

THE FIREHOUSE SCENE

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Fire Chief Don Shoevlin

Editor Sheryl Drost





FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

BY FIRE CHIEF DON SHOEVLIN

Every year at this time, I find myself reflecting on yester year. It is hard to believe that I am coming to the end of my fourteenth year as your Fire Chief. It truly feels like it was just yesterday day that I embarked on my three-day journey - just kidding! Over these years, the support from you and my fire family has been abundant. I am always proud of the way our fire crew and department continue to adapt and improve as we face new challenges every day. Our continuous training, top notch equipment, and state of the art buildings have been just a few accomplishments during this time. We are no longer the sleepy town of Roscoe with a handful of volunteers and a bread truck for an ambulance! Our call volume has more than doubled and an 15 plus calls a day have become the norm rather than the anomaly. As we all know, volunteers are hard to come by in today's world. But as I reflect, I see so clearly that our greatest asset is our people. I may not show or thank them enough, but I am truly grateful for them every day. So next time you see someone in a Harlem Roscoe fire uniform, coat, t-shirt or hat, give them a shout out, a nod, a high five or a fist bump because they are the real reason for the success we continue to achieve.

I need YOU to "Keep the Wreath Red"! In front of all three of our fire stations, you will see a wreath that has been illuminate with red bulbs, if there is a fire in our district through the holidays - caused by holiday decorations - a bulb will be changed to white. Our mission that I challenge us all to accept is to keep the wreaths completely red. I would also urge all citizens & businesses to take a moment and check & clean your fireplaces, furnaces, and dryer vents, use caution with candles, watch the wiring for Christmas lights, and be careful with live Christmas trees becoming too dry. Let's Do This!!

Over the years I have been very blessed with so many things. A childhood full of love and support from my parents and siblings. The many memories I now share with my family and pass down. I miss them, especially during the holidays, but it was because of them, my foundation, that I am so grateful for. They shaped my life and allowed me to make my own choices and mistakes – yes, I too ate many bars of soap! - as they continued to teach and support me throughout. (Love you mom & pops!) My current world for over 40 years, continues to be full of love, support and great joy from my wife Tammy and our children. Our blessings have grown into the adults that I wished for. Our "other" kids – the in-law children – have also shown to me their respect and love for their spouse and our family. Now let's talk about those ever-loving grandchildren!! They bring to you a meaning of LOVE that you never expected inside yourself. And the best part is. . . they do not see any flaws in you, you are PERFECT to them, always! For 13 years now, times 8.5, they love on you, screech at the site of you and adore your belly pillow. Ho! Ho! Ho! As parents, Tammy and I have had the privilege to watch our family blossom together and establish roots of their own. I know our folks are watching down and smiling too. I pray that you have that type of love and support in your life that follows you a lifetime and especially during the holidays.

A simple wish for everyone this Christmas: Take time to celebrate and reflect upon all we do have, especially our loved ones. Cherish that time then believe in your own dreams and yourself. Find a moment of your day to help those who are less fortunate and then have a beautiful Christmas!!

*From Tammy and I along with our entire family,
May the Christmas Season fill your Home with Joy,
Your Heart with Love & Your Life with Laughter.*

Chief Shoevlin

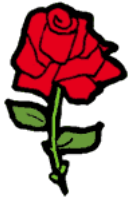


OUT OF CONTROL FIRE
 PHOTO BY DIV. CHIEF TOM AAKER

Firefighters responded to Hamborg Rd on Nov. 21st for smoke in the area. The fire was located and it seems embers from a burn pit traveled into a pile of wood and into the wooded area behind the home.



<h1>The 12 Days of Christmas Safety</h1>		<p>Keep lit candles away from real trees, wreaths, boughs and garlands</p>  <p>1</p>	<p>Keep poisonous sweets and chocolates away from your pets</p>  <p>2</p>
<p>Keep your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources</p>  <p>3</p>	<p>Make sure your tree has a stable platform so it doesn't tip over</p>  <p>4</p>	<p>Choose an artificial tree that is labelled flame resistant</p>  <p>5</p>	<p>If you have a real tree, make sure you water it regularly</p>  <p>6</p>
<p>Check your lights for fraying, bare spots and kinks in the wire</p>  <p>7</p>	<p>Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use</p>  <p>8</p>	<p>Use an appropriate ladder or stepladder when putting up decorations</p>  <p>9</p>	<p>No matter how tempting it may be NEVER drink and drive!</p>  <p>10</p>
<p>When preparing the food, make sure you avoid cross contamination and clean your surfaces and utensils</p>  <p>11</p>	<p>Make sure you reheat your leftovers to at least 74 degrees to avoid food poisoning</p>  <p>12</p>	<p>Merry Christmas</p> 	



*Gone, But not forgotten
Some people come into our lives,
And quickly go.
Some stay awhile,
And leave footprints in our hearts.*

- Marty Green’s mother, Darlene Green passed away on November 18th, 2021. Our deepest sympathy and condolence go out to Marty and his family and friends.
- Retired Lt. Fredrick Tuttle passed away in Venice Florida on Nov 11, 2021. Our deepest sympathy and condolences go out to family and friends of Fred. Below is an article we did in the July, 2007 issue of our Firehouse Scene newsletter under our Times Rekindled series.

2022 Calendars Are In!
Stop by Station One to pick one up!



Times Rekindled

By Sheryl Drost



When the old war stories start flying with our older firemen, one name seems to pop up a lot – Fred Tuttle. Fred served on Harlem-Roscoe Fire for 13-1/2 years back in the 70’s and 80’s. He retired as a Lieutenant. He currently lives in Venice, Florida. He was back for a visit recently and he and Oscar got talking about the

fun old times and here are his answers to my questions. We didn’t get a new picture of him, but he hasn’t really changed much since these pictures were taken!

What was your first call? “My first call was a grass fire.”

What was your most memorable call? “One of my most memorable calls was a large two or three story house. The house was fully involved with fire. Oscar had a hose line on the floor above me and I was fighting the fire on my floor when all of the sudden bullets were pinging everywhere. Boy did I duck. It seems the fire had gotten into a box of bullets. I want you to know; we still put that fire out and saved the house!”

What has changed since you were on? “A lot of things have changed since I was on. You have nicer stations. Back then we ran out of one station that covered the whole territory. It was fun to ride on the back of the fire trucks going down the road. We also would do things you wouldn’t do today. We would run up to a car fire and stick the hose in the gas tank and fill the tank up with water – everyone knew gas fumes are more dangerous than a full tank. We didn’t have breathing masks so you would keep your mouth right behind the nozzle and stream of water to breathe fresh air. Shoot, we fought a lot of fires that way.

What was your worst call? “The worst calls were the ones where you lost somebody. I remember one where we just couldn’t save it – the house was fully involved when we arrived and we were fighting 50 mph winds. Mutual aid departments went to the wrong road, we ran out of water, and then we found a man dead in the basement.”

What was a funny call? “The funniest or well, the most embarrassing call has to be responding to a house fire on the south end. I was the last truck out and all the trucks were heading down 251. Well, I began to think the governor had broken on the truck because I was flying. Shoot, I passed up all the trucks and wow, I got to be the first one on the scene. Well, I quickly found out why I could go faster than the other trucks - I had no water in my tank!

Boy, I would also have to say the Coon & Ham Dinners were very memorable too. I was always on the “dishwashing crew” and boy we would have a good time!”



Fred can be seen on the far right with the guys that brought back trophies from the Firefighting Play Day at Cherry Valley in 1971. Left to right standing, Terry Pitkis, Harold Richards, ??, Don Paris, and Fred. Kneeling, Richard Mackenthun, Oscar Presley, and Dick Lyford.



11/17/21 Willowbrook Rd. and Rockton Rd.



11/17/21 Ralston Rd.



11/23/21 Hamborg Rd. & Elevator Rd.

11/23/21 I-90



11/23/21 I-90

SENIOR TURKEY DINNER DRIVE THRU

PHOTOS BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHERYL DROST.

606 dinners were handed out to our seniors on Nov. 18th during the HRFD and Roscoe Lions Club's Annual Senior Turkey Dinner. This year we had to have it as a drive-thru once again due to Covid regulations at the fire station. Here are some pics including behind the scenes! More photos may be seen on our Facebook Page.





MAKING A LIST AND CHECKING IT TWICE: TIPS FOR CELEBRATING SAFELY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

NEW CPSC DATA HIGHLIGHTS HOLIDAY-RELATED RISKS, INCLUDING UNSAFE TOYS, DECORATIONS AND COOKING FIRES

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Holiday-Safety>

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As people nationwide prepare to celebrate the holidays, new data from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) highlights the importance of taking safety precautions to avoid potential dangers associated with common holiday products and traditions.

“Whether you’re shopping for gifts online or gathering for in-person or virtual holiday celebrations, it is important that everyone takes steps to keep holiday festivities safer,” said CPSC Chair Alexander Hoehn-Saric. “Avoid a visit to the emergency-room this holiday season by following some simple safety guidelines.” Unsafe toys, cooking fires, decorating, holiday trees and candles lead to thousands of injuries and deaths each year. People can celebrate more safely this holiday season by making a list of safety precautions and checking it twice. Here are the latest data and safety tips from CPSC:

TOYS

Toy manufacturers and retailers are facing both supply-chain delays and global shipping issues, prompting concerns about a possible toy shortage. This could lead consumers to scramble to buy products wherever they can find them, and create room for unscrupulous sellers to sell dangerous or counterfeit products.

- Toy-related injuries and deaths continue to impact thousands of children in the United States each year: CPSC reports that in 2020, there were nearly 150,000 toy-related, emergency department-treated injuries and nine deaths among children ages 14 and younger, with most of these deaths associated with choking on small parts of toys.
- Nonmotorized scooters account for 21 percent of all toy-related, emergency department-treated injuries: The number of injuries increased 17 percent in fiscal year 2021, from 35,600 scooter injuries reported in 2020, to 41,700 injuries reported in 2021.

COOKING

As people cook Thanksgiving Dinner, bake holiday treats, and share meals with family and friends, it is important to take safety precautions to avoid dangerous residential fires.

- Cooking fires remain the # 1 cause of residential fires. CPSC data show that there are about 360,000 home fires every year, leading to about 2,400 deaths and nearly 10,400 injuries each year.
- An average of 1,700 cooking fires occur on Thanksgiving Day each year, more than three times the average number of cooking fires on any other day of the year.

- Turkey fryers create particular risks. Since 1998, CPSC is aware of 222 fire or scald/burn incidents involving turkey fryers, resulting in 83 injuries and \$9.7 million in property loss.

DECORATING

Holiday decorations and celebrations are an annual tradition for many families. However, dry Christmas trees, burning candles, and holiday lights can pose a real hazard if not used and maintained properly.

- On average, there are about 160 decorating-related injuries each day during the holiday season, with almost half of the incidents involving falls. In the 2019 holiday season, about 14,800 people were treated in emergency rooms due to holiday decorating-related injuries. In the 2019 holiday season, there have been no deaths associated with seasonal decorations.
- Dry Christmas trees and unattended candles can lead to dangerous fires. From 2016 to 2018, there were about 100 Christmas tree fires and about 1,100 candle fires in November and December each year, resulting in 30 deaths, 180 injuries, and nearly \$56 million in property loss per year.

Follow these CPSC safety tips to keep your family safe this holiday season:

TOYS:

- Follow age guidance and other safety information on the toy packaging and choose toys that match each child’s interests and abilities.
- Get safety gear, including helmets, for scooters and other riding toys – and make sure that children use them every time.
- Keep small balls and toys with small parts away from children younger than age 3 and keep deflated balloons away from children younger than age 8.

ONLINE SHOPPING:

Online shopping for toys or other products continues to be a popular and convenient alternative to visiting brick and mortar stores, but particularly in a time of potential toy shortages, it is important that people follow these safety tips:

- Always buy from stores and online retailers you know and trust.
- To avoid counterfeits, scrutinize the product, the packaging, and the label. If the price seems too good to be true, this could be a sign that the product is counterfeit.
- Look for a certification mark from an independent testing organization and the manufacturer’s label on electrical products.

COOKING:

- Never leave cooking food unattended on the stove.
- Only fry a turkey outside and away from your home.

HOLIDAY DECORATING:

- Make sure your live Christmas tree has plenty of water and look for the “Fire Resistant” label when buying an artificial tree.
- Place burning candles in sight, away from flammable items, and blow them out before leaving the room.

KEEP THE WREATH RED



The “Keep the Wreath Red” program is used to raise fire safety awareness during the holiday season and has become an annual event. Each Harlem Roscoe Fire Station has a wreath that is wrapped with red lights. The wreaths remain lit twenty four hours a day during the holiday season. If a fire occurs that is determined to be the result of a holiday decoration, a white bulb replaces a red bulb on the wreath. The hope is the wreath will serve as a constant reminder to practice fire safety during the holiday season. Some suggestions for holiday fire safety are:

- Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch.
- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood - burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.
- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.
- Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet
- All decorations should be nonflammable or flame - retardant and placed away from heat vents.
- Ensure that trees and other holiday decorations do not block an exit way. In the event of a fire, time is of the essence. A blocked entry/exit way puts you and your family at risk
- Wrapping paper in the fireplace can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire.
- If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.





**TOO COLD TO
GO TO WORK**

NOT!

Out in the Community



Thank you Chic-fil-A for the donation of gift cards for the firefighters.

HRFD Firefighters participated in Lighted Parks Parade and the Rockton Lighted Christmas Parade this month.



HRFD Inspectors held a fire fxtinguisher class at American Aluminum Extrusion.



Thank you Field Fastener for the generous basket donation for Veterans Day



Thank you Walmart for the Thanksgiving Day treats!

Chaplains Corner

By Chaplain Paul Meyers

Bootstraps!!

I'm on call in the evenings as I write this, and so, last night, I put my bunker gear in my truck, because it's just no fun sticking my feet in cold boots! This caused me to remember, my boots are over 20 years old, and the last time I wore them I noticed I could use a pair of those cushy soles from the drug store. So, this morning, I stopped at the Walgreens to get a pair, and as I was walking in, I overheard a conversation between a young man and a woman in her 40's. The woman was miffed because the young man left his cart in the lot and it was in the way of where she wanted to park. I heard her say "put that cart back!" His response was, "Not my job, not my responsibility." He got in his car and she went inside.

Back to my boots. As I was sticking the new soles in, I thought of that parking lot conversation and of the old saying "Pull yourselves up by your own bootstraps..." which means to me, "suck it up, buttercup, fix yourself and move on." (By the way, it's awesome to have old, broken in bootstraps!) I smiled as I thought of the HRFD Personnel, how I am so glad no one in the Department thinks like either the writer of the bootstraps line, or like the young selfish dude who left his cart in the lot.

We are committed to walk this road of service together, and we are also committed to helping each other out in our time of need. Doing things for each other, even though it's not our job, is an important facet of our duty, because we know that taking care of each other makes our team stronger.

I am thankful to be a part of the HRFD Team, and also thankful that the young man with the selfish attitude problem is not among us. He would put other personnel in jeopardy with his "that's not my job, not my responsibility" attitude around the stations. We are here to help each other, assist each other which makes the whole strong, and we take care of each other. Thank you for modeling a better way to our community!!!

SO BE IT!!! Keep up the great work!

The Firehouse Scene

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

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 at:
sdrost@harlemroscoefire.org

hAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER 2021

11th Harold Danger
12th John Hawkins
18th Kathy Marinelli
26th Patrick Trollop
26th Kyle Swanson

JANUARY

4th Ryan Schelin
5th Matt Bush
11th Ryan Donner
16th Angel Indoval
20th Jared Christiansen
22nd Everett Peterson
28th Brett Whiting
31st Mark Soppe

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