

THE FIREHOUSE SCENE

is a publication of the
Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District

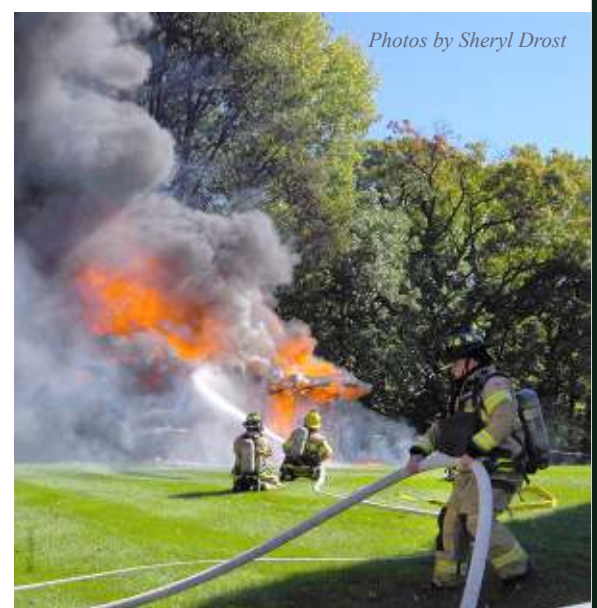
January 2021

Fire Chief Don Shoevlin

Editor Sheryl Drost



2020 
YEAR IN REVIEW



Photos by Sheryl Drost





FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK
BY FIRE CHIEF DON SHOEVLIN

As 2020 ended, many are using the words such as better times ahead, glad this year is behind us, event cancelled, and other sayings that match up with a year that was unprecedented. But your fire department remained proactive as we adapted to the challenges we faced while taking opportunities in making changes to assure, we remained a:

“Progressive Fire Department providing a Professional level of service.”

I am glad to report, our “Keep the Wreath Red” campaign was a success. We had no Christmas related fires. All of you are to be thanked that we did not replace one red bulb. Great Job! Your attention to safety is appreciated by all of us.

We finished the calendar year of 2020 with 3390 calls for our service. The most ever in our 80-year history. Just 10 years ago in 2010 we responded to 2270. Our personnel completed numerous hours of training even though the opportunity for outside classes were limited to say the least. They continued to work hard and diligently while being committed to see that we provide superior service while putting themselves at an added risk of this pandemic. Many precautions were put in place not only to protect themselves but their families when they went home. As the Fire Chief I could not be more honored proud and thankful of our members for what they do. I can honestly say they were put to the test, (and I believe will continue to be) and continue to solidify my belief that we are who we are because of them.

So, what will happen in 2021? None of us know. Even the Magic 8 Ball, and the Ouija board say ask later. But I do know, we made it through cancellations and adjusted to everything in fine form as a team. We had

additions to our families, suffered losses, and continue to learn to live with the unknown. We have adapted, we have adjusted, and we will overcome. We will continue to remain proactive more than reactive. So, I ask that all of us continue to follow the advice and directions given to us by medical experts, respect everyone, honor each other beliefs as we may all not agree so that we can all work toward a quicker resolve getting back to the normal we have been accustomed to. We have some interesting times ahead of us, but I feel confident that they day will come when we can shake hands, high five, fist bump, and read lips again.

Lastly, I will end with a challenge to us all to commit to making this a positive year. In a society where we have seen 2020 force us to shelter in place, find it so easy to place blame, criticize others, or hold anger, let us use our energy into being optimistic, looking for solutions, expecting good results and success, and focusing and making life happier. We have experienced the effects of the last ten months of 2020 on our lives. We will never know the affects unless we try.

Please contact me if I can be of any service or if you may have any questions. I wish everyone good health, happiness, and success in the coming year.

Stay Safe,
Chief Shoevlin



NEW FIREFIGHTERS

Harlem-Roscoe Fire Trustee President Bart Munger gave the new Firefighter Oath to four new HRFD firefighters on Dec. 28th at our Fire Station One.

Congratulations and welcome to the family, Zeb Wolfe, Jared Christiansen, Aaron Morley, and Hanna Benard!



L-r HRFD Division Chief Tom Aaker, Deputy Chief John Bergeron, new firefighters Zeb Wolfe, Jared Christiansen, Aaron Morley, and Hanna Benard, and Fire Chief Don Shoevlin.



Zeb Wolfe



Aaron Morley



Jared Christiansen



Hanna Benard



CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING



BY BC PATRICK TROLLOP

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), January is the deadliest month for carbon monoxide poisonings. The first month of the year statistically is the worst in that at least two people die each day from carbon-monoxide poisoning. Over 400 people in the U.S. die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning every year. It should come as no surprise that carbon monoxide deaths are the highest in winter (December is the second highest month).

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that often goes undetected, striking victims caught off guard or in their sleep.

This “invisible killer” is produced by burning fuel in cars or trucks, small engines, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges, portable generators, or furnaces. When the gas builds up in enclosed spaces, people or animals who breathe it can be poisoned.

Cold weather tends to increase the use of gas-powered furnaces as well as the use of alternative heating and power sources such as portable generators, propane stoves or grills during power outages.

The National Safety Council recommends you install a battery-operated or battery backup carbon monoxide detector in the hallway near each separate sleeping area in your home. It is recommended to replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall and to replace the detector every five years.

Carbon Monoxide prevention tips from the CDC include:

- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil or coal-burning appliance inspected and serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Install battery-operated CO detectors on every level of your home.

- Don't use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove or other gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside the home, basement or garage or outside the home near a window.
- Don't burn anything in an un-vented stove or fireplace.
- Don't let a vehicle idle inside a garage attached to a house, even if the garage door is left open.

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Low to moderate carbon monoxide poisoning is characterized by:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness

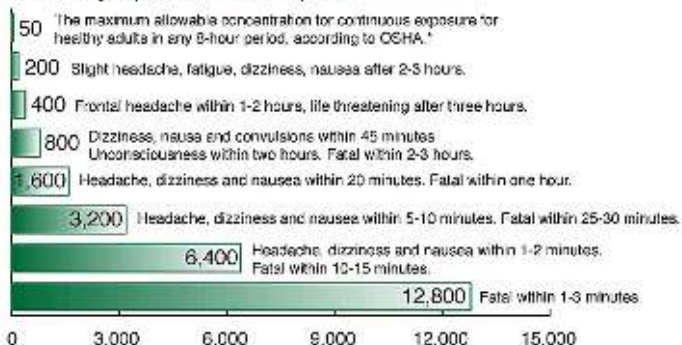
High-level carbon monoxide poisoning results in:

- Confusion
- Vomiting
- Loss of coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- Death

The Consumer Product Safety Commission warns that you should never ignore a carbon monoxide alarm, and do not try to find the source of the gas. Instead, follow these steps:

- Immediately move outside to fresh air
- Call emergency services, fire department or 9-1-1
- Do a head count to check to account for everyone
- Do not reenter the premises until emergency responders have given you permission to do so

Approximate Inhalation Time and Toxic Symptoms Developed





CHAPLAINS CORNER
BY CHAPLAIN PAUL MEYERS



STRETCH OUT!!

When I was a High School Track and Field Coach, one of my primary roles was to stress the importance of a good warm-up before practice and lead proper stretching after the work out. Muscles tighten up during a work-out, and lactic acid will set in, creating soreness. Lactic acid is produced by the body as compensation for a lack of blood oxygen. Stretching rushes blood to the areas that have been stressed to promote healing and give the area as much oxygen as possible, promoting restoration. We coaches could tell, that, if the athletes were not sore, they were not working at their highest potential.

I am struck by a neat parallel between athletics and the challenges a new year can bring. (I am not a fan of “New Year’s Resolutions” because they seem to lack power after January 15th or so.) Just like an athlete mid-season who achieves a certain level and coasts, however, it’s easy for any of us to achieve a certain level in our lives or careers or relationships and choose to coast. To me, coasting means relaxing on a past success and making a conscious decision not to progress or learn...or stretch!

Much of 2020 was negative. But let me tell you, I for one learned that I had a depth of resilience that I didn’t think I had!! I wonder if you found the same inside of you? I want to challenge you to dig deeply into that tank of resilience and stretch out. Work out the “soreness” of last year by welcoming new oxygen into your life. Stretch yourself to educate yourself in a new way, or create a new hobby, or get that Certification that kind of scares you because of that voice that tells you “you can’t.” Step out of your comfort zone and grow!

Back in the day of the Pioneers and Covered Wagons, the pathways the wagons took throughout the Midwest became ruts. The more wagons that passed on the path, the more defined the ruts became. Someone once said, “The only difference between a rut and a grave is its depth.”

Accept the challenge to get out of a rut and chart a new path, learn something new, stretch yourself for the benefit of your future.

It’s a pleasure serving with you!
Chaplain Paul Meyers

HANGING FURNACE FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters responded to a report of heavy smoke in the 12900 block of Hwy 251 on Jan. 2nd. First in units found smoke coming from a large metal garage shed. The cause of the smoke was a fire in an oil burning hanging furnace. The fire was extinguished and a positive pressure fan was used to rid the building of smoke. Thank you to the automatic aid departments that assisted at the scene.







BY DEPUTY CHIEF JOHN BERGERON

A major contributing factor in residential fires is the use of wood burning stoves and space heaters. Many of these fires can be prevented. The tips that follow are meant to help educate and advise residents on fire safety and fire prevention within their homes.

WOOD STOVES AND FIREPLACES

- Be sure the fireplace or wood stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance of 36 inches from combustible surfaces and proper floor support and protection.
- Wood stoves should be UL listed, solid construction and good quality.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if not used in quite a long time.
- Keep tree branches and leaves at least 15 feet away from the top of the chimney.
- Install a chimney cap to keep debris and animals out of the chimney.
- Check the outside chimney for cracks or loose bricks. All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or rekindle any fire.
- Choose the right fuel. For burning firewood in wood stoves or fireplaces, choose well-seasoned wood that has been split for a minimum of six months to one year and stored in a covered and elevated location. Never burn Christmas trees or treated wood in your fireplace or wood stove.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out and to help prevent burns to your home's occupants.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build a roaring fire in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- Never burn charcoal indoors.
- Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel and hearth. Sparks could easily ignite these materials. Keep furniture at least 36 inches away from the hearth.
- Make sure your fireplace fire is out before you go to sleep. NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will heat a fire again and force carbon monoxide into the home.
- Follow package directions on synthetic logs. NEVER break apart a synthetic log to quicken the fire. Do not use more than one log at a time. These logs burn unevenly, increasing carbon monoxide levels.

PROPER DISPOSAL OF ASHES

- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home.
- Place ashes in a metal container with a tight fitting lid outside and away from the house.
- Ashes should never be disposed of in plastic containers, cardboard boxes or paper grocery bags.
- Furnaces
- Check if furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- Check the pipe seams and pipe flue for holes and cracks and be sure they are well supported. Soot along or around a seam may be an indicator of a leak.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from heating systems.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.

SPACE HEATERS

- Look for one that is listed with a nationally-recognized testing laboratory (UL). These heaters have been tested to meet specific safety standards, and manufacturers are required to provide important use and care information to the consumer. On heaters that are not listed, consumers have less assurance that the safety features and operating instructions are adequate.
- Purchase a heater with a guard around the heating element. A wire grill or other protection is essential to keep fingers or fabrics from touching the hot element. Portable electric heaters that heat by circulating oil or water, however, usually have lower surface temperatures and may not need guards.
- Before using the heater, read and follow the instructions for its operation and maintenance.
- If you must use an extension cord, make sure it is a heavy-duty cord marked with a #14 gauge or larger wire. An incorrectly-sized cord may create a fire hazard. If the heater's plug has a grounding prong, use only a grounding (three-wire) extension cord.
- Never run the heater's cord (or any cord) under rugs or carpeting.
- Do not leave the heater operating unattended or operating while sleeping. Portable electric air heaters are designed for use only as temporary supplemental heating and only while attended.
- Do not use an electric heater as a dryer by placing clothing over it and never use it a heater to thaw pipes.
- Keep the heater in safe working condition. Replace missing guards and controls at once, never operate a defective heater.
- Do not place the heater where children might play near it or where people might trip over or bump into it.
- Place electric heaters on a level surface for stability.
- Avoid using space heaters in bathrooms, or other areas where they may come in contact with water.

ELECTRIC BLANKETS

As the cold weather spreads across our area, many will be dusting off our electric blankets, getting them ready for use. But be careful, don't risk a fire. You can prevent fires caused by electric blankets by taking some simple steps.

CHECKING YOUR ELECTRIC BLANKET:

If your blanket or any part of the wiring shows any of these danger signs, you should have it replaced.

- Fraying fabric
- Scorch marks
- Exposed elements
- Creasing or folding
- Soiling
- Damp patches
- Tie tapes damaged or missing
- Loose connections

BUYING A NEW ELECTRIC BLANKET:

It's cheaper to replace a worn electric blanket than it is to replace your home or heal your family. If you are in any doubt about the condition of your blanket, throw it out and buy a new one.

You should replace your electric blanket at least every 10 years. Don't buy a second-hand blanket. Make sure the blanket has an overheat protection.

STORE YOUR BLANKET SAFELY:

Storing your blanket in the correct manner will ensure you get the best from it. Don't fold electric blankets - it can damage the wiring. Better to roll them. Or you can store blankets by putting them on a spare bed.

Use your electric blanket safely:

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Keep all blankets flat.
- Don't get blankets wet, and if your blanket does get wet, don't use it. Never switch it on to dry it.

THAWING FROZEN PIPES

Water has a unique property in that it expands as it freezes. This expansion puts tremendous pressure on whatever is containing it, including metal or plastic pipes. No matter the "strength" of a container, expanding water can cause pipes to break.

Pipes that freeze most frequently are those that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hose bibs, swimming pool supply lines, water sprinkler lines, and water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and crawl spaces, attics, garages, or kitchen cabinets. Also, pipes that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation are also subject to freezing.

Do not use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove, space heater or other open flame device to thaw frozen pipes. A blowtorch can make water in a frozen pipe boil and cause the pipe to explode. All open flames in homes present a serious fire danger, as well as a severe risk of exposure to lethal carbon monoxide.

TO THAW FROZEN PIPES:

- If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Locate the suspected frozen area of the water pipe. Likely places include pipes running against exterior

walls or where your water service enters your home through the foundation.

- Keep the faucet open. As you treat the frozen pipe and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt more ice in the pipe.
- Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, or wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water.
- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, or if you cannot thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.
- Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze.

DURING COLD WEATHER, TAKE PREVENTIVE ACTION

- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing because the temperature of the water running through it is above freezing.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55°F

FUTURE PROTECTION

- Consider relocating exposed pipes to provide increased protection from freezing. Pipes can be relocated by a professional if the home is remodeled.
- Add insulation to attics, basements, and crawl spaces. Insulation will maintain higher temperatures in these areas.
- When the weather warms up, check unused portions of your water system for freezing damage and leaks to avoid possible flooding damage from undetected cracked or broken pipes.
- For more information, please contact a licensed plumber or building professional.
- Other Tips
- NEVER use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. This is a safety hazard and can be a source of potential toxic fumes.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS AND WORKING CO DETECTORS

If you are in need of a Smoke Detector,
Please call 815-623-7867



12/10/20 Hwy 251 & Bridge St..



12/11/20 I-90



12/11/20 Mitchell Rd. & Hwy 173



12/17/20 Windfield Ln.



12/13/20 Dorr Rd.



12/17/20 Rockton Rd.



01/04/21 Forest Hills Rd. & Hawkeye Tr.

Gone, But not forgotten



*Some people come into our lives,
And quickly go.
Some stay awhile,
And leave footprints in our hearts.*

- Firefighter Justin Harwood’s father, Michael Lynn Harwood, passed away on Dec.19, 2020.

Our deepest sympathies and prayers go out to Justin and his family.

Happy to hear that Trustee Bart Munger and Fire Prevention/Chaplain Everett Peterson are both recovering well from their recent surgeries!

FREE 2021 CALENDARS ARE IN!

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



Harlem-Roscoe Firefighter’s Association Donates to Schools



HRFD Division Chief Jay Alms and Fire Chief Don Shovelin representing the Harlem-Roscoe Firefighter’s Association presented Kinnikinnick School District Superintendent Keli Freedlund with a check for \$8000 to assist in fire safety and health for their students in the districts 4 schools.



HRFD Fire Chief Don Shovelin and Division Chief Jay Alms representing the Harlem-Roscoe Firefighter’s Association presented Prairie Hill School Principal Kevin Finnegan with a check for \$2,000.00 to assist in fire safety and health for their students.

hAPPY bIRTHDAY

JANUARY 2021

- 5th Matt Bush
- 5th David Leslie

13th Bill Gindhart

20th Jared Christiansen

22nd Everett Peterson

22nd Alyssa Nicosia

28th Brett Whiting

29th David Hutson

31st Mark Soppe

FEBRUARY 2021

13th Brandon Sherbon

22nd Butch Taylor

23rd Alissa Neubauer

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.

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

HOLIDAY REINDEER FAMILY DRIVE



For over 40 years, Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters have been helping local families in our fire district that were in need of a little help at Christmas time. We now call it our Holiday Reindeer Family Drive. HRFD Fire Chief Don Shoevlin was not going to let COVID stop us this year either, and wishes to thank everyone that donated non-perishable foods and monies this year. Firefighters delivered to 22 families in our fire district with 72 children getting presents, and each family received boxes with enough food for a Christmas meal as well as some staples.

We also were not able to have our Firefighters Kid's Christmas Party this year due to COVID. So, the firefighters decorated the training fire truck. Then Santa came along as they not only delivered to the families in need, but they dropped off a present to each of our firefighter's kids.

