

THE FIREHOUSE SCENE

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

June 2024

Fire Chief John Bergeron

Editor Sheryl Drost

House Fire Page 6





FROM THE CHIEFS DESK
BY FIRE CHIEF JOHN BERGERON

Welcome to the beginning of Summer. Looks like the warm weather has arrived and is here to stay. First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone that came to our Spring Dinner. It is your continued support to us that enables us to provide the services that we do. I truly hope you all enjoyed the food and company. I know as a department; we look forward to the yearly dinner and interacting with the community.

As we move through June, I want to take a moment to update you on some important developments and ongoing initiatives within your fire department. Your safety and well-being are our top priorities, and we are continuously working to enhance our services and community engagement.

Fire Safety and Prevention

With the changing seasons, it is crucial to be mindful of fire safety in our homes and workplaces. As temperatures rise and outdoor activities increase, please remember the following tips:

- Outdoor Fire Safety: Ensure that barbecues and fire pits are used safely, and always keep a bucket of water or a hose nearby. Never leave a fire unattended.
- Smoke Alarms: Test your smoke alarms monthly and replace the batteries at least once a year. Smoke alarms save lives by providing an early warning in the event of a fire.
- Escape Plans: Develop and practice a home fire escape plan with your family. Identify two ways out of every room and designate a meeting spot outside.

Community Engagement and Education

We are excited to announce upcoming events designed to engage and educate our community:

- National Night Out: On August 6th, we will be joining the Roscoe Police Department and

Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department for National Night Out. This is a great opportunity for families to tour the station, meet our firefighters, and learn more about fire safety. There will be more information to follow on our Facebook page.

- CPR: We are offering CPR training classes on the 4th Saturday of every month. These skills are invaluable and can make a critical difference in emergency situations. Call 815-623-7867 for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are always looking for dedicated individuals to join our department. It is a rewarding way to give back to the community and support our mission of protecting lives and property. If you are interested, please visit our website www.harlemroscoefire.org. You can also contact us at 815-623-7867 or e-mail hrfdinfo@gmail.com for more information.

Recognition and Appreciation

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our firefighters and support staff for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Their commitment to excellence ensures that we are always ready to serve and protect our community.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Together, we can make our communities a safer place for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING

Classes are held the 4th Saturday of every month!

Where: HRFD Fire Station #3 @ 13974 Willowbrook Rd.

Time: Starts at 8am

Cost:
\$25 - CPR/AED
\$25 - First Aid Only

Payment: Cash or Check

Register: Call 815-623-7867
Monday - Friday 8-4:30pm



HRFD TRUSTEE AWARDS DINNER PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Our Facebook page has all the photos from the dinner.

HRFD Trustees Bart Munger, John Donahue, and Al Bach hosted the department's annual Trustee's Appreciation Awards Dinner on March 30th, at Mary's Market in Roscoe. After a delicious buffet meal put out by Mary's Market, the awards and recognitions were presented for the year 2023.



HRFD Fire Chief John Bergeron received special recognition for his 40 years of service. John became a HRFD Cadet at the age of 16 and started running calls as Firefighter in 1983. He became a Paramedic in 1988 when the program was still in its infancy and the department only had 5 Paramedics volunteering 24/7. He has been an integral part in the department's EMS growth. John was sworn in as the department's 10th Fire Chief on November 27th, 2023. His dedication and devotion to Harlem-Roscoe for over 40 years is highly commendable.

Other years of Fire Service Presentations: 20-year Fire Service Pin to Engineer Shannon Burbach, 15-year Fire Service Pin to Acting Lt. Greg Wernick and Chaplain Sue Null, 10-year Fire Service Pin to Fire Prevention Ken Kelley and Maintenance Ryan Messenger, and 5-year Fire Service Pin to Kyle Swanson.

10-year Medical Service Pin to EMT, Lt. Justin Harwood, and 5-year Medical Service Pins to Paramedic Kyle Swanson, Paramedic Cecilia Young and Paramedic Chris Witcik.



Good Service Award - Firefighter Lucas Burbach.



The Most Valuable Firefighter Awards for, Sta.#1-Lucas Burbach, Sta.#2-Lt. Justin Mayton, and Sta.#3 Paramedic John Morgan and Madison West;

Other awards were: Officer of the Year Award -Lt. Spencer Caruana; The Most Valuable Fire Prevention Bureau - Ken Kelley; and Probationary Firefighter Award - Jacob Kruckenberg.

Other recognition Awards went to: 27 years past service to Div. Chief Tom Aaker and 10-year to Lt. Nate Sarver.

Retirement recognition to Engineer Tim Schrader, Lt. Sam McNames, Lt. Jason Street, and Chaplains Harold Danger and Everett Peterson.

New Paramedics Ryan Donner, Aaron Kaszcuk, and Tim Broderick; New EMT's Lucas Burbach, Jon Urbietta, and Makhail Madaus. New Personnel - Tim Broderick, Jacob Jourdin, Mikhail Maudaus, Justin Mayton, Davonte Washington, and Chaplain Bobby Sheets.



OPERATIONS VS TECHNICIAN

BY LT. JOE KOENINGER

As firefighters we are called to help with anything and everything. We get called to help get cats out of trees and baby skunks stuck in a storm drain. We even were able to

help get a horse back on to its' feet after it fell in a feed trough. It was on its back and couldn't move enough to get unstuck because it was in a confined space.

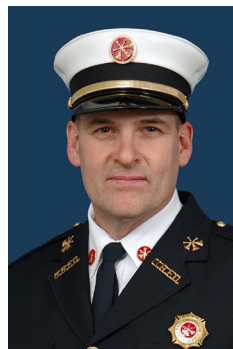
Confined spaces is just one of many technical rescue class that we as firefighters take. Confined space is 40 hours for operations level and 80 additional hours for technician level.

There is a big difference that the public doesn't see between operation and technician. The operations level can get all the equipment set up and identify that there is a problem and where it is. The technician level are the ones that get to do the "cool" stuff and rescue people in the confined space or over the ledge of the cliff. The television shows always show the cool stuff but not the back ground people. They are doing the manual labor such as moving a dump truck load of dirt away from the hole that the just had collapsed and is now a person is covered up to their waist in dirt.

The trench technician is the guy down in the hole. They are working with firefighters around the hole to secure the trench and make it safe for him/her and the victim in order to get them uncovered and out of the hole. Then the medics can treat the victim and either transport them or call for a helicopter to fly them to the nearest hospital.

The new firefighters start with basic fire operations with hazmat operations classes. After their first year they are off of probation, they can start taking more advanced classes.

All of the technical rescues have an operation level and a technician level. They are confined space, rope class, trench rescue, structural collapse, hazardous material, and vehicle extrication. These classes help the firefighters work together as a whole team to serve the public and the ones that travel though as well.



WHAT ARE ROADWAY TRAINING SIGNS?

BY DC JEFF GRANT

HRFD is committed to ensuring the safety and preparedness of our firefighters to respond effectively to emergencies. As part of our ongoing

training efforts, you may notice new roadway training signs in various locations around our community.

HRFD will post roadway signs while conducting training in areas throughout our response area. These are similar to the signs that are posted for road repairs or trimming tree branches from electrical service lines. The Dept. will take advantage to conduct training in an area to give a realistic setting to firefighters as much as possible. In order to stay as safe as possible, personnel will post the training signs to keep the community informed and to not cause unnecessary alarm.

What Should You Do?

If you should see a sign along the roadway, please do the following:

- Stay Alert: When you see roadway training signs, please drive carefully and be aware that firefighters may be operating in the area.
- Respect Boundaries: Do not enter areas marked with training signs, as these zones are for authorized personnel only.

Why is This Training Important?

- Enhanced Safety: Training in real-world conditions helps our firefighters improve their skills and response times, ultimately making our community safer.
- Preparedness: By simulating real emergencies, we ensure our team is well-prepared for any situation, whether it's a fire, medical emergency, or hazardous material incident.
- Public Awareness: These signs also serve as a reminder to the community of the ongoing efforts to maintain high standards of emergency response.
- Support Training Efforts: Your understanding and cooperation help our firefighters train effectively, ensuring they can serve you better in times of need.

• COMMUNITY SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY!!



BY SHERYL DROST

May 19-25 was the celebration of 50 years of the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Harlem-Roscoe Fire has been involved since the beginning. This year's theme was "Honoring the past, forging our future".

If a resident in the fire district had a heart attack or was injured in an accident before 1974, they had to wait for an ambulance to arrive from Rockford or Beloit to start advanced care. The wait could be up to an hour! It was very frustrating for those early firefighters to not be able to help more. So, when the EMS system started, it filled a much-needed service of early intervention of advanced medical care at the scene.

Four past Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters, Oscar Presley, Terry Pitkus, Dick Lyford, and Clay Winters were the first at H-R to complete 70 hours of training to become certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Then in 1979, Oscar certified as a Paramedic. This was a first for the volunteer fire departments in Winnebago Co. With the additional paramedic schooling, he could begin treatment through radio instruction by a physician.

Oscar was the only H-R paramedic for a couple years. Twenty years later there were still only eleven H-R volunteer paramedics and one of those was our current Fire Chief John Bergeron (EMT in 1984 and Paramedic in 1988). We are proud to honor those early volunteer paramedic's dedication and commitment. How they made sure a paramedic was always available 24/7 to respond immediately from home was commendable! They set a strong foundation and community expectation that continues today.

In 1997, the dept. began staffing two EMTs who would be paid for shift duty at Station One during the days. Then in 2000, two contracted full-time paramedics were staffed 24/7 out of Station One and two 12-hour shifts were manned by the volunteer firefighters. Today we staff all three stations with paramedics and EMTs to operate the department's four Advanced Life Support ambulances that are stocked with the latest state-of-the-art equipment.

Oh how things have changed in 50 years, but there is one thing that will never change as we forge ahead into the future. That is the department's continuing commitment to staff highly trained EMTs and Paramedics, and equip them properly to respond to your emergencies.

We would like to take this opportunity to honor our EMTs and Paramedics that have served over the past 50 years. Their commitment, empathy, and drive to be the best have not gone unnoticed. We are very proud of each and everyone one of you! THANK YOU!

A special thank you to our current Paramedics: Aaron Kaszcuk, Brandon Sherbon, Brett Whiting, Cecilia Young, Chris Witcik, Dylan Lackey, Hanna Benard, Jeff Grant, John Bergeron, John Morgan, Justin Mayton, Kyle Swanson, Kevin Raymer, Steffani Hipp, Mike Jones, Rob Lukowski, Ryan Donner, Taylor Larson, Tim Broderick, and Tyler Young.

And to our EMTs: Tim Bergeron, Aaron Morley, Andrew Wiechman, Dallas Washington, Greg Wernick, Gus Larson, John Donovan, Joseph Koeninger, Justin Harwood, Kevin Briggs, Lori Lynch, Lucas Burbach, Madison West, Alissa Neubauer, Jonathan Urbieta Cooper Jevremovic, Jacob Kruckenberg, Michael Craglow, Mikhail Madaus, Mike Huffman, Spencer Caruana, and Tyler Ebany.



FOUR ROSCOE-HARLEM firemen have recently completed 70 hours of emergency medical training at St. Anthony's hospital, Rockford. From left - Oscar Presley, captain; Clay Winter, fireman; Dick Lyford, assistant chief, and Terry Pitkus, fire inspector. (VSAP- McCleary)

Roscoe Review *Firemen emergency trained*

The above article reads Four Roscoe-Harlem fireman have recently completed 70 hours of emergency medical training at St. Anthony Hospital, Rockford, From left, Oscar Presley, Captain, Clay Winter, fireman; Dick Lyford, Assistant Chief; and Terry Pitkus, Fire Inspector.

HOUSE FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters were dispatched to a possible structure fire on March 17th on Swanson Rd. Deputy Chief Kevin Briggs reports, “First arriving units reported heavy smoke and fire conditions throughout the house. I arrived on scene and took command and requested a MABAS Alarm to get more units in route. We eventually went to a second alarm. We had problems with getting the gas turned off. There was no one home at the time of the fire and no injuries to firefighters. Thanks to all the MABAS fire companies that showed up to help. The house was a total loss. The investigation to the cause of the fire is in progress.”



SHED FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters were dispatched to a shed fully involved with fire on Jennie Dr. on May 8th. Operations BC Mike Huffman and Incident Command DC Kevin Briggs report that the HRFD and auto aid department firefighters quickly had the fire knocked down and overhauled. The shed and contents are a complete loss. Thank you to the auto aid departments that assisted on the scene.



MOWER FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to Jesters Row in Roscoe for a riding lawnmower fire on April 15th. The fire was quickly extinguished and damage was contained to the mower.



UNCONTROLLED BURN

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to an out of control burn behind a residence on Tranery Ct. in Roscoe on April 15. Brush Rig #1 crew extinguished the fire in the back of the yard. The fire had traveled past the fence line towards I-90, so Brush Rig #3 crew was sent out on I-90 to extinguish the fire from the other side of the fence. Tender #1 was on scene to fill the truck.





BY DC KEVIN BRIGGS

It's that time of year again, when the weather gets warm so do the BBQs. The Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department is reminding you to make sure you are following proper safety practices when using their grills throughout the rest of the summer. July is the peak month for grill fires followed by June, May and August.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), reports around 64% of U.S. households own at least one outdoor BBQ, grill or smoker. Gas grills contribute to a higher number of fires than charcoal grills. The NFPA reports 61% of households own a gas grill. On average, 10,200 home fires are started by a grill each year. In 2017-2023, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 11,421 home fires involving grills, hibachis, or barbecues per year, including an average of 5,763 structure fires and 5,659 outside or unclassified fires. During the same time, an average of 22,155 patients per year went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills. Nearly half (10,342 or 47%) of the injuries were thermal burns, including both burns from fire and from contact with hot objects.

The Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department advises everyone to take these steps to help ensure a safe summer filled with everyone's favorite grilled foods:

- Propane and charcoal grills should be only used outdoors
- The grill should be placed away from the home or deck railing, and out from under eaves of your home and overhanging tree branches
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grilling area
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in the trays below the grill
- Never leave your grill unattended
- Always make sure gas grill lids are open before lighting it.

- Check the gas tank on your propane grills and hoses for leaks each time before using
- If you smell gas while grilling, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department
- Make sure charcoal grill coals are cool before disposing of them in a metal container
- Always have a fire extinguisher, bucket of water or garden hose nearby or know where you can access one quickly

Bonfires, pit fires and campfires can also create fire safety dangers during the summer months. Campfires need to be built at least 25 feet away from tents, shrubs and anything that can burn. Make sure fires are allowed in the area that you are camping. Use of chimineas, outdoor fireplaces and fire pits need to be at least 10 feet away from your home or anything that can burn.

SPRING DINNER

PHOTOS BY STEFFANI HIPPI

More photos from the dinner can be seen on our Facebook page.

Thank you to everyone that came to our Spring Dinner. All of your support is truly appreciated. We hope you enjoyed the meal!





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Fire Prevention Tracie McCormick graduated from the William Rainey Harper College with an Associates of Applied Science Degree in Forensic Science.

Mikhail Madaus graduated from OSF Paramedic School.

Cadet Anna Walczak graduated from Hononegah High School.

Cadet Kyla Human graduated from Hononegah High School.

Lt. Rob Lukowski's daughter Addison graduated from Harlem High School.

Lt. Justin Harwood's daughter Olivia graduated from Hononegah High School.

DC Mike Jones step daughter Gabriella Trollop graduated from Hononegah High School. And his step son William Trollop graduated from Stephen Mack Middle School.

Lt. Justin Mayton daughter / Div. Chief Jay Alms' granddaughter Lily Mayton graduated from Stephen Mack Middle School.

Photographer Sheryl Drost's grandson Tommy Aaker graduated from Roscoe Middle School.

Firefighter Lori Lynch's daughter Riley Brannon, graduated Kindergarten at Powers Elementary School in Town of Beloit, WI.

Div. Chief Jay Alms granddaughter Marley graduated from Cross and Crown's "Pretty" School.

Fire Prevention Theresa Kinney would also like to mention her niece Carolyn Fleming graduated from West Chicago High School, her niece Sadie Jean graduated from Tonica High School, and her grandson Liam Kinney graduated from Preschool.

CIVILIAN LIFESAVING AWARD



April 15th, the Village of Machesney Park's Board of Trustees, alongside members of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department and Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department, honored Cassidy Davenport with the Civilian Lifesaving Award.

On March 26, 2024, Cassidy's quick thinking and recent CPR training came into life-saving action. Just weeks after becoming CPR certified, Cassidy adeptly performed CPR on a child who was choking and not breathing, successfully saving the child's life.

LEDGEWOOD SCHOOL THANKS FIRE SAFETY INSTRUCTOR



HRFD Fire CRR Officer Jen Anderson was surprised when she was presented with a large thank you sign from Ledgewood School. Jen has been teaching fire safety at the school for the PreK, Kindergarten, and 1st Graders all school year. Jen loved it that all the kids and the teachers had signed it! Great Job Jen!

Out in the Community



Roscoe VFW Memorial Day Parade



Maxwell Miller from the Rock River Valley Blood Center presented to CRR Officer Jen Anderson with the Annual Battle of Badges Blood Drive traveling winner's plaque. This year Harlem-Roscoe Fire and Roscoe Police topped their counterparts in Rockton and, new this year, South Beloit, to have the most residents donate blood.



Daisy Troop 1986 Station Tour

Principal for the day winners received a ride in the fire truck!

