is your fire department. Don't forget to keep up on the progress of your fire department by visiting our website. [www.harlemroscoefire.com](http://www.harlemroscoefire.com), and our Facebook page. Go ahead and friend us or why not like and follow us. It remains an honor to me to represent this fire department, the members and our communities locally and throughout the state.

We will all get through this together, Be safe,





**GROWING UP  
IN THE FIRE SERVICE**  
BY DEPUTY CHIEF JOHN BERGERON

I began my journey in the fire service at the age of 16. I was a Junior at Hononegah High School and was approached by a friend who told me that Harlem-Roscoe Fire was holding a cadet class and had asked if I would be interested in joining. Having an older brother already on the department, it was something that intrigued me as I was starting to map out what I wanted to do in the future.

The fire station in which I grew up in is currently the Fire House Pub. It is ironic that 39 years after joining, I can lay out that fire station better than any of the three current ones we have prior to their renovations.

You could always tell when there was a fire as the siren would be the notification of a call. Once you arrived at the station, there was a chalkboard inside the door where the address of the call would be written. There were several "fire phones" that were placed in personnel homes that were able to take the calls and dispatch them from a remote radio, which was also located in the homes. Those days are gone as we now have in-house dispatching.

There have been so many changes in the fire service throughout the years. From the early riding on the tail boards with a "seatbelt" that was attached to a bar you held onto - and prayed you didn't fall off, and the other one

around your waist. That is if you remembered to put one on back then. The SCBA (Air Pack) have also come a long way. From a single hose attached to the mask and threaded into the regulator on the air pack. It was easy to perform maintenance on it as there was only a spring and a rubber diaphragm in the regulator. Today's air packs are much more sophisticated with built in safety alerts.

Probably one of the biggest and probably one of the best is the way EMS has evolved since the 1980's. Technology has come a long way in EMS from then. I obtained my EMT-A in 1984 and in 1988 obtained my EMT-P. I think back then the class was an 8-month class, whereas today the hours and subject material goes far beyond what was required back then.



From the Emergency 51 white boxes that were used to call the hospitals from inside the residences to get orders for patient care. (If you wanted to start a IV back then, you actually had to get an order from the hospital) Today there is standing medical orders in which we no longer need to speak to a doctor or nurse to treat patients.



When responding to EMS calls, anything that wasn't tied down was placed on the gurney and taken into the house, as you didn't know what may be needed for that call. From the medication and airway boxes, suction unit, white box, phone coupler, clipboard, oxygen bag, BP Cuff and stethoscope. I am sure I am missing a few more items!



While the time has certainly went by fast and it has been great to be a part of watching the department evolve to where it is today, sometime I wish that time stood still.

## CAR FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to a report of a car on fire on Rockton Rd. on April 7th. First in units found a car with the engine area on fire. The fire was quickly extinguished. The driver was safely outside when units arrived.

*Front page photo is also from this fire.*



## VAN FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to a report of a van on fire on McDonald Rd. and Hwy 251 frontage road on April 2nd. First in firefighters reported the fire had been extinguished with fire extinguishers.



Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, Harlem-Roscoe Fire has made the difficult decision to “postpone” our Annual Spring Dinner that was scheduled for April 18th, 2020.



## *Celebrating 80 Years Stations*

In 80 years, the fire district went from a two-door fire station to three, staffed fire stations, plus a vision for a possible need of a fourth. Keeping trucks out of the elements and having a place to work on them has always been the priority. As the department and communities grew, so did the need for more room for training, meetings, and maintenance on trucks along with the living and sleeping quarters. This month we look at the original fire station as well as the three current stations.



*10760 Main St. in Roscoe was home to the original Station One*

Next month's Issue - *Fire Apparatus*



*10544 Main St. Roscoe - Fire Station One*



*825 Ralston Rd. Machesney Park - Fire Station Two*



*13974 Willowbrook Rd. - Fire Station Three*



## OLD STATION ONE

@ The HRFPD 75th Anniversary Book

In the newly formed fire district in 1940, the first fire station was located at 10670 Main Street in Roscoe, Illinois. Roscoe residents, Fred and Cornelia Day, sold a strip of property to the fire district for \$1.00 on October 8, 1940. Then in 1946, Bert Lamont donated more land of the surrounding lot, increasing the size of the lot the district owned. The combined lots had a 72 foot by 82 foot two-bay, garage type building on it that already had been used to store fire equipment.

Before Highway 251 was built on the west side of town, the old Highway 51 was Main Street. Cars and trucks would come through town fairly fast. There were times that the firefighters had to put out stop signs in the street to stop traffic in order to get the trucks out of the station safely.

The \$74,000 bond issue voted on in May of 1958 gave the district \$33,500 to remodel and add an addition to the original fire station. The new portion of the firehouse was 74 feet by 56 feet including a 36 foot apparatus floor with two bay doors. The north 20 feet of the building contained a training and meeting room, an office, kitchen, shower, and bathrooms. Fire Chief Cobby Rogers said the station also had an indoor water storage tank and a well and pump installed. He said, "This would insure an adequate supply of water for rural fires or in the village in the event of the failure of the water system."

An additional garage area was added in the back, but by the 1990s, the two-door building would become crammed with three rows of trucks. Most of the time, maintenance on the trucks had to be done outside. It became obvious that a larger station was needed. After much planning and searching, the current Fire Station One was moved one block to the south. The old fire station at 10670 Main Street was sold and became home to the Firehouse Pub.



Headquarters of the Harlem-Roscoe volunteer fire department is this small station in Roscoe. If a \$74,000 bond issue is approved Saturday, a new, larger station will be built and two new trucks purchased. Voting will be at the fire station, with polls open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.





## CURRENT STATION ONE

@ The HRFPD 75th Anniversary Book

The current Station One location was purposely kept in the middle of the fire district at 10544 Main Street, Roscoe IL 61073. The station also includes the administration offices for the fire district and equipment for response. Firefighters took possession in March of 1994.

The \$900,000 construction project included a 60 foot by 80 foot addition at the rear of the existing facility. The district was able to finance the new station without going to taxpayers for money. It had six larger bays with drive through repair facilities, a cascade room, dispatch center, kitchen, and training room for fifty people, laundry room, four restrooms, shower facilities, and a lounge.

In 2005, an addition to the west end of the station was completed with two maintenance bays and a maintenance office. A larger lounge was also added and sleeping quarters made out of the old lounge.

By 2012, the district had once again outgrown the existing building. A \$4.1 million construction project was started in 2013. The additions added bunk rooms, a larger dispatch room, trustee conference room, Battalion Chiefs' offices, and larger offices for the Fire Prevention Bureau. The existing building was remodeled to accommodate administrative offices, Chaplains office, training room, gear room, kitchen and living area for firefighters, laundry room, public bathrooms and firefighter's showers. There was also a new generator installed which can now power the entire station. This would allow the use of the building in the event of a disaster. The apparatus floor was updated with an epoxy which is to help prevent slips and falls. The mechanicals were all updated. With proper foresight and planning this was all completed without having to go to the taxpayers for money.



1994



2005



2013



2014



## STATION TWO

@ The HRFPD 75th Anniversary Book

The original Station Two was 17,800 square feet and was built in 1978. It was located at 825 Ralston Road, Machesney Park, Illinois 61115. Harlem Township also invested money in the station to see that the station exterior was brick.

The station was built on land sold to the fire district for \$1.00 by Winnebago County. A second lot was bought through eminent domain. A bank note was taken out for \$85,000 to build the station. The station included four bays, an office, and two restrooms. The station also had a portable seven kilowatt backup generator, an air cascade system, and a hose washer.

The station was remodeled in 2002. The new addition added a kitchen, offices, meeting room, bunk room, laundry room, mechanical room, more rest rooms, a radio room and a lounge/exercise room to the existing fire apparatus bay. An automated exhaust system was also added. In 2010, some inside remodeling was done that moved the radio room and officer's room closer to the bay and added individual bunk rooms. Station Two had the perfect setup for a car wash and many were held for fundraisers or benefits.

In 2016 we began the process to move forward with needed expansion and updates to Stations Two and Three as we were outgrowing them. The update to Station Two included expanding the footprint by 3000 square feet. This addition allowed us to add storage rooms, mechanical room, firefighter gear room, shower rooms and bunk rooms. At the same time we remodeled the existing station to become functional with a kitchen, small classroom for members to study, offices, and report communication room. All of the buildings were updated along with connecting to public sewer. It was a much needed and will serve our district for many years to come as we continue to grow.

1979



1990



2001



2019





# STATION THREE

@ The HRFPD 75th Anniversary Book

Station Three was built on a five acre lot donated by AJ and Ruth Dwyer and family at 13974 Willowbrook Road in South Beloit, Illinois 61073. (The land was later annexed in to Roscoe.)

The newly constructed station went “on line” on September 12, 1991. The Dwyer family was given the honor of cutting the ribbon, officially opening the station on September 28, 1991. Due to the foresight and planning of the Trustees, the \$270,000 building was completely debt free.

It was a two-bay drive through building with a radio room, office, training room, restrooms, and a backup generator. Two deep wells were dug to provide water. The bay could hold four vehicles, but originally housed two engines and a grass rig.

On October 8, 2003, the department broke ground behind Station Three on a training burn tower. And On September 18, 2004, it was dedicated ‘The Oscar Presley Training Facility.’

In 2006, an addition to the station tripled the size of the original station and added much needed training space and two more apparatus bays. Individual bunk rooms were added in 2013.

On May 22, 2011, Station Three was struck by an EF1 Tornado. The firefighters that were at the station at the time saw a small tornado heading right at the station. As they ran to an inner room, they said the sound was like a train, and they could hear the doors blow off. They also saw ceiling tiles above their heads in the hallway lift. Luckily no one was hurt. Doors had blown off, several trees and all three flagpoles were on the ground, there was damage to the side wall of the station.

In 2016, updates to Station Three were started. The footprint was expanded by 3200 square feet. The addition was solely to add a public entrance, class room and public bathrooms. With Station Three being our training facility, the need existed for a classroom and bathrooms. It is available for meetings by local organizations and it’s where we teach public CPR and hold large classes for firefighting and EMS training. Along with the project, the existing station was also remodeled to allow for sleeping rooms, and living area for the firefighters, All the mechanicals were updated and we were also able to connect to public sewer. It was a much needed improvement that will not only serve our district for years to come, but also provide a training facility to assure our members receive the best training possible.



1991



2004

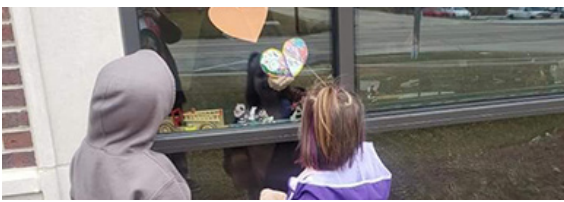


2006



2019







## FIREFIGHTING TOOLS

BY CAPT. MIKE HUFFMAN

### The Air Chisel

Over the years, emergency responders have become less and less familiar with the abilities of a rescue-quality air chisel—and what it means to be a proficient operator of one. Although various training classes do commit to instructing students in the proper use of hand tools, they often quickly advance to hydraulic tool usage. Further, there seems to be an over-abundance of hydraulic tools in most jurisdictions these days.

Even remote rural areas often have two or three sets of hydraulic tools available to them within minutes. However, there's a time and a place for hand tools, and I think it's important that we have a solid understanding of how to use them, particularly hand tools like the air chisel. But before we delve into that, let's first look at the factors that have contributed to first responders' decreasing use of the air chisel over the years.

Some departments indicate that they're not routinely deploying their air chisels during emergencies. And an overwhelming response as to why they're not deployed centers around the need to assemble multiple components prior to use. I'm a firm believer that tools should be stored as conveniently as possible to promote their quick deployment and potential usage.

Air chisels may have one of two air sources (limited, such as air cylinders, or unlimited, such as larger capacity cylinders or compressors). Regardless of the type of source, the air chisel should be stored in a manner where it can be deployed quickly. Dedicate an SCBA cylinder for air chisel operations and store it assembled. With unlimited sources, have the air chisel connected to the hose reel.

Another common problem that some firefighters attribute to air chisel deployment: the selection of the appropriate bit. In a standard kit, there may be as many as 10–15 different types of bits with varying degrees of working and retention ends and shank lengths. Although each bit has a purpose, an experienced operator can use one particular bit for almost any extrication tactic. The bit should have a long shank for reach and better control, as well as a turn-type retainer end that allows the bit to rotate 360 degrees to allow for convenient positioning of the air chisel body. The Kwik Cutter working end provides versatility to cut sheet metal, posts, multiple layers of metal, door hinges, etc., by simply changing operating pressures.

Air chisel use can be compared to SCBA use. There are a number of factors that lead to limitations of the air supply, including the condition of the tool, the cylinder pressure prior to use, and the training and experience of the responder. A responder who is well trained and experienced using a well-maintained air chisel can get much more use out of an air source than someone who isn't; they can also accomplish the tactics much faster. Routine training with the air chisel will produce quick results with even small air sources.

Lastly, some people seem to believe that the air chisel is too loud and may cause communication problems, increased mental stress on the patient and responders, and potentially even physical harm. Although the chisel can be louder than some tools, when compared to certain operations, it's actually not much louder. There are times—like when running high pressures against hard components—when it may be louder than most tools; however, when supporting hydraulic tools and mostly cutting sheet metal, it's actually equal to or quieter than other tools.

### Summary

An air chisel is a very effective tool when a trained responder understands its potential. For a relatively low cost, it's a versatile tool that can supplement hydraulic tools and assist with more proficient completion of tactics.



Ajax Air Chisel

## Birthdays

### April 2020

- Nate Sarver 3rd
- Chris Witcik 7th
- Ron Canode 8th
- Colleen Bloyer 10th
- Tom Vojtech 14th
- Jalen Johann 20th
- Aaron Morley 22nd
- Ryan Sarver 25th
- Cecelia Ster 29th



### May 2020

- Christian Bush 3rd
- Marcia Soppe 11th
- Rob Lukowski 23rd
- Jordan Stark 31st

## The Firehouse Scene

The Firehouse Scene is a monthly newsletter produced by the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Prot. Dist. #1

Fire Chief - Don Shovelin  
Editor & Layout - Sheryl Drost

The Firehouse Scene is available at Station One - 10544 Main Street in Roscoe and on the department's website after the second Sunday each month: You can now sign up on the home page of our website to receive the newsletter by email. [www.harlemroscoefire.com](http://www.harlemroscoefire.com)  
E-mail submissions to Sheryl: [hrrfidsdrost@gmail.com](mailto:hrrfidsdrost@gmail.com)



Please join us for the "Ignite our Youth's Future" Golf Fundraiser for the Harlem-Roscoe Firefighter's Educational Grant. The grant is awarded annually to in-district schools to assist students in their educational needs in the 21st century.

-  Friday, June 26, 2020
-  Atwood Golf Course
-  8:00 a.m. Shotgun start (Registration starts at 7:00 a.m.)
-  Register Online: [WWW.HARLEMROSCOEGOLF.COM](http://WWW.HARLEMROSCOEGOLF.COM)
-  \$120/golfer (\$480/foursome)   

What's Included?

- **18 holes of golf with cart**
- **Lunch at the Turn**
- **An "all-inclusive" steak dinner at pavilion**  
(Free alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks at dinner!)
- **A gift certificate for a free future round of golf, cart included, at any of the Winnebago County golf courses!**

What Can You Win?

- Longest Drive, Longest Putt, and Closest to the Pin winners will be awarded a TV or Grill.
- Putting contest winner will be awarded a Grill
- Door prizes, raffle baskets, and 50/50 golf ball drop!

50/50 Golf Ball Drop Raffle



Golf balls will be dropped onto a green at Atwood Golf Course from our aerial truck's ladder on the day of the play day. If your ball lands in the hole you win! 3,000 balls are available, so the raffle prize could be very significant!!!

*\$5 per ball or \$20 for 5 balls*

Purchase Online at [www.harlemroscoegolf.com](http://www.harlemroscoegolf.com)

Do not need to be present to win. Winner will be notified.

Don't golf, but would like to support our Educational Grant?  
Sponsorship and donations are also accepted.!