

# THE FIREHOUSE SCENE



is a publication of the  
*Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District*

November 2020

*Fire Chief Don Shoevlin*

*Editor Sheryl Drost*



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

October was the month of fire prevention, ghosts, and goblins. It was different as we were not out and about as we would have liked. However, we continued to reach out virtually over social media. The men and woman along with the coordination of our Fire Prevention Bureau did a tremendous job. The comments received is an indication that it was successful.

Training is the backbone to prepare us for what we do. We continue to train weekly and virtually and have had members able to complete courses with the Fire Marshal's office. Congratulations to the following members for successfully completing requirements needed to receive state certifications; Lt. Sam McNames, Lt. Kyle Swanson, FF/Medic Steve Rosander, FF/EMT Gus Larson, FF/EMT Joe Koeninger, FF/ EMT Tyler FF/EMT Joe Koeninger, FF/EMT Tyler Young, and FF Travis Johnson.

To our veterans and present military personnel, today and every day I thank you for your service to our country. If it were not for your efforts and sacrifices, would we have the freedom, we all enjoy today.

November, the month of Thanksgiving and the preparation for the holiday season. We will be hosting the annual Senior Thanksgiving Dinner with the Roscoe Lions Club on Thursday November 19th from 11:00 until 2:00. It will be different as it will be a drive through to pick up a meal to take home to eat. A flyer can be found on page 11.

Us, like all of you, continue to adapt to the ever-changing environment and guidelines we have been experiencing over the past 8 months. We are doing our part to protect our personnel, their families, and you. Masks seem to have become a way of life, especially in what we do. They are required in all the stations and on all calls. The firefighters, medics, and EMT's are diligently disinfecting the buildings, equipment, and apparatus to limit any cross contamination not only for themselves, but those we serve. Because of the nature and uncertainty of what we do, we will always error on the side of caution with assertive actions. As we enter the holiday season and sit down with family or friends this Thanksgiving Day, take time to appreciate the importance of them. Focus on the numerous things we do have, the hope and opportunities we can have for the future. There are

many less fortunate out there than last year and let us keep them in our hearts. In our eyes at times, it may not always look inviting or good, however there is no other place where we can be free and have the opportunities that we do. It is up to us, what we do with those opportunities. Be safe for all, wear that mask, social distance, and wash your hands. Together we can all make a difference. I wish everyone in our communities, our firefighters, and their families:



*Chief Don Shoevlin*

**CHIEF SHOEVLIN SWORN IN AS IFCA PRESIDENT**

IL State Fire Marshal Matt Perez swore in Harlem-Roscoe Fire Chief Don Shoevlin as President of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association on Oct. 20th in Springfield, IL.

HRFD Fire Chief Don Shoevlin responds, "Thank you everyone for your words of encouragement, and congratulations. I am honored and humbled to have been elected to serve as the President of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association for the next 12 months while being the Chief of Harlem Roscoe Fire Department. The support from my district board, our members, the community and my peers throughout the state have been overwhelming. I will continue in serving both HRFD and the IFCA proudly with honor and integrity."





## TRAINING MINUTES

BY DIVISION CHIEF TOM AAKER

What a weird holiday this year. Halloween was nothing but surprising. Known for its spooky themes and kids out at night walking up to the spooky scary houses for treats. Not in 2020. No sir! Why would this be any different than anything else this year. You want candy? They said go out during daylight hours, but nothing is really too scary in the middle of the day. You don't even get to see the people this year giving you candy. They kept it out on tables or shot it out into the yard or sent it down a tube from their upstairs bedroom. Then again, 2019 not much different with 12 + inches of snow on the ground. So was Halloween really that different this year?

Training in the fire service is really a lot like those Halloween nights (or days?). We are never quite sure what the scenario is going to be when we get the call. So, we have to train as if it's the real thing as closely as possible. We throw curve balls into the mix. We try and think of different scenarios and how we would handle them. A lot of firefighting and EMS is thinking on your feet, changing your plan every minute, and split second decisions. However, no candy at the end.... Been trying to change that for a while now with no luck.

September into October we completed our yearly Multi Company Operations drills. This is where we mimic a fire at different types of residences. Follow our "normal" operations. When the drill is complete, we review the good and the bad then run the drill again with people in different positions. The point of the drill is muscle memory. The goal is for people to practice the same jobs over and over again so that when their adrenaline is going and things are hectic at a real scene, their training kicks in and we are successful at completions or the operation. Like any training we try to throw in a few "hiccups" to keep our firefighters on their toes but also teach them to think rather than just muddle through the same old scenario.

We also completed another annual drill focused on the use of the SCBA in tight areas. This is a tough challenge for our firefighters but its goal is to keep them comfortable in the SCBA so if they are put into an unfortunate situation where they have to crawl their way out of a bad situation, they have some muscle memory to back them up. The firefighters must crawl through a series of obstacles while blind-folded. This teaches them to feel around their environment, search for different obstacles, and overcome them. This also helps them with air management. They know how far they can go, or how many obstacles they can get through before they start to get low, or even before they run out of air. This drill was created to keep the firefighters proficient in their SCBA's but also to help them to conserve their air when put into a hostile environment they must get out of on their own.

We have been sticking to the basics this Quarter, still working within the COVID guidelines and still training so we are ready for the next call. We have definitely faced some challenges over the last few months but we have overcome those challenges, made changes to keep safe, and embraced change knowing that it's for the greater good of our members. We need to stay healthy so we can be there for you when you need us to help you through tough times. Lots of changes this year, lots of changes these last few months.

Once again, best advise I can give going forward. Follow the guidelines that the experts have given us, wash your hands often, and practice good hygiene. Stay safe during the upcoming holidays!



## Accidents Involving Deer

According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, It's deer mating season or "rut" and the deer are on the move. If you encounter one on the road you naturally want to swerve out of the way but in doing so, drivers may lose control of the car or cause a more severe accident. Don't Veer For the Deer!"

According to the Insurance Information Institute, 1.6 million deer-vehicle collisions occur each year, resulting in 200 fatalities, tens of thousands of injuries and over \$3.6 billion in vehicle damage. Being prepared can help prevent you from adding to these statistics.

- Be aware of your surroundings and pay attention. First, look for the road signs. The yellow diamonds with the deer on it are placed in high-traffic areas for deer.
- Scan the sides of the road. You may spot a deer because their eyes will brightly reflect a car's headlights.
- Watch for the rest of the gang. Deer are pack animals, and rarely travel alone. If a deer crosses in front of you, chances are there are more nearby. Slow down and keep an eye out for more deer darting across the road.
- Timing is everything. From sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after sunrise are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions; periods when your vision is most compromised.
- To add to their terrible timing, deer are on the move during mating season (between October and January)
- Wear your seat belt. It may not prevent a collision, but if the inevitable happens a seat belt can reduce injuries. This is especially true if you lose control and collide with something bigger, and more stationary than a deer.
- Stay the course. If you see a deer, brake firmly and calmly, and stay in your lane. Swerving could make you lose control of your vehicle and turn a bad situation much worse. Not to mention, deer are unpredictable, and you could swerve directly into their changed path.



## SMOKE INVESTIGATION

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to a report of smoke inside the Kohls Department Store on Hwy 251 on Oct. 14. Firefighters searched the store and believe the smell might have come from a roof top heating unit.



## GRASS FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to Skyview Trail around 1:11am on Oct. 18th for a report from a resident that there was a fire in his neighbor's back yard.

Seems embers from a burn pile in the neighbor's yard had started the grass on fire. Luckily no structures were on fire.





# MULTI VEHICLE ACCIDENT

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to the intersection of Bridge St. and Hwy 251 for a multi-vehicle accident on Oct. 28th at 7:42pm.

A south bound semi had struck three vehicles before overturning and blocking the northbound lanes of the highway. The northbound lanes of Hwy 251 were closed for several hours while the debris in the roadway was cleaned up. The semi trailer's cargo was catalogs.

Amazingly, no one was transported to the hospital.





# HOUSE FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters were dispatched to a possible house fire on Louella Dr. in Roscoe on Nov. 1st at 11:35am. A MABAS 12 to the box alarm was pulled bringing in neighboring fire departments after first in units reported smoke coming from the eaves and roof.

Crews made an aggressive attack inside around the fireplace and fire was found in the chimney chase outside as well. The chase, walls and ceilings were overhauled for fire extension. The residents were home at the time, but safely got outside. A big thanks to the neighboring fire departments that assisted









**ACCIDENTS** PHOTOS BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHERYL DROST AND DUTY OFFICERS



10/09/20 Hononegah Rd.



10/09/20 River View Trail

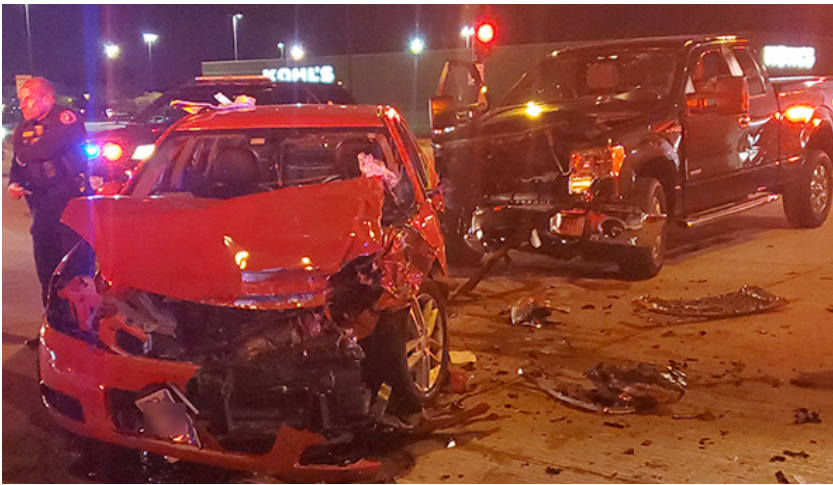


10/10/20 I-90



10/24/20 Forest Hills Rd.





10/20/20 173 & N. Alpine Rd.



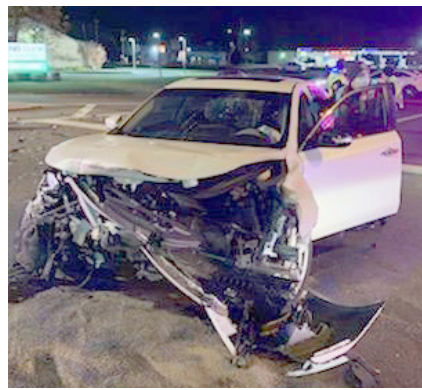
10/30/20 Forest Hills Rd.



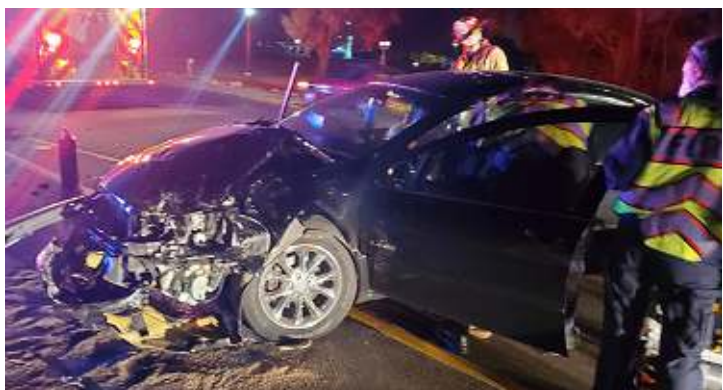
10/28/20 Hwy 173 and Burden Rd.



10/30/20 Hwy 251



10/30/20 Dorr Rd.



11/02/20 Hwy 251







**HISTORY OF THE HALLIGAN BAR  
SUBMITTED BY  
CAPT. TIM BERGERON**

One of the most versatile pieces of equipment used by the fire service today is the Halligan bar. This tool has a rich history surrounding it. To many, the tool has been considered one of the greatest advancements in the fire service. Any great fireman would tell you if there was one tool they could take to work it would be the Halligan.

But, why is that the case? And, where did it come from?



The Halligan was invented in the 1940's by Deputy Chief Hugh A. Halligan of FDNY.

Hugh A. Halligan was first appointed to the FDNY on June 16, 1916. He had worked countless jobs on some of FDNY's busiest engines and ladder trucks as a fireman and later as a captain. In this time, Chief Halligan worked with the Halligan bar's two predecessors – The Kelly tool and the Claw tool.

The Claw tool was considered to be one of the first forcible entry tools used by FDNY. This tool had been used on the job since the early 1920's and was difficult to use. As most had discovered through painful experience, the Claw Tool was heavy and the striking surface was off-centered, making it very dangerous for any firefighter holding it as it was driven into the door.

Then, a captain from Ladder Company 163, John Kelly, designed the next generation of forcible entry tool to be used by FDNY. Naturally, it was called the Kelly tool. This new tool did not have the large hook with the offset striking surface. The striking surface was inline with the entire bar and had a 90° flat surface to the end.

The Kelly tool had a couple of downfalls; like the Claw tool it too was welded and still too heavy. And, in those days, firefighters needed to bring both tools to the building due to their specific advantages. Chief Halligan wanted to design a tool that could be held in one hand; one that would not chip or break at a critical moment; a tool that would not fatigue a firefighter; and one that could be used with safety and full efficiency. After many hours of "trial and error" the Halligan bar was born.



The Halligan bar was made of cross-drop forged from one piece of No. 4140 (high carbon content) steel, weighed 8 ½ lbs. Comprised of an adz, pick, and fork, the Halligan would prove to be one of the greatest forcible entry tools ever made. The standard issue bar is approximately 30"

in length, with a 15/16" shaft shaped into a hexagon for grip. The fork is a minimum of 6" long taper into two well beveled tines. Spacing between the tines allows for a gas valve to be shut off. The adz has a gentle curve for additional leverage, with a beveled end. In addition to being used to break something, the pick and adz – only when properly used – provide protection to the arms, hands, and body of the holder during forcible entry operations.

As soon as the tool went on the market it was a huge success. The Boston Fire Department was one of the first to place the Halligan bar on every ladder company in their department.

Now...one would naturally think FDNY had been the first to have them issued to their ladder companies. Unfortunately, there was a small problem. It was determined by those in higher places – let's just say their favorite colors were white and gold – that there was a "conflict of interest" to have a member of the department selling tools or equipment back to the department in which they worked in. The department's hands were tied and the bars could not be purchased. However, the bars could be purchased by anyone other than the department itself. Ladder companies across the city began purchasing the Halligan bars with their own money. The first company in FDNY to receive one was Ladder Company 47. Coincidentally, they were the first due ladder to Chief Halligan's home in Parkchester, NY.



A married Halligan bar and flat-head axe. A Halligan bar and a flathead axe can be joined together (and partially interlocked, head-to-toe) to form what is known as a married set, or set of irons — a particularly useful combination.

They are standard equipment for fire departments from North America to New Zealand, making them possibly the most widely-deployed tool in fire fighting today.



The 2nd generation and later Halligan bars were printed on the forks with what looks like AM+D6. It is, however, believed to be AMDG, which is a Latin acronym for Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam or "for the greater glory of God." This Latin phrase was a favorite of St. Ignatius

of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus. Pope John Paul II routinely used it in his writings. He would print AMDG in the top left of every page he wrote.

Chief Halligan was a very religious man. It has been told that he would hand make a rosary for each new member coming into the FDNY. After this task became too overwhelming, it was thought that Chief Halligan turned his religious influences into his bars by having each one printed with AM+DG. This way he could spread the word to even more.

Folklore...wishful thinking...either way it's a great story. Only Hugh himself knows the true meaning behind this Hieroglyphics. Who cares...the bar speaks for itself!





Thursday  
Nov. 19, 2020  
11am-2pm



Annual

# Senior Turkey Dinner

Turkey, Dressing, Potatoes  
Vegetable & Dessert

Fire Sta#1- 10544 Main St. Roscoe

Drive Thru Pickup Only!  
(No phone orders)

*We will be posting a map on which way to enter the station parking lot to pick up your dinner and there will be plenty of signs to direct you.*

hAPPY BIRTHDAY



Nov. 3rd  
Joe Quast  
60th

## Birthdays

November 2020

- 1st Don Shoevlin
- 3rd Joe Quast 60th
- 6th Andrew Wiechman
- 10th Nate Noble
- 11th Kelly Green
- 14th Ken Kelley



December 2020

- 11th Harold Danger
- 12th John Hawkins
- 26th Patrick Trollop
- 26th Kyle Swanson

## The Firehouse Scene

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

Fire Chief - Don Shoevlin  
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:

**2021 Pocket Calendars are in!**

*Stop by the administration office at Station One to pick up your free calendar!*



# CHIMNEY FIRES

More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels.

Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently.

**Simple steps prior to the heating season will help reduce the possibility of a chimney fire in your home.**

**Maintenance** - Good maintenance is a very important step in preventing chimney fires!

- Have your chimney checked every year by a qualified chimney professional.
- Burn only well-seasoned hardwoods.
- Install a chimney cap.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector.
- Have your chimney sweep ensure that your chimney has an appropriate liner.
- Following a violent storm, earthquake, flood or lightning strike, have your chimney inspected for damage - inside and out.

**Prevention** - Remember prevention is your best defense against fire.

- If you have a wood or coal stove, be sure it is installed at least 36 inches away from the wall. Keep combustible materials well away from the stove and chimney connector. Place an approved stove board under the unit to protect the floor from heat and hot coals which might drop out.

***Be Prepared – Know what to do in case of fire.  
If you suspect a chimney fire,  
evacuate your home and call 9-1-1***



## FIRE EXTINGUISHER CLASS

Harlem-Roscoe's Fire Prevention Inspectors conducted a fire extinguisher course at Parker Hannifin in Machesney Park this month.

