

THE FIREHOUSE SCENE



is a publication of the
Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District

September 2020

Fire Chief Don Shoevlin

Editor Sheryl Drost



Photo by Sheryl Drost



FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK
BY FIRE CHIEF DON SHOEVLIN

Well school is back in session, both in the classroom physically and virtually. The NFL started this past Thursday. And the temperatures have chilled a bit. It can only mean one thing, Fall is in the air.

In a normal year, we would also be just completing the Roscoe Lion's Fall Festival however, we all know by now, it was cancelled; and this is not a normal year.

This year has posed many challenges, not only in the fire/EMS service, but also in our communities. As some sort of what we have known to be normalcy attempts to be achieved, it is important that we stay the course and not become complacent as the coronavirus is still here and continues to impact many. That is not to mention flu or cold season. Please remain 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 your local health departments. Following these simple steps can help us stop the spread of the virus and just maybe help us all to get back to what we call normal. I know we are itching to get back out to all the community events and visiting with everyone. Sadly, I have made the difficult decision of cancelling our annual Fire Prevention Week Open House. Please see the fire prevention bureau article on page 3.

Our personnel responded to 292 calls in the month of August. They continue to provide expedient professional service that the communities we serve are deserving of. For the month, our average response time (in route to your location) was 2.14 minutes and on the scene time of 6.3 minutes.

The last week of August I was presented with an opportunity to take a 5-day vacation to Colorado. I have been there before and found it very enjoyable. So off we drove to enjoy a little down time while hiking the hills. Little did I know there was a mountain named "Old Man Mountain". I have it now checked off my

bucket list (even though it was never on it) as I trekked up the 1.2-mile trail with an elevation gain of 426 feet to the peak at 8304 feet. It was so enjoyable, that we then decided to hike up the "Emerald Lake" trail in Rocky Mountain National Park. This trail is 3.5 miles long to a height of 10,110 feet. What was amazing with this hike is going by "Dream Lake" up to the final spot of "Emerald Lake" I know what is the fire chief doing talking about this and how does it relate to HRFD? It really does not causally relate, however the surreal feeling of being in place filled with nature, quietness, beauty, and God's country, create the ideal environment to reflect and decompress with what is going on around us. As I walked the trail and sat at these lakes, I could not help but thinking how fortunate I have been over the years. To have a family who loves me and has supported me in my wildest dreams over the years. It brought me to a point of how we all need to make time to get away from our lives filled with so much. We need to make time to decompress and thank whomever you choose for what we have, what makes us smile and happy, who is in our lives and what has been provided for us such as these beautiful places in God's country. Life is short, the world as we see it and know it today is ever changing with many things happening which distract us away from all the fortunate things we have. Slow down, take a deep breath, and enjoy life. I attest it is hard to do, but I am learning and trying.

In closing I ask if you took a minute this past Friday September 11th to reflect on the tragic day in 2001. This year will mark the 19th anniversary that we loss 343 brothers and sisters in the fire service to a horrific act of terrorism. May they all rest in peace and be assured they will never be forgotten.





GOT SAFETY!

BY DIVISION CHIEF
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
JAY ALMS

We hope you have safety on your mind every day. We are driven by providing safe actions and safe practices as part of our job. We are always looking for the safe way of completing tasks that we encounter every day.

We are obviously in a dangerous occupation, so we take extra steps to prevent injury to our firefighters and staff whether its physical or environmental. The COVID virus added an additional set of safety precautions to operate as firefighters and paramedics, and we stepped up and faced it head on.

As first responders, we face the virus at a close distance and encountered those that were positive for the virus, but never did we infect our personnel or our families. We sequestered as necessary and because we took the right precautions from the start, we were safe and did not allow the infection to spread.

The COVID virus has changed many of our normal practices. We actually have sanitized the station and our equipment like it never has been cleaned in the past. Not to say that we didn't maintain a clean environment, but not the sanitized environment we now know as the normal!

As bad as the COVID Virus has been and continues to be, we have adopted practices that we hope will curb the annual influenza bug that slows, annoys and/or shuts us down every fall and winter season.

We continue to discover new ways to be in the publics eye. We miss being in the public eye throughout the community in all the events we plan on throughout the year. From all the festivals, safety events and standbys we look forward to attending, we have decided it's in everyone's best interest to cancel till the outlook improves. Our Spring Dinner, our annual Golf Outing, the Lions Fall Festival, Fire Prevention Open House have all been cancelled to our disappointment.

This however, will not slow us down. We are planning on virtual education to get our messages out. We have reading to school children, safety videos and any other virtual messages planned or already in production to Get the Message Out! We are also considering a live "Ask the Chief" segment on a weekly basis, to keep us on a more personal basis with the community. SHHHH...he doesn't know yet!!

So, if there's anything more we can do as a fire department, please reach out. As the weather changes, please take care to heat your home in a safe manner, don't overload those extension cords and never leave a burning candle unattended.

Check on your neighbors and check your smoke detectors!

STAY SAFE

STRUCTURE FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to a report of a fire seen on a roof of a home on White School Rd. on August 29th.

Units arrived and no visible fire was found. A thermal imaging camera was used to confirm there was no fire.



ACCIDENT AND CAR FIRE

Firefighters responded to the 7300 block of Belvidere Rd. for a report of a 2-vehicle accident. Everyone was out of the vehicles when units arrived and one was on fire. Firefighters quickly knocked the fire down. No one was transported to the hospital.



AUGUST 10TH STORM PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to multiple calls during the storm that hit our fire district on August 10th. Calls were for wires down, wires burning in trees, trees down, blocking roads, as well as roads flooded.



ACCIDENTS PHOTOS BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHERYL DROST AND DUTY OFFICERS



08/05/20 Hwy 251

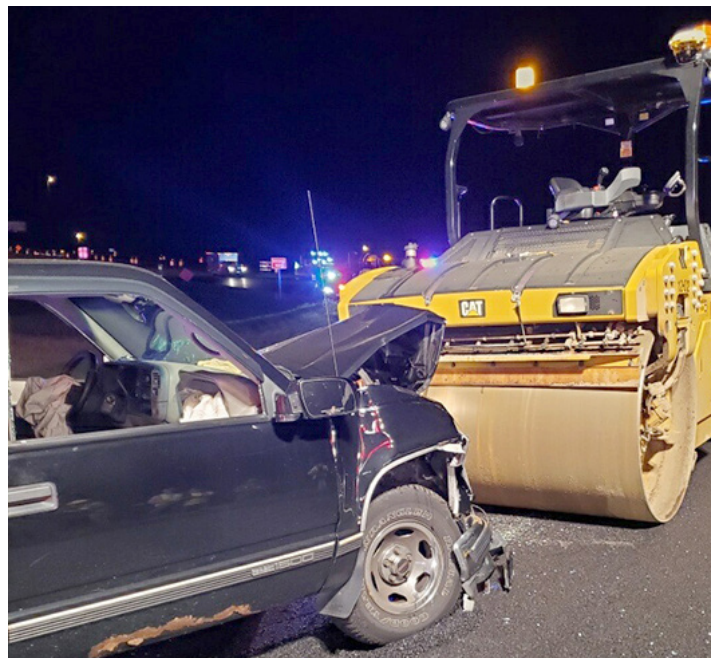


08/08/20 Hwy 173

08/14/20 I-90



08/08/20 Hwy 173 & Orlando



08/18/20 Hwy 251 & Rockton Rd. Off-ramp



08/19/20 Hononegah Rd. & Tresemer Rd.



08/20/20 Hwy 251 & Hononegah Rd.

08/28/20 I-90

08/29/20 I-90



08/31/20 Hwy 251 & Forest Hills Rd.



08/31/20 I-90

09/01/20 McCurry Rd.



THE GREAT Shake Out 2020

SUBMITTED BY
BC PATRICK TROLLOP

Despite the pandemic, the worldwide earthquake drill is still happening. The Great Shake Out 2020 exercise is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, and provides an opportunity for states and municipalities to promote earthquake safety to people in earthquake-prone areas.

We realize that we live in Northern Illinois and not California, but we do have earthquakes in Illinois as well.

In 1968 an Illinois earthquake in the New Madrid fault line was the largest recorded earthquake in the U.S. Midwestern state of Illinois. It began at 11:02 a.m. on November 9, it measured 5.4 on the Richter scale. Although there were no fatalities, the event caused considerable structural damage to buildings, including the toppling of chimneys and shaking in Chicago, the state's largest city. The earthquake was one of the most widely felt in U.S. history, largely affecting 23 states over an area of 580,000 square miles. The shaking extended east to Pennsylvania and West Virginia, south to Mississippi and Alabama, north to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and west to Oklahoma.

While Illinois has experienced over 600 recorded earthquakes, according to the 2018 Illinois Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, officials and scientists continue to examine whether the state has a dangerous quake risk.

Illinois' history is scattered with decently sized quakes. Bookended by two seismic zones on its eastern and southern border, the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone and the New Madrid Seismic Zone, the state has recorded 406 earthquakes magnitude 2.0 or higher since 1795, according to the state mitigation plan.

A series of such earthquakes occurred in the New Madrid zone between 1811 and 1812, often considered some of the largest quakes since the country's settlement, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The quakes

are estimated to have had magnitudes of over 7.0, and the USGS reports they had an area of strong shaking 10 times as large as the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

With the seismic history of this zone, some officials worry an Illinois earthquake with a similar magnitude to California's could cause severe damages on large areas of land. The upcoming Great ShakeOut drill will remind residents to drop, cover, and hold on if an earthquake strikes. FEMA says about three million people have signed up to take part.



EMS Training

Yes, social distancing is still a thing!



SPECIFIC SITUATIONS . . .

It is important to think about what you will do to protect yourself, wherever you are, when the earth begins to shake. What if you are driving, in a theater, in bed, at the beach, etc.?

Persons with Disabilities: See EarthquakeCountry.org/disability for recommendations for people who use wheelchairs, walkers, or who are unable to drop to the ground and get up again without assistance.

Indoors: Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Avoid exterior walls, windows, hanging objects, mirrors, tall furniture, large appliances, and kitchen cabinets with heavy objects or glass. However, do not try to move more than 5-7 feet before getting on the ground. Do not go outside during shaking! The area near the exterior walls of a building is the most dangerous place to be. Windows, facades, and architectural details are often the first parts of the building to break away. If you're seated and unable to drop to the floor: bend forward, Cover your head with your arms, and Hold On to your neck with both hands.

In bed: Do not get out of bed. Lie face down to protect your vital organs, and Cover your head and neck with a pillow, keeping your arms as close to your head as possible. Hold On to your head and neck with both hands until shaking stops. You are less likely to be injured by fallen and broken objects by staying where you are.

In a high-rise: Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Avoid windows and other hazards. Do not use elevators. Do not be surprised if sprinkler systems or fire alarms activate.

In a classroom: Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Laboratories or other settings may require special considerations to ensure safety. Students should also be taught what to do at home or other locations.

In a store: Drop, Cover, and Hold On. Getting next to a shopping cart, beneath clothing racks, or within the first level of warehouse racks may provide extra protection.

Outdoors: Move to a clear area if you can safely do so. Avoid power lines, trees, signs, buildings, vehicles, and other hazards. Then, Drop, Cover, and Hold On. This protects you from any objects that may be thrown from the side, even if nothing is directly above you.

Driving: Pull over to the side of the road, stop, and set the parking brake. Avoid overpasses, bridges, power lines, signs and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking stops, then proceed carefully by avoiding fallen debris, cracked or shifted pavement, and emergency vehicles. If a power line falls on the car, stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.

In a stadium or theater: Drop to the ground in front of your seat or lean over as much as possible, then Cover your head with your arms (as best as possible), and Hold On to your neck with both hands until the shaking stops. Then walk out slowly, watching for anything that could fall during aftershocks.

Near the shore: As soon as shaking reduces such that you are able to stand, walk quickly to high ground or inland as a tsunami may arrive soon. Don't wait for officials to issue a warning. Walk, rather than drive, to avoid traffic, debris, and other hazards





Celebrating 80 Years

Media by Sheryl Drost

Photographer/Media Coordinator/Editor

The late Fire Chief Oscar Presley always said that he believed that we, as a fire district who received tax money, should let the people of our district know what we were doing if we could. He also believed everything the firefighters and department did was history in the making and wanted it documented.

When he became Fire chief, he carried a personal camera and took photos. He also became the first unofficial department historian as he wrote down many of the stories the older firefighters would tell him in his barbershop and he started the saving of any newspaper articles the department was in.

In 1990, I was videotaping one of my husband Mike's recruit burns and Chief Presley tossed me his camera and asked me to take some photos for the department's yearly calendar. Yep, that is where it all began for me. I was then asked if I could tape more trainings and take more photos. On Feb. 20, 1991, I shot my first structure fire, a fully-involved garage fire on Prairie Hill Rd. It would be another 7 years on June 25, 1997, that I would be sworn in as the first official volunteer department photographer in the area. In 2010 Chief Shovelin added another volunteer photographer position as well as a couple Chaplains became 'Chapographers' for a time. Today, the Chief officer vehicle carries a camera as well. The goal has always been to document the amazing job our firefighters and EMS do. The photos and videos are also used for training purposes and public relation projects.

This monthly newsletter you are reading, "The Firehouse Scene", ran a year in 1993, then started back up in 1997 and continues today. We post the newsletters on our website every month as well as our Facebook Page. Printed copies can be picked up in the foyer of our Fire Station #1 on Main St. in Roscoe. Old issues of the newsletter are on our website under the newsletter link, as well as in the history room at the North Suburban Libraries.

In 2003, the department website was started: www.harlemroscoefire.com. I was hired as a part-time media person which today, my title is the Media Coordinator. This position is responsible for keeping the website updated, producing the monthly newsletter, digitizing, archiving, creating any needed publications, and the upkeep of our social media outlets.

Be sure to check out the thousands of photos we have on our website! We have the photo page of actual calls, the history page (be sure to scroll down and check out all the first-in photos through the years), and the rescue and medical page have photos of scenes throughout the years. And be sure to friend us on Facebook!

Before Chief Presley retired, he would also bring me along to interview many of the older retired firefighters for "Times Rekindled" articles we were doing at that time in the newsletter. When current Fire Chief Don Shovelin asked me to put together a history book for the department's 75th anniversary for 2015, I

was also given the task of digitizing all those old printed photos, written stories, and newspaper articles on the department. And in 2015 the department published the Harlem-Roscoe Fire's 75th Anniversary Book. Copies of that book may still be purchased at the administration office at Station One on Main St. in Roscoe.

Fast forward five years to 2020, we now are celebrating the department's 80th Anniversary. Duty, Pride, and Tradition has been the theme for the year. For me, those three words have always meant a lot, and have actually been my motivation for 30 years now. *Sheryl Drost*



When a natural disaster, digital malfunctions or human error occur, treasured memories are lost forever. Save Your Photos Month reminds us to back up our digital pictures, scan and save the vintage ones.

The day reminds us these precious memories are perishable. Whether through natural disasters like floods, fires or tornados or the human ones like spilled liquids and computer viruses, photos in any form are fragile. Backing them up and preserving them is necessary for the long haul. Back up your digital photos on a regular basis to a jump drive or external hard drive. Display and share your favorites! Don't cage them in data forever. Include dates, names, ages and locations on the pictures. Ask family members about old photos now before the information is lost. Use #SaveYourPhotosMonth to share on social media.

Some of the older photographs that have made it this far may be missing vital information. There are several ways to create order from the chaos. Take charge of the modern photos now. Label as you go by including names, dates and information about the event on the picture. When it comes to tracking down information on old family pictures, start with relatives. There may be someone who knows someone with a long memory. Take a road trip with your photographs for a visit. Connect through ancestry and family tree websites. Some of the oddest things will help connect one photo to another.

Scan, preserve and share the photos with family members to be shared for future generations as well.

COMMUNITY



A big Thank You to Country Financial! Country Financial Agent Todd Harmsen and Production Assistant Mary Miller presented HRFD Chief Don Shoevlin with a check for \$2500.00 as part of their Helping Heroes program on Aug. 10th.



Troop 1650 posted “Thank you for being amazing essential workers and enjoy the tasty cookies!!” with this picture on our Facebook page. Thank you Troop 1650 for your support and thoughtfulness, and they were delicious!



WOW, Thank You Camping World for your donation of Girl Scout cookies for our fire personnel! They are going fast!!



HRFD CRUNCH TIME

Roscoe Fall Festival

HRFD Fire Prevention Week Open House

Fire Prevention Station Tours

2021 Pocket Calendars are in!

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

Birthdays



September 2020

- 5th Adam Eich
- 8th Travis Johnson
- 12th Bart Munger
- 13th Marty Green
- 13th Joe Koeninger
- 26th Austin Schwarzbach
- 28th Paul Meyers
- 30th Kevin Raymer

October 2020

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

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:

E-mail submissions to Sheryl: hfrdsdrost@gmail.com

Smoke Alarms at Home

SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.



SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

FACTS

- ❗ A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- ❗ Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ❗ Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource

