

# THE FIREHOUSE SCENE



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

*October 2020*

*Fire Chief Don Shoevlin*

*Editor Sheryl Drost*



*Photo by Sheryl Drost*



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

October is Fire Prevention Month. Now throw in the pandemic we are all experiencing and mix it with the allergy, cold, and flu season. I do not know what this is called other than a hot mess as one of my Captains would say. Please be vigilant and do not let your guard down; wear a mask, social distance, and wash your hands. Continue to follow all guidance from IDPH, the CDC, and our local health departments. Following these simple steps can help us stop or minimize the spread of any of these and just maybe help us all to get back to what we call normal. I know, we are scratching at the bit to get back out to all the community events and visiting with everyone.

We have been adapting for six months to assure the protection of our members and their families. We have done that with fire prevention also so that we can still promote the importance of it. We are unable to hold our annual open houses but are still reaching out. Thanks to the hard-tireless work of our Fire Prevention Bureau and our Media Division, we have turned to the world of virtual messaging. Please watch our Facebook page and ask you children what they may have seen in school on prevention and safety. It is not happening every day in the schools as they plan it in their school day curriculum. We are still performing school fire drills at all the schools in our fire district.

Our personnel responded to 293 calls in the month of September. They continue to provide expedient professional service unselfishly that the communities deserve.

Congratulations to Shannon Burbach on his promotion to engineer, and Larry Sarver on becoming a new member of our Chaplain team. I am honored to have you both as members of HRFD.

On somewhat of a positive note, I have been in contact with the Lion's club as I would like to still be able to provide the annual Senior Turkey Dinner in November.

They agree with my desire. We know we will not be able to have a sit-down event at the fire station, so we are being creative (like a drive thru pick up) on how we may be able to do it. Watch for more information in the upcoming couple of weeks on our sign, our web page, and Facebook. If we can accomplish this, it will be done on Thursday November 19th.

Remember to turn your clocks back at 2:00 am on November 1st. Set your alarm if need be. Do not forget to check your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Check out our website [www.harlemroscoefire.com](http://www.harlemroscoefire.com) to keep up with the progress of the department and individuals, and the calls we might have been on. We have also been posting on Facebook more often. So don't be shy, become a friend. As always don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance. We could not do what we do without your continuous and generous support. It is deeply appreciated.

Stay safe,  
Chief Shoevlin



We are currently accepting applications for part-time EMS/Firefighters along with firefighters. Are you a caring individual looking for an opportunity to grow in the public safety world? Are you a person looking for challenges and working with a superb group of individuals? Watch our video on our Facebook page. If you are, then we are looking for you. Applications may be filled out online at our web site or picked up at Station 1 which is located at 10544 Main Street Roscoe Illinois 61073 (mask required). Any questions should be directed to the Chief or Deputy Chief of the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department.



**BEING A  
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER  
BY BC JOHN DONOVAN**

To be a firefighter it takes a lot of hard work, mental strength, total commitment, and especially a passion to help others. I have been asked if we just sleep, watch TV and eat until a call comes in; this is not the case. HRFD responds to over 3000+ calls per year which averages around 10-12 per day, sometimes more sometimes less.

When we are not running calls we have duties and daily trainings to complete. The first thing each morning by 7:00 am, the 4-Advanced Life Support ambulances are cleaned, inventoried, and sanitized to ensure that when that medical call comes in we are ready and prepared for anything. The department's 15 + apparatus are checked every week, tools powered up, pumps ran, and SCBA's checked. So when duty calls, we are ready.

There are day trainings every day with the shift crews to ensure that our knowledge and skills are kept in the forefront of our minds. These training could be anything from hands on engineering, ladder drills, webinars on the latest equipment and techniques, etc. Additionally, the whole department gets together every single Tuesday night for trainings on a larger scale such as extrication, interior firefighting, rescue, etc.

To be able to be on our fire department there are two State of Illinois certification that we are required to get and maintain; Basic Fire Technician and EMT-Basic. If you decide to be a Paramedic this takes over a year to obtain your license. This involves eight months of classes and over 500 hours of clinical time in the hospital and on an ambulance. Additionally you have to re-certify every 4 years. To do this you have to obtain 120 hours of CEU's (continuing education), skills validations, along with maintaining your ACLS (advanced cardiac life support), PALS (pediatric advanced life support), PHTLS (pre-hospital trauma life support) and CPR certifications.

As a firefighter you also have opportunity to branch off into specialty areas such as HazMat, Technical Rescue, Fire Investigation or Inspection just to name a few if you are



ambitious. We won't even go into if you have the drive and want to move up the ladder and be promoted to an officer, along with all of the above there are additional classes and trainings that you will be required to attend to learn leadership and management.

That would be a lot for a full-time paid career firefighter to manage and get through, but at our fire department and many more departments around the state and country, our core membership is VOLUNTEER!! Yes, that's right I said volunteer. What this means is that all of the training and classes that we attend, the tuition is fully paid for by the department, but we attend all of classes on our personal time. And in addition, we also do a lot for the community with fire prevention, CPR classes, parades, and other events. We do have some paid shifts to help supplement our coverage of the district, but our department was founded and grown by volunteers.

We all are also called POC (paid on call) which means we carry a pager and when our dispatcher tones out an incident day or night (fire, accident, medical, etc.) and you come to the station you are paid for showing up for that call. The majority of the members have a primary full-time job that they go to everyday; this is in addition to the responsibilities of being on the fire department.

I cannot count how many times in the last 20 yrs. that I have sat down for dinner, been at a neighbor's house, or been at home sleeping when the tones go off and it is "drop everything" and rush to the station. Our department (and many others) are and always will be built on the concept of being a volunteer.

If you remember at the beginning of this article I stated "a passion to help others", that is the core of our department. No one walks in our door and is brought on without that being the whole reason for becoming part of our family. Yes, there is a small compensation for the work we do, but the LARGER reward is not monetary or being a "hero", it is the fact that we are gaining the trust and respect of the community to help them when they are at their worst. And that will give you more personal reward than any other job you can do. That's right there is a true volunteer in the fire service. We need people that have that drive and desire to help others. If you have that desire, stop by and fill out an application, see what is all about. We will train you and make sure you are ready when the call comes in. It is hard work, but the return is worth it.

## SWEAR IN AND PINNING PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Harlem-Roscoe Fire conducted a Swear-in Ceremony on Sept. 28th. Firefighter Shannon Burbach was sworn in as an Engineer and Larry Sarver was sworn in as a Chaplain. Congratulations Shannon and Larry!

### ENGINEER SHANNON BURBACH

### CHAPLAIN LARRY SARVER



## 2020 GROUP PHOTO BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHERYL DROST



Front row l-r, Lt. Kyle Swanson, Lt. Sam McNames, Capt. Tim Bergeron, Battalion Chief Kevin Briggs, Battalion Chief John Donovan, Division Chief Tom Aaker, Deputy Chief John Bergeron, Fire Chief Don Shoevlin, Division Chief Jay Alms, Battalion Chief Patrick Trollop Capt. Mike Huffman, Lt. Jordan Stark, Lt. Ryan Sarver, Lt. Nate Sarver, Engineer Matt Bush, and Engineer Marty Green.

Second row l-r, CERT members Ed Gioja, Kelley Huddleston, and John Huddleston, Fire Prevention Ken Kelley and Ken Krause, Chaplains Paul Meyers, Tom Vojtech, Sue Null, Larry Sarver, Harold Danger, and Everett Peterson, Fire Prevention Jim Purpura, Bill Gindhart, and Jenny Anderson, CERT members Kevin Harvey, Kathi Marinelli, Michelle Kamholz, and Sean Mettille.

3rd row l-r, CER members Theresa Kinney and Karl Eisenbeitz, Cadet Lucas Burbach, Recruit Sam Scott, Recruit Aaron Morley, Cadet Alexander VanderHeyden, recruit Zak Anderson, recruit Hannah Benard, Cadet Julianna Carlon, EMS Kevin Raymer, EMS Alissa Neubauer, and EMS Brett Whiting.

4th row l-r, Firefighters Dave Leslie, Steve Rosander, Joe Koeninger, Gus Larson, Aaron Miller, Travis Johnson, Joe Quast, Tyler Young, John Hawkins, Rob Lukowski, Chris Witcik, Shannon Burbach, Alyssa Nicosia, Brandon Sherbon, Taylor Larson, Cecilia Ster, and Jalen Johann.

*Not pictured: Admin Assistant Colleen Bloyer, recruit Jared Christiansen, EMS Kimberly Delgado, FF Tyler Ebany, FF Adam Eich, Data Entry Kelly Green, FF Justin Harwood, FF David Hutson, FF Dylan Lackey, recruit Michael Mather, Mechanic Ryan Messinger, EMS John Morgan, FF Tim Schrader, FF Austin Schwarzbach, FF Mike Sherbon, Mechanic Mark Soppe, FF Jason Street, Mechanic James Taylor, EMS Pedro Villaseñor, Fire Prevention Allen Watts, FF Greg Wernick, Training Div data entry Melissa Whiting, FF Andrew Wiechman, recruit Zeb Wolfe.*

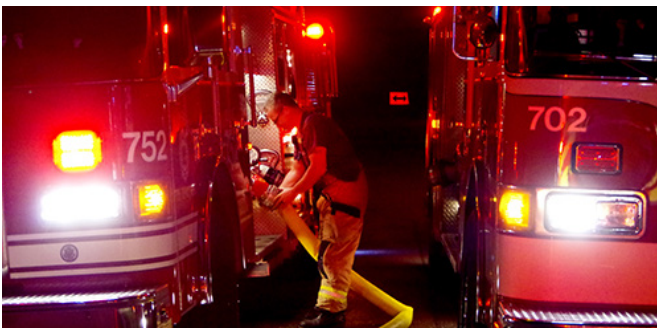
# GARAGE FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters responded to the area of North Second and Glen Forest for a report of a structure fire on Sept. 26th.

First in units reported a garage with the exterior wall on fire of a home on Glen Forest. The fire was quickly knocked down and the wall overhauled. No one was injured.

Seems embers from a bonfire were the culprit that started the fire. Check out our Facebook page for a first-in video clip of the fire.



## GARAGE FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters responded to report of a structure fire on Bayberry Dr. on Oct. 5th. First in units reported a detached garage was fully involved with fire and a MABAS Box 11 to the box alarm was pulled.

Firefighters fought the fire as well as protected neighboring structures. A portable folding tank was set up for water supply and water was shuttled in using tender trucks.

The garage and contents were destroyed and the home received heat damage to some siding. The cause is believed to be accidental.

A big thank you to responding MABAS departments for their assistance on scene as well as covering our stations.

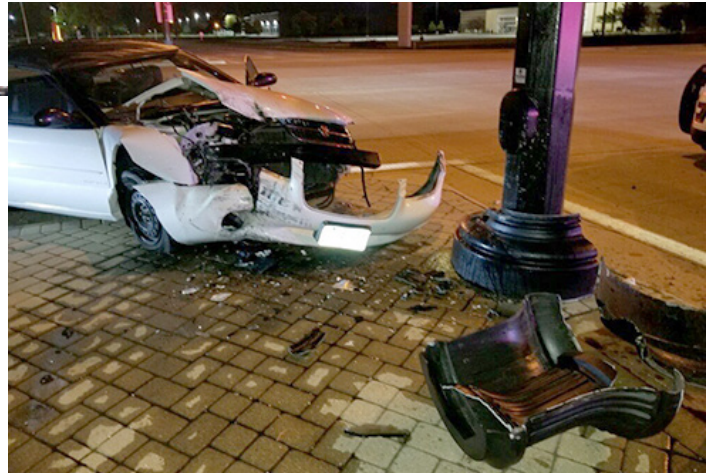




ACCIDENTS PHOTOS BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHERYL DROST AND DUTY OFFICERS



09/11/20 I-90



09/17/20 Orlando and West Lane Rd.



09/12/20 Orlando St.



09/18/20 Rock Rose Ct. and Hononegah Rd.



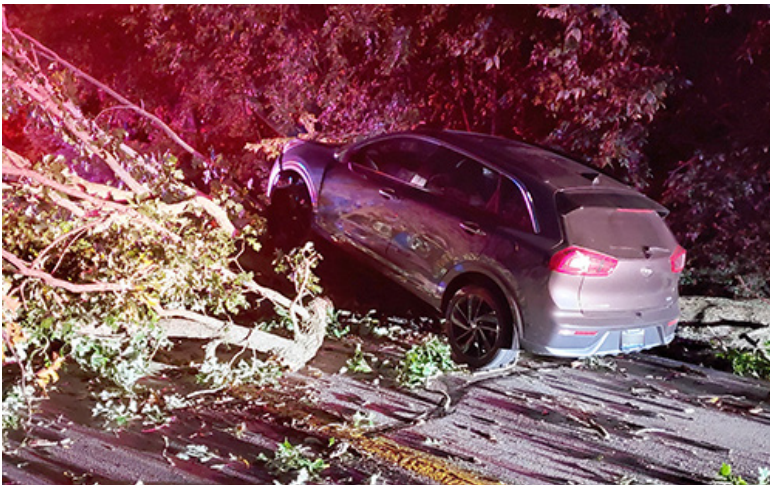
09/21/20 Swanson Rd.







09/19/20 Storybook Ln. No injuries



09/22/20 Belvidere Rd.



10/04/20 Melbourne Ave.

## LAWNMOWER FIRE

PHOTO BY BC TROLLOP

Firefighters used fire extinguishers to put out a lawnmower on fire on Baldwin Dr. on Sept. 13th .



## OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Stateline CERT members and EMTs Tracie Scrivano and Edward Gioja monitored the 1/2 marathon run route on Sept. 26 a Stone Bridge Bike Path. Also volunteering: Division Chief Jay Alms, CERT members: Jim Purpura, Teresa Kinney, Kevin Harvey, Michelle Kamholz, Kathy Marinelli.





## FALL SEASON SAFETY TIPS

SUBMITTED BY  
DC JOHN BERGERON

As the air turns cooler and leaves drop from the trees, it's important to keep a few important fall safety tips in mind. With proper precautions and safety awareness, your family can enjoy that crisp autumn weather while avoiding some of the dangers that come with the season.

When the weather turns cold most people spend more time inside their homes using fireplaces, furnaces, and heaters to keep warm. There's nothing quite as cozy as a fire, but it presents some safety hazards. Keep these tips in mind.

### Service Your Furnace

Before the cold autumn and winter weather sets in, be sure to call your heating and cooling company to service your furnace. A specialist should inspect the furnace to make sure everything is in working order and that there are no leaks.

### Use Fireplaces Safely

Keep that fire in its proper place by using a fireplace screen to keep sparks from flying out of the fireplace. Never leave a burning fire unattended and make sure a fire in a fireplace is completely out before going to bed.

### Use Caution with Space Heaters

A space heater can be an effective way to warm up a chilly room, but it's essential that you read the instructions on the unit before you use it. If your space heater requires venting, make sure you have vented it to the outdoors. Never use your stove or oven to heat your home; only use space heaters that are approved for this purpose. Always allow at least three feet of empty area around space heaters.

### Reconsider Leaf Burning

According to information from the Environmental Protection Agency, burning leaves produces dangerous and cancer-causing chemicals. For this reason, homeowners should avoid disposing of leaves this way. If you decide to burn leaves, wear a protective mask. Burning leaves should only be attempted far away from a house or other structure on a homeowner's property. Always check the weather forecast before starting to burn leaves. This activity should not be attempted in windy conditions.

### Exercise Candle Caution

Candles are a great way to give a room that warm glow, but they can also cause fires. According to the National Candle Association, almost 10,000 home fires start with improper candle use. Never leave candles burning if you go out or go to sleep and keep your candles away from pets and kids.

### Change Smoke Alarm Batteries

Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors when you turn back your clocks for Daylight Saving Time. Make sure to check the alarms with the new batteries installed. Check and replace any home fire extinguishers that have expired.

### SAFETY TIPS FOR FALL DRIVING

There's nothing more beautiful than a fall drive, but this season brings some unique hazards for drivers. Being aware of these potential dangers can help keep you and your family safe and prevent accidents.



### Be Prepared for Bright Sunlight

When sunrise occurs later in the morning, it can also present challenges for drivers. Have a pair of sunglasses in the vehicle to wear when the sun is bright is a good strategy. If it becomes too difficult to see because of bright sunlight or glare, a good strategy is for the driver to pull over until he or she can see again.

### Be Aware of Poor Visibility

Falling leaves, while beautiful, can obscure your vision, as can rain and fog. Shorter days are part of the fall season, making it more difficult to see children playing or people walking and riding bicycles. Be aware of limitations in your visibility and slow down if you can't see well. Use your dimmed headlights in bad weather with decreased visibility. If possible, try not to be on the roads when it's hard to see.

### Watch for Children

Children love to play in piles of leaves, so use extra caution where leaves are piled at curbside. In addition, the school bus will be making its rounds now that school is back in session.

### Slow Down on Wet Pavement

In many areas of the country, rain is common during the autumn. If it's raining, keep a safe distance from the car in front of you. Wet roads make it more difficult to stop. When wet leaves are on roadways, they make the pavement slippery, and it can be difficult for drivers to get good traction.

### Watch Out for Ice

As the temperatures drop further at night, a driver will need to spend some extra time in the morning scraping frost off his or her vehicle. Shady spots on the roadway may be home to black ice, which a driver may not be aware of until his or her car starts to skid on it.

### Be Prepared for Changing Weather

Since fall weather can change quickly, you should always be prepared for possible cold, windy, and wet weather even if the sun is shining. Stay closer to shore, so you can turn back if the weather changes. Bring appropriate clothing, such as warm coats, rain gear, and gloves.

### AUTUMN HOME MAINTENANCE SAFETY TIPS

Fall is the time for yard clean-ups and readying your house for the cold winter ahead. Keep these safety tips in mind as you work.

### Look Up Before Pruning Trees

If you have decided that your yard needs to be spruced up by trimming your trees, be sure to look up and survey the area carefully before you start. Make careful note of where power lines are located before you set up your ladder so that it is positioned away from them.

### Use Caution on Ladders

Wearing appropriate footwear is important when using a ladder; shoes or boots may be wet, causing you to slip as you climb the ladder. The ladder should be positioned on a flat surface before use. Be sure that the tools you are using are specifically designed for this purpose and are in good condition before starting work.

### Clean Up Fallen Leaves

Keep your driveway and walkway clear of falling leaves. Wet leaves can create a hazard for pedestrians in the fall by making sidewalks slippery. Later in the season, snow may mix with leaves to increase the risk of falling. Homeowners should mulch or rake up fallen leaves and dispose of them according to local bylaws.

### Safely Enjoy the Beauty of the Season

By keeping these important fall safety tips in mind, you can be sure you are doing everything you can to protect yourself and your family from seasonal dangers. This will leave your mind free to enjoy the beauty of this glorious season.



## 2021 Pocket Calendars are in!

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

### Birthdays



#### October 2020

- 2nd Gus Larson
- 3rd Steve Rosander
- 13th Ryan Messinger
- 17th Pedro Villasenor
- 25th James Purpura
- 26th Tom Aaker
- 29th Sue Null

#### November 2020

- 1st Don Shoefflin
- 3rd Joe Quast
- 6th Andrew Wiechman
- 8th Harry Wagner
- 11th Kelly Green
- 14th Ken Kelley

## The Firehouse Scene

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

Fire Chief - Don Shoefflin  
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:

E-mail submissions to Sheryl: [hrrfdsdrost@gmail.com](mailto:hrrfdsdrost@gmail.com)

# Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

## "COOK WITH CAUTION"

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

## If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

## If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.



## Cooking and Kids

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 metre) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

## FACTS

- ! The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ! Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo