

# THE FIREHOUSE SCENE

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

January 2022

Fire Chief Don Shoevlin

Editor Sheryl Drost



## From The Chief's Desk

By Fire Chief Don Shovelin



As we say so long to 2021, and I complete my 14th year serving as Fire Chief of this district. I find myself in awe of the accomplishments achieved and how our members have successfully approached and adapted to the challenges we all face day in and day out. What these men and woman do is truly a show of commitment to serving others with passion and professionalism. We completed 2021 responding to 3839 calls. This is a 13.25% increase from 2020. This is the most calls we have responded to in our history. I will have a further breakdown of call types next month, but our members are to be commended for what they endured and the achievements made in 2021.

The 2021 "Keep the Wreath Red Campaign" was a success. We did not encounter any holiday related fires. Your support and help with this is greatly appreciated.

We were fortunate to have the opportunity of having another great Holiday Reindeer Family Drive. The outpouring of donations from individuals, families and businesses was phenomenal. We were honored to be able to help 22 families which included 49 adults and 63 children. Thank you to the 40 shoppers and to those who delivered. A big thank you to all the elves behind the scenes also. I can attest and do believe to our belief, that many smiles and tears of joy are generated when we deliver these gifts and food.

So here comes 2022. As with the past years, it will be a year of challenges, growth, and opportunities which I have no doubt that the men and women of HRFD will welcome with open arms and hearts. Over the past years they have continuously showed that they are resilient and adapt to change. They do tire however as we all would and do. I will continue to provide them the time needed, equipment needed, and resources needed, so that they are given the opportunity to maintain my

promise to the communities we serve, "I promise to remain proactive in our commitment to providing excellence, integrity and caring in our performance of our emergency fire, medical and rescue services."

Lastly, I ask we embrace 2022 full of energy, enthusiasm, happiness and laughter while bringing more positivity and support in our lives. In a society where we find it so easy to place blame, criticize others, or hold anger, why can't we turn that negative energy into life positivity? Just maybe, if we all tried to be a little more conscious of this, we just might see a shift in not only ourselves, but others that we do live a precious life full of opportunities, love and dreams. As that little mouse creator said, "Laughter is timeless, imagination has no age, and dreams are forever".

Please contact me if I can be of any service or if you may have any questions either by phone or stopping by. My door is always open. I wish everyone good health, happiness, and success in 2022.

Stay safe,  
Chief Shovelin

## MAKE A WISH



You never know what the future holds!  
Could this be a young lady's dream?

## NEW FIREFIGHTERS

Harlem-Roscoe Fire Trustee President Bart Munger swore in five new probationary HRFD Firefighters on Mon. Dec. 27th. Welcome to the family, l-r, Ryan Donner, William Sieracki, Alexandria Bielefeldt, Eric Ceniti, and Ryan Schelin! Also pictured is Div. Chief Tom Aaker, Fire Chief Don Shoenlin, and Deputy Chief John Bergeron.



## NEW BLACK HELMETS

Five Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters received their black helmets after successfully completing their probationary period on Mon. Dec. 27th. Congratulations, L-r, Firefighters Aaron Morley, Jared Christiansen, Hanna Benard, Zeb Wolf, and Rico VanderHeyden.



You did it!  
*Congratulations*



“Congratulations Battalion Chief Patrick Trollop on receiving his Bachelors Degree in Public Safety Management from Southern Illinois University. Many hours of hard work has paid off for him. Great job Pat”

Congratulations Battalion Chief John Donovan on successfully completing the State Fire Marshal Fire Investigator Course and receiving your State Certification. I look forward to your work ahead with the department in investigating fires for us. *Chief Shoenlin*



“Congratulations Firefighter/EMT Andy Wiechman on his graduation from nursing school. Excellent job and we are very proud of your accomplishment that you worked hard at achieving.”  
*Chief Shoenlin*

## DRYER FIRE

PHOTO BY BC BRIGGS

Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters responded to a dryer fire on Dec. 20th on Clearwing Ln. The fire was contained to the dryer.



# DANGER!

## CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING



CAN'T BE SEEN



CAN'T BE SMELLED



CAN'T BE HEARD



CAN BE STOPPED

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that kills without warning. It claims the lives of hundreds of people every year and makes thousands more ill. Many household items including gas- and oil-burning furnaces, portable generators, and charcoal grills produce this poison gas. Following these important steps can keep your family safe.

### CO DETECTORS

- Install battery-operated or battery back-up CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home.
- Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are functioning properly.

### OIL & GAS FURNACES

- Have your furnace inspected every year.

### PORTABLE GENERATORS

- Never use a generator inside your home or garage, even if doors and windows are open.
- Only use generators outside, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows.

## HRFD KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The children of our fire personnel were treated to a Christmas party complete with a magic act and Santa arriving on a fire truck.





## 2021 HOLIDAY FOOD AND TOY DRIVE BY DEPUTY CHIEF JOHN BERGERON



Welcome to 2022. The Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department would like once again to thank the community for their continued support throughout the year. Now that the holidays are over, we finished up on yet another successful food/toy drive.

Every year in October, we gear up and begin collecting non-perishable foods at all three of our fire stations. We then reach out to see if there are any families in our district that may need assistance during the holiday season. Once we receive that information, we begin with a day of shopping in early December to purchase clothes, toys, books, baby items, etc. After everything is purchased or donated, they are all wrapped by a group of volunteers at the fire station.

A BIG Thank You to Harlem Township for graciously donating their left over gifts from their annual toy drive, it is truly appreciated.

This year we were able to send out a mass email to all our businesses in our district asking them if they would like to participate in our food/toy drive. The response we received was overwhelming in the amount of not only food and toys, but monetary donations that helped immensely. We were happy to be able to send our fire trucks to pick up what the businesses collected and post pictures to our Facebook page. To all the businesses that donated-THANK YOU- we could not of done it without your continued support.

A week out from delivery, we sort food bins with whatever items we were able to collect during the food drive. We then make a shopping list of what will be needed for a Christmas Day dinner, and go shopping for those items. Not only do the families get a complete Christmas Dinner, they also receive boxes of the food items we collect. A week or so out from Christmas, we meet at the fire station and deliver all the food and gifts to the families that we received.

This year we were fortunate enough to be able to assist 22 families and over 100 kids/adults and make their Christmas a little brighter!

Thank You to all the volunteers that work behind the scene that make this possible every year. We look forward to the 2022 drive, as it is something all of us love to do, giving back to the community we serve. If you would like to donate in 2022, please call us at 815-623-7867 or you can E-Mail DC John Bergeron at [hrrfdjbergeron@gmail.com](mailto:hrrfdjbergeron@gmail.com)



# HOUSE FIRE

PHOTOS BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHERYL DROST

Deputy Chief John Bergeron reports, "HRFD was dispatched to a report of a structure fire on Crystal Dr. on Dec. 8th. Upon arrival, crews found fire in the attic. The fire was extinguished and crews searched for any other hot spots within the attic/roof area. Overhaul was completed. There were no injuries reported and occupants were out of the house upon our arrival. HRFD received auto aid from Rockton Fire and South Beloit Fire."







## THE PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

*By Thomas A. Merrill – former chief of  
the Snyder Fire Department, Amhurst, NY*

SUBMITTED BY  
BATTALION CHIEF JOHN DONOVAN

We are asked many times whether we are a career or volunteer firefighters. I explain to them that there are paid firefighters and there are volunteer firefighters, but all firefighters-including volunteers- are professional firefighters.

In the dictionary, there are various definitions for the word “professional,” including “exhibiting a courteous, conscientious, and generally businesslike manner in the workplace.” These meanings apply to volunteers as well as paid firefighters.

No doubt, there are some paid fire departments that cannot be considered professional, while there are many volunteer fire departments that are nothing but professional.

“Professional” means much more than being able to handle emergency calls proficiently and adequately (although that certainly is a large part of it). Also, being considered professional has nothing do with the age of the fire equipment or the firehouse, how many responses a department makes, or how much equipment the department has. So, what makes the department professional?

### **Being “Professional”**

“Professional” has everything to do with a department’s attitude, appearance, commitment, and dedication. It also has to do with how its members approach the job, prepare, and train as well as take care of equipment. This includes how a department treats not only the public but its own members as well. It also has to do with member behavior on and off duty. All of this plays into the equation of the professional firefighter, and volunteers certainly can meet these criteria as can paid firefighters.

The professional volunteer fire department drills on a regular basis. You cannot use the excuse that because

you are a volunteer you don’t have the time to drill regularly. In today’s fire service, that is unacceptable. We have heard many times, the “fire doesn’t treat volunteer firefighters any differently than paid firefighters”. In most volunteer fire departments, members usually come to drill after working a full day. They rush home from work, (maybe) have time to eat a quick dinner with the family, (maybe) have time to rush through homework with their kids, and then rush off to the firehouse, or they give up their Saturday or Sunday morning to drill at the firehouse.

Sometimes, as volunteers, we often get more help at the scene than we might need. Four or five members may be needed on the interior to perform, for example EMS work, while the other responding members assemble outside, ready to help if needed. How do we expect these members to behave? Are they laughing and joking around in full view of the patient, concerned family members, or neighbors? While waiting, firefighters are going to make random conversation as they stand around ready to assist, but they must understand that their behavior will impact the department’s reputation. Remember, laughing loudly, joking, smoking, or swearing while someone is having a really bad day presents anything but a professional image.

Even off-duty behavior is important and impacts the department’s reputation. Once somebody knows you are a firefighter, in his view, you are a firefighter 24/7. Just being a firefighter elevates you to a higher standard, and we all must work together to uphold the standard.

### **Actions Speak as Loudly as Words**

Everything you do, every word you utter is made as a firefighter. Every time you are out in public and at every community event you attend, you are representing your fire department. Like it or not, how you act impacts the reputation and professional image of our department.

We often wear our department T-shirts or job shirts in public. Many times, while we are out in public people feel compelled to chat with us and bring their kids over to talk to us, no doubt because firefighters have a reputation of being warmhearted and friendly people. Now, imagine the damage we can do to that reputation if we act inappropriately or are rude and nasty.



With our department there is no shortage of shirts. What we wear to a volunteer call matters, what if you were wearing a shirt with some disparaging comments or drawing? It is bad enough if you are wearing the shirt in public, but what if a call comes in and you show up at someone's house wearing it? This does not portray a professional image; it could actually diminish the confidence people have in our abilities and lead them to believe we lack compassion and concern for their problems.

Appearance also affects a department's professional reputation. As volunteers, we are often alerted to respond to calls while working around the house or doing something else that might not have us looking neat or clean. We cannot wear uniforms all day just in case we get alerted for a call. However, there are certain things that we can do to help identify us as firefighters and present a more professional appearance not only to the citizens we serve but to other responding agencies such as law enforcement.

Keeping a department T-shirt or sweatshirt in your vehicle is a quick way to cover up and present a decent appearance. In cooler weather, keep a nice department jacket handy to throw on. Professional behavior does not apply only to training and call responses; it also applies inside our firehouses. It starts the minute any member of your local community expresses an interest in joining your department.

### **Inside the Firehouse**

Professional behavior does not apply only to training and call responses; it also applies inside our firehouses. It starts the minute any member of your local community expresses an interest in joining your department. Is your process for bringing them into the membership organized and efficient? Does a member or a committee sit down and discuss with them your department rules and expectations? What about after you formally accept the member? Do you just throw equipment at him and tell him to show up, or does someone or a group of members mentor him on expected behavior and other important department roles? Create a formal orientation program to start off new members in their volunteer firefighting career. My department developed a booklet that we handed out to interested parties, which outlines how our department operates and details expectations and requirements. If the interested party

formally applies, he meets with a board representing a cross section of the department. The board reviews the booklet in greater detail and answers any questions the candidate might have.

Once our new member is accepted, his first night on duty involves a formal orientation program, he's issued gear and equipment, and he's given another review of the department policies to ensure he understands and accepts them. This formal step-by-step process leaves a positive impression on your new member. Even if he does not join the department or he is with you for only a short time, he gets that you run a well-organized, proficient, and professional operation.

The fire service is the greatest profession in the world. Our ranks are filled with hard working, dedicated, caring, and extremely competent members. At all times, strive to be a "professional" firefighter, whether you are paid or volunteer.



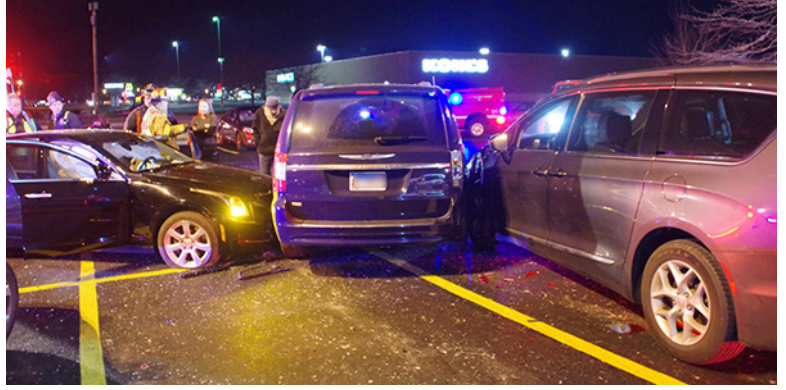
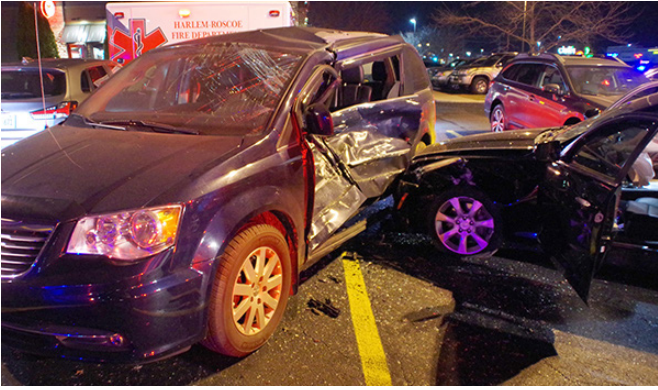
### **KEEP THE WREATH RED**

We are happy to report that all lights on the wreath remained red. There were no fires in December due to Christmas decor!



**Clear hydrants  
of snow  
PLEASE!**

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



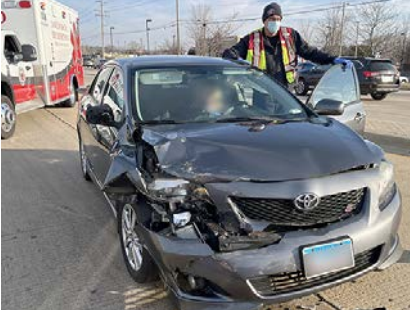
12/09/21 N. Alpine Rd.



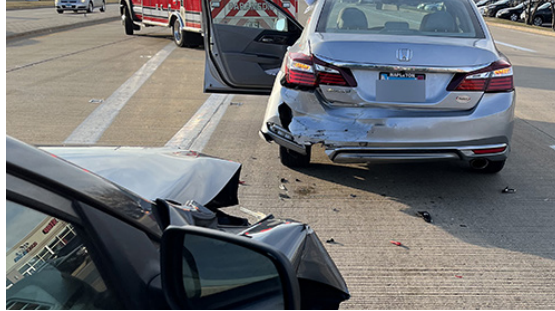
12/12/21 Love Rd. and McCurry Rd.



12/16/21 Elevator Rd.



12/20/21 West Lane Rd.



12/20/21 Hwy 173



12/20/21 Hwy 173



12/27/21 Hwy 251



12/26/21 I-90 mm2



01/03/22 Prairie Hill Rd. and White School Rd.

# Chaplains Corner

By Chaplain Everett Peterson

Happy New Year wishes for friends, family, and others in your life

1. May 2022 be your best year yet.
2. I hope 2022 brings you lots of love, laughter, and joy.
3. Wishing you a happy New Year! May it be filled with new adventures and good fortunes.
4. Know that whatever 2022 brings, I'll be there for you. Can't wait to see what the coming year holds.
5. The New Year comes and goes, but our bond will last a lifetime. Excited to see what 2022 has in store for us!
6. I'm grateful for all the memories we've created this year and the ones we'll make in the new year.
7. I couldn't ask for a better person to ring in the New Year with. I have a feeling 2022 will be our best year yet.
9. Out with the old, in with the new. May the New Year bring you prosperity and good fortune.
10. A new year means a new chapter. I hope 2022 is an incredible part of your story
11. Embrace the New Year with an open heart and a fierce spirit. Cheers to new horizons!
12. Happy New Year! Here's to a year of good health, lots of love, and plenty of laughter.
13. The past year was one for the books. I can't wait to see what adventures await us in 2022!
14. I can't thank you enough for sticking with me this year. Let's make 2022 one to remember.
15. Thank you for being my inspiration and motivation today and every day. I can't wait to spend 2022 in your warm glow.
16. Happy New Year—may you have good health, good experiences, and good company.
17. 2022 is your year, I can feel it. Cheers to a new year and new opportunities!

## The Firehouse Scene

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

Fire Chief - Don Shoenlin  
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](mailto:sdrost@harlemroscoefire.org)

hAPPY BIRTHDAY

### JANUARY

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

### FEBRUARY

10th William Sieracki  
13th Brandon Sherbon  
22nd Butch Taylor  
23rd Alissa Neubauer



# Clothes Dryer Safety

Doing laundry is most likely part of your every day routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

- Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

## AND DON'T FORGET...

Dryers should be properly **grounded**.

Check the **outdoor vent** flap to make sure it is not covered by snow.

Keep the area around your dryer **clear** of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.

Clothes that have come in contact with **flammable substances**, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

## FACT

- ❗ The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.



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