

# THE FIREHOUSE SCENE

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

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*Fire Chief Don Shoevlin*

*Editor Sheryl Drost*

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**FROM THE CHIEFS DESK**  
BY FIRE CHIEF DON SHOEVLIN

“Say it isn’t so”, as it goes when we find it hard to believe that summer is quickly coming to an end. Everyone is in fast mode to get their vacations in, shop for school needs, and trying to process that they have a college bound student. In fact, I have heard many college athletes have already left for their campuses. In our area many schools will be back in session beginning 8/17 (8/15 for my freshman grandson) and the weeks following for others. Please drive safely and remain alert around all schools, school buses, cross walks, and other locations small children may be. These kids will be on their way to school walking, riding bikes, waiting for their rides with carpool or taking the bus at the street corner. Remind yourself that children’s actions are unpredictable and that a bit of patience goes along way!

Last week we held our 2nd Annual HRFD Car Show in Roscoe during National Night Out. National Night Out was a great event both in Roscoe and in Machesney Park working alongside our police officers. Thank you, Machesney Park Deputies, Roscoe Police, and the Winnebago County Sheriff Unit for partnering together with us and show our community how we interact together. At our car show, we had a total of 63 BEAUTIFUL cars representing many eras even older than me. The participants entry fee was to bring nonperishable food items that we in turn donated to our local food pantry.

As the summer winds down, it has been enjoyable to be out and about visiting with you at the many community events, and it’s not over yet. Mark your calendars for September 9th – 11th, where you can see us at the annual Roscoe Lions Fall Festival and parade. There will be a change in menu for us as we will be serving hot, sweet, buttery corn on the cob, iced tea, lemonade, and coffee, we will be also selling raffle tickets. Then the Roscoe Village’s largest parade will be kicking off on Sunday at 11am. Once again, we are privileged to

be able to lead the parade and honor those lost on the Anniversary of 9-11. We will never forget! Stop by our booth as we look forward to seeing you and answering any questions you may have.

**Now to continue with part 2 of my three-part HRFD Then, Now, What’s next?**

**Now: 2001 - Today**

We are a 24/7 operation, responding out of three stations. Every 24 hours, we have 21 positions to fill, 7 are 24 hours in duration and 14 are 12 hours in length. Each station has a three person “jump company” that can jump between a fire engine and an ambulance, depending on the type of emergency call we receive. To accommodate the filling of these positions, HRFD employs 14 contracted full-time Paramedic/EMT/Firefighters who work 24 hour shifts along with 44 paid on call / part-time personnel. Every month our members will volunteer and sign up to fill positions for daily / nightly positions. Most of our members have full time jobs outside of HRFD and carry pagers which are activated when we receive a call. At that time, they respond to their stations and assist with the emergency.

We are governed by the Board of Trustees consisting of three members that are appointed by the Winnebago County Board. Their primary responsibility is to be the financial stability of the district. Our Administrative Staff consists of the following positions: myself, the fire Chief, I am on call 24/7 from home or from the station. I oversee & manage all the daily personnel, and administrative duties, respond to incidents and report directly to the Board of Trustees. A Deputy Chief, on call 24/7, runs the day-to-day operations and constant scheduling of the personnel. The Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief coordinates all daily activities including but not limited to payroll and the district’s financial requirements for the board. A part time Training Chief is responsible for personnel training and schooling and also responding to calls. Training takes place on a weekly basis, including nights and weekends and ensures all firefighters can continue to properly respond to any type of emergency that is received. Our goal is to constantly find ways to become more efficient with our response, our equipment, our community, and our facilities as this district continues to grow.

*...Continued on page 3*



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Now to the meat and potatoes of our success and those who make us who we are each and every day: A Fire Prevention Bureau led by a part time Division Chief with 6 part time inspectors, a Chaplain program with 6 volunteer individuals, a Community Risk Reduction /PR Officer, a part time media/photographer, CERT group made up of volunteers who support us on large scale incidents and FF/EMT/Medics: 65 Contract/Part time/Paid call firefighters EMS personnel.

Our district consists of residential, retail, commercial, industrial, and educational. It covers 80 square miles, which includes 10 miles of the tollway, and a portion of the Rock River. We serve an approximate population of 48,000 residents. As previously stated, we have 3 fire stations. The location of these stations and the equipment that is housed in them are:

**Station #1** - Main Street in Roscoe which has 2 fire engines, 100' platform truck, 3000-gal tender, heavy rescue squad, grass truck, boat, 2 ambulances, a shift command vehicle, and 2 vans for the fire prevention bureau.

**Station #2** - Ralston Rd in Machesney Park has a fire engine, 75' quint, boat, an ambulance and a support vehicle.

**Station #3** - Willowbrook Road in Roscoe has a fire engine, technical rescue squad, 3000-gal tender, grass truck, an ambulance, and a support vehicle.

Our call history: In 2008 - 2434 calls per year (average 6 a day), 2012 - 2609 calls (7 a day), 2017 - 3077 calls (8 a day), 2021 - 3839 calls (10 a day), and in 2022 up to the end of July – 2168 calls (10 a day).

If you missed Part 1, you could review it in the July newsletter which can be seen on our website and next month I will close this series with the Final Part 3, What's next?

Your continuous and generous support is greatly appreciated and does not go unnoticed. Please remember we do not solicit for donations. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me, this is your fire department. Don't forget to keep up on the progress of your fire department by visiting our website. [www.harlemroscoefire.org](http://www.harlemroscoefire.org), we can also be found on Facebook, so go ahead and friend us.

Stay cool, stay safe and enjoy the remaining months of summer. *Chief Shovelin*



HRFD is currently accepting applications for part time EMT-B or EMT-P and 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 as indicated above?

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.

Any questions should be directed to the Chief or Deputy Chief of the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department at 815-623-7867



### CHIEF RECEIVES AWARD

The Greg Lindmark Foundation held it's annual golf outing & dinner on Friday, Aug 5. During the evening presentation, Fire Chief Don Shovelin received a special award for his commitment and support for the foundation over the years. The Lindmark Foundation brings awareness and counseling to any police, fire or first responder in need. Congratulations Chief Shovelin!

This coming Oct 7, the Harlem Roscoe Fire Association will hold a Casino Night, raising funds for the Lindmark Foundation.





**TRAINING UPDATE**  
 BY DIV. CHIEF TOM AAKER  
 PHOTO BY BC BRIGGS

This time of year, is a very exciting time for those of you that still have kids in school simply because they are going back! Sometimes I believe that it gets celebrated a little too much. I mean now have to get them back on a schedule. When they need to go to bed, when they need to wake up. Then YOU have to get back on a schedule. When you have to wake up to wake them up, or if your me, you have to put an alarm on your phone when you have to pick them up from school. Then you have to remember what sport, what day, what location, what time. Now understand, I'm not complaining, but it's a far cry from the middle of July when you had like one thing on your schedule to think about and that was usually what's for dinner. Your daily schedule goes from one item on the list to about ten to fifteen overnight. Okay maybe just another three, but still life definitely changes almost overnight.

Things change in an instant for people that call 911. Maybe a little quicker than they plan on. They may be on their way home from work then in an instant something happens and their life just changed drastically. Hopefully the change isn't too drastic. In a lot of cases, it is though. Something happens to someone and usually it drastically affects them for that day.... sometimes a week, sometimes the rest of their lives. We have some affect on that as first responders, in that how well we handle the situation they are in, may determine how well it goes for them. The better we are, the more knowledgeable we are, the more we understand the job we are to do, sometimes may improve the outcome. We didn't cause the problem, but at the end of the day we are there to make sure it doesn't get worse. Our training is what gets us there. Experience helps us a lot too. The more of the same things we see, the faster and better we can complete the necessary tasks. However, the better we train, the better we can have the "muscle memory" to do the job. The less likely problems come up. That's why we try to train as often as we do.

This quarter is no exception to the rule. We logged in over a thousand hours of training as a department. That's roughly 30 hours between all the members working that day and those that come in and volunteer their time towards their training. Training ranging from a webinar on a Line of Duty Death in North Carolina to practical day of how to attack a house fire. Topics in EMS from Pregnancy Trauma to how to read your hearts electrical activity.



Our biggest thanks go out to members of our community for their consistent and constant support. Currently we are at a house that was given to us to use for training. We have been out there several months now and have been able to complete various trainings. Ventilation on the roof, floor breaching for firefighter survival training, even simply just using our saw to cut on materials. This training is hard to come by and we appreciate when the community helps us to get these training opportunities. We have plans over the next several months to utilize a few houses in the area that were generously donated.

Training consistently helps us deliver consistent results. Our goals are to be consistent in the services we offer our community so that if you are unfortunate, and have an "instant change" in your life, hopefully we can be there to ease the lasting affects of that split second change. If you have kids and are starting out the school year. There is still time to make that transition easier. I'm not sure we can help with that, but good luck to you!





**WATER RESCUE**  
 BY CHIEF DON SHOELVIN  
 PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters were dispatched to a quarry off Prairie Hill Rd. for an injured person on Aug. 2nd. Upon arrival they found a person who was swimming and had injured himself.

Fire personnel made their way out to the victim by walking on the conveyor belt walkway to initiate care until we could reach the patient with a rapid deployment watercraft. The patient was placed in a stokes basket, then placed on the watercraft to bring him to shore where further treatment could be given. The patient was transported to the hospital.

Quick action and thinking by fire department personnel made this unordinary rescue seem like we deal with it on a daily basis. Another true testament to “we are who we are because of them”. Excellent job done by all. I would also like to thank Rockton Fire Department for their assistance.





## RV FIRE

BY FIRE CHIEF SHOEVLIN  
PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters were dispatched to a RV on fire that was parked alongside a home on Montclair Road approx. 6:30am on August 8th. Upon arrival, there was a 42' RV fully involved with fire that was spreading into the garage of the home.

There were no hydrants in this area so a MABAS Box Alarm was requested for Tenders. The fire was quickly extinguished.

The RV was destroyed and there was damage to the garage and a bedroom of the home. A neighbor also sustained damaged to their siding from the heat of the fire.

The residents were outside when units arrived with three of their pets and a fourth was rescued by firefighters.

There were no injuries and the fire is still under investigation. Thank you to all the departments that responded to assist us.









## ACCIDENTS

PHOTOS SHERYL DROST & DUTY OFFICER



07/21/22 Swanson Rd. and Hwy 251



08/02/22 McCurry Rd. and Hwy 251



08/02/22 McCurry Rd. and Hwy 251

## FIRE IN GARAGE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to a report of a fire in a garage on Gray Hawk Dr. on July 20th. The fire was possibly caused by a hot lawn mower and the homeowner had the fire extinguished when units arrived.



## WIRES DOWN

PHOTO BY DIV CHIEF AAKER

Firefighters responded to a report of wires down and a pole leaning on in from the VFW on 2nd St. Seems a garbage truck may have caught the lines. Units stayed on scene until Com Ed arrived.







## VEHICLE EXTRICATION:

### VEHICLE STABILIZATION AND USING RESCUE STRUTS

The most common technical rescue response from coast to coast is vehicle and heavy vehicle extrication. Virtually every fire department deals with some degree of vehicle extrication, from major urban areas to smaller rural districts. As such, extrication is often viewed as a basic skill, learned in fire school and honed on the job. However, many of us only occasionally respond to truly complex and challenging entrapments. Even areas that were once a hotbed of pin-jobs on a Saturday night have seen these incidents decrease dramatically. Engineered solutions such as roundabouts, center divider cables, airbag improvements and supplemental restraints, and legislation to limit distractions in the car have all helped to reduce the number and intensity of accidents in many areas. The result of this is that fire departments may have only a handful of skilled extrication specialists and an abundance of great firefighters looking to them for guidance and instruction on an incident scene.

Among the many things that we struggle to keep tabs on is the very first thing we face—stabilization. On 90 percent of the calls we respond to, a simple 4x4 crib block and a wedge will do the job. Simple, right? As long as we remember to crib at points of contact (think, where would you put the jack to change a tire?) and not weak spots (plastic) and most cribbing jobs are a piece of cake. But what happens when we face an under-ride call on the interstate and there's a semi-truck involved? Cribbing still works but it takes more lumber than most of us carry. How about struts? Struts will save the day here, right? Maybe, but what are the capacities of your struts? Pop quiz: What are the capacities of your struts when it's 2 a.m. and you've just rolled out of bed? Not so easy to recall all the numbers at that point, right? Let's look at a couple of easy reference points.

First, you must know how much weight you're trying to stabilize. Remember, we're not trying to lift the load when stabilizing, just capturing all movement. Remember that our friend gravity is actually actively stabilizing some, if not most, of the weight. Simply take the estimated weight of the load and choose the appropriate stabilization tool to capture movement. A quick scan of the Internet will give a good approximation of most vehicle weights. Depending on what you may run into in your response area, a great crib stat to start with might be vehicle weights.

GENERAL EXTRICATION INFO	
APPROXIMATE VEHICLE WEIGHTS	
Standard Car	4,000 lbs
SUV	4,200 lbs
Pickup Truck	6,000 lbs
Ambulance	10,000 lbs
Delivery Truck	12,000 lbs
Semi-Tractor	18,000 lbs
Class A RV	20,000 lbs
School Bus	34,000 lbs
Charter Bus	40,000 lbs
Garbage Truck	50,000 lbs
Excavator	50,000 lbs
Fire Engine	60,000 lbs
Combine	60,000 lbs
Cement Truck	66,000 lbs
Semi & Trailer	80,000 lbs
Rail Car	250,000 lbs
Locomotive	475,000 lbs

## NEW PARAMEDIC



Congratulations to FF/EMT Hanna Benard for completing the 2022 Swedish American Paramedic program. Job well done!!



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2022

Photos by Sheryl Drost

Harlem-Roscoe Fire Personnel and CERT members participated in two National Night Out celebrations on Aug. 2nd. One was in downtown Roscoe and the other in the Harlem High School parking lot.

## Car Show Winners:

Peoples Choice - Tim Humpal with his 1950 Willys Jeepster

Chief Choice and Firefighter's Choice - Darin Tracey with his 1967 Olds 442 Convertible.







**COMMUNITY CORNER**  
BY CRR JEN ANDERSON

Harlem-Roscoe Fire does not just practice Fire Prevention during the month of October, but year-round in many ways

If you were to take a calendar, and write down some type of fire prevention/ life safety skill to practice once a month, that is what we practices on a daily basis.

When someone mentions “Fire Prevention” most people usually think of the month of October, which is Fire Prevention Month. It was designated by the National Fire Protection Association back in 1922, when Fire Prevention Week was initially founded. It is to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

Many “forms” of fire prevention are offered throughout out the year for the residents & businesses within our district. For the businesses, we offer FREE extinguisher inspection & tagging on the 4th Wednesday of every month. It takes place from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at Station #1 located at 10544 Main Street in Roscoe. Also provided for the businesses within the district is fire extinguisher training. CPR/First Aid training is available for businesses and the general public.

For the residents in the district, Harlem-Roscoe Fire offers a “Residential Knox Box” program. This service is offered to senior citizens and those with physical disabilities at no cost. This service allows immediate access to those in medical need and hopefully offer the family and resident piece of mind. Access is limited to only Harlem-Roscoe Fire and it is documented.

Also available to the residents of the district is Smoke & CO Alarm Checks. It is a FREE check-up of the resident’s home smoke & CO detectors. Harlem-Roscoe Fire recommends that at least one smoke and CO detector is installed on every level of the home. Also, that a smoke and CO detector is installed near bedrooms and other sleeping areas in the home.

We go to PR events when requested, but also offer tours of the fire stations for groups. When we visit with the kids at the schools within the district, the visit covers a variety of activities such as fire prevention, the kids can

see the firetrucks, ambulances, and be able to talk to the firemen. One thing the firefighters do is put their gear on in front of the kids. This is to demonstrate that they are the same person, whether in their gear or in their shift clothes. Several varieties of educational materials are available year-round for teachers.

Harlem-Roscoe Fire has educational materials not only for the kids, but for adults too! With the ever-changing world of automobiles, electronics, housing construction and new sources of energy we do our best to keep the residents of our district informed.

If you would like further information on any of the above-mentioned programs, please contact Harlem-Roscoe Fire at 815-623-7867 ext. 153.

**hAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**AUGUST**

- 1st Larry Sarver**
- 8th Teresa Kinney**
- 11th Rico VanderHeyden**
- 14th Tim Schrader**
- 14th Dylan Lackey ‘30th’**
- 14th Sam Scott**
- 27th Mike Sherbon**
- 27th Al Bach**
- 29th Eric Ceniti**

**SEPTEMBER**

- 12th Bart Munger**
- 13th Marty Green**
- 13th Joe Koeninger**
- 24th Kevin Briggs**
- 28th Paul Meyers**
- 30th Kevin Raymer**

**The Firehouse Scene**

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

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 at: [sdrost@harlemroscoefire.org](mailto:sdrost@harlemroscoefire.org)



# College Campus Fire Safety

College students living away from home should take a few minutes to make sure they are living in a fire-safe environment. Educating students on what they can do to stay safe during the school year is important and often overlooked.

## SAFETY TIPS

- Look for fully sprinklered housing when choosing a dorm or off-campus housing.
- Make sure you can hear the building alarm system when you are in your dorm room.
- If you live in a dormitory, make sure your sleeping room has a smoke alarm, or your dormitory suite has a smoke alarm in each living area as well as the sleeping room. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the dormitory suite should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- If you live in an apartment or house, make sure smoke alarms are installed in each sleeping room, outside every sleeping area, and on each level of the apartment unit or house. For the best protection, all smoke alarms in the apartment unit or house should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least monthly.
- Never remove batteries or disable the alarm.
- Learn your building's evacuation plan and practice all drills as if they were the real thing.
- If you live off campus, have a fire escape plan with two ways out of every room.
- When the smoke alarm or fire alarm sounds, get out of the building quickly and stay out.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- Cook only when you are alert, not sleepy or drowsy from medicine or alcohol.
- Check with your local fire department for any restrictions before using a barbecue grill, fire pit, or chimenea.
- Check your school's rules before using electrical appliances in your room.

## Smoking Sense

If you smoke, smoke outside and only where it is permitted. Use sturdy, deep, non-tip ashtrays. Don't smoke in bed or when you've been drinking or are drowsy.



## Candle Care

Burn candles only if the school permits their use. A candle is an open flame and should be placed away from anything that can burn. Never leave a candle unattended. Blow it out when you leave the room or go to sleep.

## FACT

- ! Fires in dormitories are more common during the evening hours, between 5–11 pm, and on weekends.
- ! Roughly six out of seven fires in dormitories are started by cooking.



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



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