

THE FIREHOUSE SCENE

A monthly publication of the
Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District
Chief Oscar Presley

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April 2005



Photo by Sheryl Drost

Dan Borchardt feeds hose line off Grass Rig 765 to Captain Tim Schrader and Chris Scott as they fight a field fire in Kieselberg Park.

Field Fires Cause Havoc

Why do dry area fields on a warm windy day worry Firefighters so much? Well, when you add fire to that mix, you have field fires! The fire above is just one that Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters fought this month.

... See more fires inside.

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Grass & Field Fires Everywhere

Story & photos by Sheryl Drost

They have started. The department is not alone in fighting them. One only has to listen to a fire scanner and there will be at least one, if not two, area fire departments out on them. There even have been a couple mutual aid alarms from surrounding departments. What are they? They are spring time grass and field fires. Harlem-Roscoe Fire is well equipped though to join the fight. A mini-pumper type grass rig is located at each of the three fire stations. And, Station's 1 & 3 also each house a 4-wheel drive grass rig.

March 30, all five grass rigs were put in to use on a field fire at Kieselberg Park on Swanson Road. Luckily the large fire was stopped before it progressed into the evergreen trees and the shelters. It took 5 grass rigs, 2 Engine Companies, 2 Tankers, and a lot of hard leg work from the firefighters. The two Engine Companies protected the shelter pavilion and took a stand from the parking lots as the fire headed their way. Over 500 feet of hose was pulled from 701 to get to the north edge of the fire.

As the winds spread the fire quickly, the grass rigs entered the field to try to head it off. However the field was very soft and three of the rigs became stuck and had to be towed out. The two other grass rigs along with good ole fashion hard working firefighters, were able to head off the fire along the east and south edge of the fire.



Jeff Morris maneuvers the Grass Rig 765 as Dan Borchardt tries to stop the fire from advancing on the east side.



Lt. Tom Aaker gets water flowing as Captain Mike Drost quickly pulls hose to protect the Grass Rig 764 from the advancing fire after it gets stuck in the mud.



Firefighters use hose lines off Grass Rig 765 to fight the east line of the fire.



It also took firefighters with water canisters, Indian backpacks, and brooms to get to the fire in the soft areas.



Mike Sherbon is silhouetted against the fire as he heads to the fire line.



Firefighters heading toward the northwest fire line meet up with the firefighters on the hose line off Engine 702.



Hillside Towing pulls Tony's Towing out of the mud. The tow truck got stuck on the way out after pulling 764 from the field.

Grass Fires Continue

Photos by Sheryl Drost



Chad Radke uses a hose line off the minipumper to reach all the fire.

April 2, Firefighters were dispatched to I-90 to put out a fire along the ditch on the west side of the Tollway. There were actually two areas, one just south, and one just north of Belvidere Road.



Lt. Aaron Miller and Lt. Tom Aaker head back in alongside 764.

April 6, Firefighters responded to a mutual aid call from South Beloit Fire for a field fire off Cheney Dr. in South Beloit. A grass unit from Harlem-Roscoe and Rockton Fire joined forces with South Beloit firefighters to extinguish a large cornfield fire.

Illegal Burning



Station Two firefighters quickly had the fire out.

March 22, Police asked Harlem-Roscoe Fire to extinguish a fire on Smythe Ave. It seems the owners had demolished a home at the site and thought they could now burn the left over debris.

Neighborhood Fire

Photos by Sheryl Drost

March 30, a contractor drove through the neighborhood south of Swanson Ct not knowing that burning debris was falling out of the back of his truck as he drove. The debris started fires in the middle of Birch Bark Way and along Summerwood Dr. in the ditches. Fire trucks were sent to both locations to extinguish the fires.



Lt. Tom Aaker and Captain Mike Drost finish putting out the burning debris that was in the road.



Firefighter Dan Zintak walks the roadway with a water cannon checking for hotspots around the burned areas.

Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters Association's Fall Festival Raffle – Sept. 11, 2005



1st Prize – Husqvarna Zero Turn Riding Mower
(Pictured left)

2nd Prize – Barbecue Gas Grill Package

3rd Prize – 6-Month YMCA Family Membership
(Roscoe/Rockton Stateline Facility)

4th Prize – Child's Fire Truck Pedal Car

The Drawing is to be held at Leland Park during Roscoe's Fall Festival. You need not be present to win. Tickets can be bought from any H-R Firefighter or at Station #1 @ 10544 Main St. in Roscoe. **Donations \$5.00 each Or 3 tickets for \$10.00**

Industrial Fire

Story & Photos by Sheryl Drost

April 5, Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters were rousted from their beds for a structure fire on Shappert Drive. 9-1-1 reported a man working on a gas tank at Akins Automotive, dropped the tank, and it ignited. Fire Chief Oscar Presley arrived and reported smoke and fire coming from the open overhead door of a big metal industrial type building. Forced entry had to be made into the other doors of the building. Firefighters knocked down the bulk of the fire quickly but it would prove to be a stubborn fire.

Fire continued to burrow through the insulation in the ceiling and walls. Firefighters had to pull metal ceiling, pull metal panels on the walls, and cut through the ceiling to get to the fire extension. It was over four hours before firefighters were home in bed. Well, some went back to bed; most of the firefighters however had to head off to work. The owner had received some burns but refused transport to the hospital. The building housed two businesses and the side that had the fire was a total loss. Three vehicles were also destroyed in the fire.



Left, Shannon Burbach and Matt Lane attack the fire through the open door. Right, the two are joined by Paul Stanphill and Brad Delmore.



Jim Daughenbaugh tries to hit some hot spots in the ceiling.



Greg Zintak (left) breaks a window so Mike Pierson (right) can get to the fire with the hose line.



Doug Wolfe cut a hole in the roof and uses a pike pole to try to pull insulation to get to some fire extension.

Fire Prevention Props Arrive



Some of the new fire prevention props have arrived. It is fun to watch the firefighters play with them as they learn how to use them. When the remote control firetruck arrived they practiced with it for two days straight. It is hysterical to watch the different antics of the drivers and the one that makes Sparky talk. My favorite was when they drove it across the street to the police station and sounded its sirens and hid until the police came outside. Then when the dog costumes came in, Dave Doyle wore one of them over to the Vets next door and got his distemper shot. (pictured above) These props will be used to bring fire prevention messages in a fun way to the children in the community.



Remote control talking Sparky in his fire truck made his debut at the Spring Dinner. Firefighters can remotely control the fire truck and speak for Sparky. Needless to say Sparky was a big hit with the kids at the dinner.



Times Rekindled

By Sheryl Drost



Mario (Mike) Rallo. 1951-2005

March 18, Harlem-Roscoe Fire lost another one of our own. Former Harlem-Roscoe Fire Station #3 Captain Mike Rallo, passed away after a hard battle with cancer. Mike served on Harlem-Roscoe for most of the 90's and retired at the rank of Captain. Mike was also one of the original firefighters that ran out of Station #3 when it was built in 1991. He was Deputy Chief Schoonover's right-hand man in the Mechanics Division. "Mike was a spark plug of energy" commented Chief Oscar Presley. "You could always count on him being there to help Schoonover repair trucks, as well as help tow out a stuck truck with his rig."

When Mike wasn't volunteering for Harlem-Roscoe he ran Tony's Standard and Tony's Towing in South Beloit. On any given day there would be a firefighter or friend that stopped in to have a cup of coffee and shoot the bull with Mike. He was a magnet for friends. Mike and his wife Sue chased their dream and bought a fishing resort in Nestle Falls, Canada. Even there he quickly became friends with the locals and had many visits from friends back home.

Harlem-Roscoe Fire Deputy Chief Richard Schoonover lost not only a former firefighter but his best friend. "Mike was a true friend and one of a kind. It's not very often you find a friend that you click with like Mike and I did. From the beginning we got along so well and our friendship grew very close over the years." Mike was just that type of a guy; he had a lot of close friends. He made friends wherever he went and was the best type of friend. Harlem-Roscoe Firefighter Mickey Rykowski made many trips up to Canada with Mike and he says, "Mike was a great friend and would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it and he could make you laugh."

One thing everyone remembers about Mike was his "antics". If there was a prank or a joke played at the fire station, you could be sure Mike was at the root of it. Mike loved to play pranks and make people laugh and Station #3 was fodder for more antics than anyone will ever know during Mike's tenure there. Most famous was the clown act of Mike and former H-R Firefighter Rick Olson. Other memorable favorites was the sign they put in Deputy Chief Schoonover's yard when he retired, the fishing trips to Canada, the black sheep sign, and the Harlem-Roscoe Fire sign he had made up to put on his tow truck. I personally was tricked with his dollar trick and he never let me forget it.

Mike is greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Sue, his children, his family, and all those friends!

The Firehouse Scene – April 2005

From the Chief's Desk

By Chief Oscar Presley



Warm, dry, and windy days are predicted for this month with maybe a sprinkle or even a snow shower (hint hint). The grass fire season is now upon us and is already keeping us on the run. Warmer weather, sunny days, and a little cabin fever sure bring out the cleanup crews. Now, what to do with all that grass, limbs, and leaf debris? Most of you will think

about burning it. Please remember it is illegal to burn in the County now except for recreational type camp fires; these are small 2'x2' little pit type fires. If smoke is bothersome to someone however, you could be requested to extinguish it. If you are allowed to burn, such as in the Village, please be considerate to your neighbors. It is important that you stay with the fire to keep it under control. There is also no burning after dark and no burning of petroleum products.

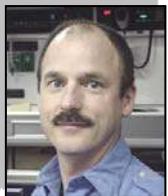
If you need to call to report someone that is burning illegally, you must call the Police first! They have the say so. If they decide it needs to be put out, they will then call for the Fire Department.

This month we will also see the delivery of our new much anticipated Rescue Squad. It will have several state-of-the-art equipment and tools. This will be a much prized addition to our response fleet.

We have many classes to attend coming up including classes at FDIC and Champaign Fire School. The Firefighter II is finishing up and a Firefighter III Class will be starting. And we still have our Tuesday night drill night trainings.

So, what else is new? Well, as I think about all the new construction with homes, roads, and big box stores popping up all over in our community and how we have to be thinking about all the new problems they bring. Are we ready to handle them? I think so. But, what will be needed if we are to stay on top of the game? We have the equipment, tools, and the manpower. But, we will need the response from each Firefighter day or night, no matter what they're doing at the time of the call. Their commitment will be the key to our success. . . . Oscar





EMS Report

By Lt. John Bergeron

CPR Instructors Class

In preparation for the upcoming Community CPR Classes that the department is planning, Harlem-Roscoe hosted a CPR Instructors class at Station One on March 2-3rd. The class was taught by Swedish American's CPR Instructors Lynn Aviles, Tanja Barnes, and Penny Lentz. There are now 12 more Certified CPR Instructors that join Mike Pierson and Mike Sherbon. This brings the total CPR Instructors at Harlem-Roscoe Fire to 14. This is another example of the high level of commitment to the community that the firefighters of Harlem-Roscoe have. Congratulations and Thank you to Ramona Baldoni, Tim Bergeron, Jeff Brandenburg, Dave Doyle, Amber Drost, Kevin Keen, Brad Knipp, Mike Morrison, Lt. Vern Sarver, Mark Soppe, Andrew Willis, and Tracy Wilson.

(Editors note: Instructor Lynn Aviles was in a major accident in Rockford on the way home from this class. Last update she is recovering from a couple broken bones and several bumps and bruises. We wish her a speedy recovery.)

Upcoming PHTLS Classes

- April 30th Refresher Class @ Rockton Fire.
- April 13-14th Provider Class @ Saint Anthony Hospital
- April 18-19th Provider Class @ Swedish American Hospital
- May 12-13th Provider Class @ Saint Anthony Hospital
- May 17-18th Provider Class @ Swedish American Hospital



Left, Ramona Baldoni, Mark Soppe, and Jeff Brandenburg practice compressions as right, Dave Doyle and Tracy Wilson practice the Heimlich maneuver on the mannequins.



L-r Tim Bergeron, Brad Knipp, and Kevin Keen practice rescue breathing.



Instructor Tanja Barnes observes Jeff Brandenburg and Mike Morrison's CPR efforts.

EMS of the Month

By Sheryl Drost



EMS of the Month for April is Deputy Chief John Presley. John joined the department in 1982. He was promoted to Lt. in 1987, to Captain in 1993, and to Deputy Chief on September 12, 2004. He became an EMT-A in the spring of 1983, and EMT-I in 1988, and an EMT-Paramedic in 1991. John currently works as a Paramedic for Lifeline Ambulance. John not only is very dedicated to helping the residents of Harlem-Roscoe Fire, but he has true compassion. John also serves

alongside two family members at Harlem-Roscoe. His father is Chief Oscar Presley, and Lt. Jeff Ball is married to his sister Marcie. John is single and very devoted also to his niece and nephew, Leah and Logan Ball.

Q. Why are you a Paramedic today and what made you choose this line of work?

A. *"I joined the Department after my 18th birthday and became an EMT-A with national registry credentials in the spring of the following year. My class included Jerry Lund and Charlie Ball (Lt. Jeff Ball's cousin and now a flight medic at St Anthony). We attended the class at Beloit Memorial Hospital. I was chosen to go because of the fact that I was working nights at the time and day medics were needed. I felt like it was something I had little interest in but needed to do it for the team. I became a Paramedic in the fall of 1991. After several job changes and landing jobs at Ginders' Graham Ambulance, then Lifeline, I think I found a job I could do and be proud of."*

Q. Who have been your mentors or have influenced you in EMS?

A. *"I always have had a belief that the medical service at Harlem Roscoe is A-#1 because of the training ethics handed down from the Paramedics before us. You might have heard of a few of them - Chief Oscar Presley, Retired Chief Jack Brown, Lt. Virgil Johnson, Jim Van Buren, Dave Bailey, Deputy Chief Kirk Wilson and Lt. John Bergeron.*

I like a lot of others on the department that grew up during the 70s, lived for the TV show Emergency every week along with Adam 12, Chips, Code Red. And, watching my dad run out of the house every time the fire siren (before pagers) activated was a big influence. So I guess you can say I have been a "fire brat" since I was first introduced to the fire department."

Q. What changes have you noticed over the years?

A. *"I can remember the old bread truck as a rescue squad. It later became a pickup with storage boxes on the side to carry the oxygen and other equipment. Then came the International squad (old 741) with its 4-wheel drive and lumber wagon ride - it was our first Ambulance! Then we switched to modular gas powered ambulances and had 2 of them built in Florida. Next it was a switch to the diesel ambulance which provided a better overall ride. The med boxes have changed a lot too. I remember the orange boxes that were big and cumbersome, and then tackle boxes that were lighter but subject to breaking clips. Now we use a soft bag and it is really a Godsend."*

Q. What is your most memorable best and worst call?

A. *"I don't have to go very far back to remember this one. It was just last year, when a patient quit talking and coded! Already having an IV in we shocked him and his pulse returned and he woke up! I still see him occasionally and his wife always gives me a big hug and a thank you!"*

Q. What do you think of the EMS program at Harlem-Roscoe?

A. *"We are the best!"*

TRAINING

By Captain Don Shoelvin -Training Officer



Congratulations to all of our new Certified FFII individuals! It is a great accomplishment and something to be proud of. Keep up the great work and effort.

With all the commercial development going on in our district, I thought it would be great to jog our minds with this article I ran across. Just a few things to remember about unprotected steel...

Definitions: "Unprotected" steel construction means the steel is not encased in any protective masonry, perlite, or vermiculite covering, which ordinarily would insulate the steel from heat for 30 minutes to four hours or longer. Therefore, "unprotected" steel structural units may fail rapidly during fires. Structural steel can receive enough heat within 5 – 15 minutes to begin expanding or elongating.

Examples of Fire Resistance of Steel Elements:

Hollow steel column: 6" i.d. will fail in 20 minutes.

Hollow steel column filled with concrete 6" i.d. - 25 minutes

Hollow steel column with 2" concrete around outside – 6" i.d. will fail in 120 minutes.

Unprotected coatings absent from all steel elements will fail in less than 30 minutes.

Unprotected Steel Structural Elements and Heat:

Fires in buildings of Class A fuels.

5 minutes – 1,000 degree F at the ceiling

10 minutes – 1,300 degree F at the ceiling

15 minutes – 1,425 degree F at the ceiling

30 minutes – 1,550 degree F at the ceiling

60 minutes – 1,600 degree F at the ceiling

Drill Night



The new training facility was used for training this month, much to the firefighters delight. They really like getting in there for live training and commented how they would gladly do it every training night.

Volunteers are not paid. Not because they are
Worthless, but because they are Priceless!



The Firehouse Scene – April 2005

O2 Cylinder Explosion

By Deputy Chief Kirk Wilson - Safety Officer



This month I would like to bring to everyone's attention an incident that occurred within the Virginia Beach Fire Department. In early January, the crew from Ladder 16 was doing a routine inspection on their rig. They carry EMS equipment on their fire rigs just like we do. They have similar equipment bags like we have on the ambulance. In their bags they carry an oxygen tank along with other EMS equipment.

On this particular day, the firefighters had checked the O2 cylinder. They charged the cylinder to see how much oxygen was in the bottle. Without their knowing, the oxygen tank started to leak. When the firefighter was done with his check, he simply set the oxygen cylinder back in the bag and zipped the bag closed. After several minutes, the bag was collecting the oxygen leaking from the cylinder. When the firefighter placed the oxygen cylinder in the bag, he didn't realize he had placed the cylinder on top of a simple pen light. Well, you see where this is going? Naturally the pen light caused ignition and the cylinder exploded causing a fire within Ladder 16's EMS compartment. The firefighters removed the bag from the compartment and extinguished the fire. The explosion was so intense it split the side of the oxygen cylinder. Thankfully, none of the firefighters were injured. Damage was done to the ladder truck and remained out of service until the compartment was repaired.

We, as fire and EMS personnel must realize that what we think is routine, could change in a heartbeat. Nothing in this business is routine. When checking our oxygen equipment, it is important to take these simple steps to reduce this kind of incident from occurring:

- When you open an oxygen cylinder, bleed off the excess before restoring it.
- Insure the tank will not leak when charged. Replace the gasket on the regulator when you place a new bottle in service.
- Keep any ignition source away from the oxygen cylinder.
- Use a non-sparking or plastic wrench.
- Refrain from using smoking materials around oxygen storage areas.

This incident could have been catastrophic not only for the firefighters involved, but for the department and the community. Please insure all equipment is in top working order. If equipment is not working properly, red tag it, and place it out of service. Notify your company officer and get it repaired. Remember, safety is everyone's responsibility. Train hard and stay safe!



Spelling Importance in Report Writing

By Deputy Chief John Presley

As many of us know, we have a lot of paper work involved in our day to day operations. We have time sheets, alarm reports, first in reports, maintenance sheets, and governmental reports, and the list can go on and on. So, you ask "Why would I care if there is a spelling error on a call report?" The answer lies in not what you say in the report, but rather how you say it. You ask, Still how does this affect me? I will tell you! Sound spellers get their point across much easier. The time in editing is less (no spell checking), and reports can be filed sooner if you take the time to spell it right the first time. Sometimes one letter can be the difference between meaning one thing and saying something completely different. If you have a question on spelling, look it up in the dictionary, or use you spell-checker on the computer. I will leave you with a list of words commonly misused.

There - location	Their – possessive noun
Bare – uncovered	Bear - animal
Great – wonderful	Grate - covering for a hole
Hair - body covering	Hare - rabbit
Deer - animal &	Dear – sincerity
Pale -lack of color	Pail - bucket
Ale - drink	Ail - illness
Bread -food	Bred - reproduce
Stares - gazes	Stairs – steps

Spring Diner



March 19, it all started early in the morning when Harlem-Roscoe Fire Station #1's truck bay was transformed into a dining room. The trucks were moved out and the floors washed. Firefighters had already worked for weeks on cleaning the rest of the bay. Then rows of tables and chairs appeared and were decorated for the annual Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters Association Spring Dinner. Dinner started being served at 5pm and it didn't take long before the bay was full of people (including firefighter April Cooper's nephew pictured above) enjoying a delicious meal of ham, beef, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, buns and dessert.

By 8PM, Harlem-Roscoe Fire Personnel along with help from their family, friends, and the Northern Stars 4H Club had served 1229 meals.

Monies raised by this fundraiser will help with specialized firefighter trainings, equipment and trainings for Fire Prevention education, as well as the recent purchase of mannequins to use in the upcoming Community First Aid/CPR classes.



The turnout was great keeping the tables full most the night.

Maintenance Bay in Operation



One of the mini-pumpers was the first truck to officially be worked on in the new maintenance bay by mechanics Ron Swain (pictured above) and Deputy Chief Richard Schoonover.

Rescue Truck in Progress

Construction of the new Rescue Squad is moving along very quickly now to get it ready for the FDIC Convention April 11-16. The truck will be on display for Alexis throughout the convention. Then it will go back to Alexis for any needed adjustments. Delivery should be before the end of the month.



St. Patrick's Day Float



L-r Andrew Willis, Robert Gonia, Kevin Keen, Don Fish, and Clint Evans show off all their hard work on their float they made for the Rockford St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Accidents Photos by Sheryl Drost



03/08/05 West Lane & Orlando



03/15/05 Hwy 173 & Belvidere Road



03/16/05 I-90 near Belvidere Road



03/17/05 Willowbrook Road



Gone, But not forgotten

Some people come into our lives, and quickly go.
Some stay awhile and leave footprints in our hearts.
And, we are never, ever the same.

- David Zitzke, son of Ike & Diane Schoonover, passed away unexpectedly March 25th.

Our deepest sympathies and prayers go out to Ike and Diane and their family.



Chaplains Notes

By Chaplain Jim Cole

I came across this while going through my file the other day (there are all sorts of stuff in my file!), and thought I would share it with you

COMPASSION FOR THOSE LEARNING ENGLISH

I take it you already know of tough and bough and cough and dough? Others may stumble but not you on hiccough, thorough, laugh and through. Well done! And now you wish, perhaps to learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of heard, dreadful word, that looks like beard and sounds like bird. And dead: it's said like bed, not bead. For goodness' sake, don't call "deed!" Watch out for meat and great and threat (They rhyme with suite and straight and debt).

A moth is neither a moth in mother nor both in bother, nor broth in brother. And here is not a match for there nor dear and fear with bear and pear. And then there is dose and rose and lose. Just look them up - and goose and choose, and cork and work, and card and ward, and font and front and word and sword, and do and go and thwart and cart. Come, come, now I've hardly made a start! A dreadful language? Man alive, I'd mastered it when I was five! ...Chaplain Cole



Nathan Morris just loves to drive the fire truck just like his daddy Jeff!

Shriner's 98 Cent Day

Submitted by Jim Hall



The Scene: Main Street Square

The Date: March 19, 2005

The Event: Celebrating 98 Cent Day with the "Shriners".

Lt. Aaron Miller (above) is keeping an eye on David "Kuddles" Barrickman. Only a certain amount of "Clowning Around" is allowed!

Huffman in Jail?



Firefighter Mike Huffman was in "Jail" at the Firehouse House Pub for their MDA Drive. Mike had to raise as much as he could in an hour to get out of jail. Oh, did I mention he is still there? We do try to visit when we can. No, just kidding, Mike raised \$215 and was released.

The Bet



Another new driver makes a bet with Chief Presley that he will not have a driving mishap for 6 months. For years the Chief has bet new teenage drivers a 6 pack of pop that they will have a mishap before 6 months. He has only had to pay out a few times.

The Firehouse Scene – April 2005

Birthdays



April

1st	Jeff Ball
10th	Colleen Bloyer
12th	Ami Rafferty
14th	Eve Saltstrom
21st	Trustee Jim Burdick
24th	Paul Stanphill
29th	Snoopy

May

1 st	Danny Gunderson
8 th	Kevin Bouton
25 th	Kevin Keen
31 st	Mike Pierson

May Breakfast Crew

C. Radke, N. Alexander,
M. Soppe, M. Green, M. Sherbon,
C. Kaiser & Eve Saltstrom

Total Calls

March 2005

Medicals -	95	306
Accidents -	12	46
Fires -	6	25
Misc. -	16	63
Total Calls	129	440

The Firehouse Scene is a monthly newsletter produced by the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District.

Editor-in-Chief – Chief Oscar Presley
Editor, Producer, Writer, & Photos by
Photographer Sheryl Drost

Special thanks to this month's contributing writers: DC Kirk Wilson, DC John Presley, Captain Don Shoevin, Lt. John Bergeron, Debbie Rykowski, and Chaplain Jim Cole, Printer – Premier Printing

The newsletter is available at Station One - 10544 Main Street in Roscoe and on the depts.' website www.harlemroscoefire.com after the second Sunday of each month.

Chuck Update



Former H-R firefighter Chuck Poveromo (pictured left) sent up the following email and pictures. Good to hear from you Chuck and thanks for the pictures. The email from Chuck read, "Thought you guys might like to see some of the disaster training pictures. We trained for a terrorist bombing with the search and rescue dogs from Miami-Dade Fire Department. Then at night we had a simulation of a Coast Guard C-130 Aircraft crash. Many local fire, police, and ambulances responded. It was pretty exciting stuff."



Dad Visits Station



Doug Wolfe shows off the minipumper to his dad.

Harlem-Roscoe Firefighter Doug Wolfe's father Richard now lives in Two Harbors Minnesota and was down for a visit. Richard was on West Suburban Fire for 13 years as well a Rockford Detective for 28, so of course Doug had him at the fire station. Doug says his dad is also a faithful reader and enjoys our newsletter and website.

Fire Bike



Dispatcher Jerry Lund was thrilled to be able to get up close for a picture with the Orange County Chopper's Fire Bike.

Dispatcher Jerry Lund and Firefighter Dave Doyle spent time in Daytona Florida last month during Bike Week. They ran into former firefighter Fred Tuttle and Jerry videotaped a message from Fred to Oscar. Fred teased Oscar that he hasn't come down for a visit like he promised. Jerry said Fred is doing well and says hi to everyone.

**HARLEM-ROSCOE FIRE'S EXTRICATION TEAM
Invites you to their ...**

Pancake Breakfast



Meals ...
Pancakes
Sausages
Scrambled Eggs
Milk
Juice
Coffee

- Sunday April 24th 7am – Noon
- Harlem-Roscoe Fire Station #1
@ 10544 Main St. in Roscoe
- Tickets – Adults \$4.00, Children \$3.00

Station Gossip & Funnies

- There is a signup sheet at Station #1 for the Loves Park VFW Awards Banquet on April 16. Come support this year's Firefighter of the Year. Dress Blues are required.
- Now Huffman, per Chief Presley - You have to attend your classes while you're at FDIC. You cannot stay glued to the new rescue truck. And, you have to sleep in your hotel room, not the rescue truck!
- Rumor has it April finally got her new gear dirty the other night at the structure fire on Shappert. There have been a few new clean sets of gear popping up lately. It usually doesn't take very long though before they don't look new.
- Speaking of April, I hear the cooks got her pretty good during preparations for the Spring Dinner. I believe it had something to do with the slicer and a ketchup packet.
- Oh, and April, tell us again why they put the cones on dogs heads after they have been spayed? ☺
- It seems Jim Daughenbaugh's 3-month old daughter was quite smitten by Lt. Virgil Johnson. Virgil you have such a way with the women – you charmer you!
- The drivers didn't feel too bad about getting their trucks stuck after the tow truck got stuck. I did have to tease Anthony Rallo, the tow truck driver, that where he got stuck, the Chief had made it through with his Yukon!
- Watching the trucks trying to stay on hard ground and control the field fire at Kieselberg was quite interesting. Haven't ever seen Captain Drost and Lt. Aaker move as fast as they did after 764 got stuck with fire all around it. I think it was a record for getting water flowing. And as 765 hit the soft areas, if it could just keep going it would have made it. But the firefighters on the ends of the hoselines were also getting stuck in the mud. So, yes Morris we know that 765 wouldn't have gotten stuck if you hadn't had to slow down to stop from dragging Captain Schrader and Chris Scott through the mud!
- Captain Schrader is going to give his men lessons on driving in soft fields. The main one is you don't stop, you keep moving. Tim says he has done his share of bahaing through fields in 4-wheel trucks throughout his years. .Hmmm....tell us more Tim...



Now this is a great April Fools joke.
The "missiles" are balloons.



How True!

Nearly 4,000 Die in Residential Fires Each Year, USFA Study Shows Smoke Alarms Missing in Two-thirds of Deadly Residential Fires

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Nearly 4,000 people die each year in fires at home, according to a new study released by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U.S. Fire Administration. According to the new FEMA report, structure fires accounted for 74 percent of the 3,300 fatal fires in 2002. Of these fatal structure fires, 94 percent occurred in residences. Arson was the leading cause of fatal residential structure fires at 22 percent, followed closely by smoking at 21 percent. There were 3,380 fire-related deaths in 2002, down slightly from other years. The report summarizes some of the major characteristics of fatal fires and is based on data from the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). "An unacceptable number of Americans are losing their lives and being injured by fires each year," said U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison. "We know that smoke alarms, escape plans, child fire prevention programs, and residential sprinklers save lives. We continue to encourage everyone to take the steps necessary to ensure their homes are fire safe today."

Harlem-Roscoe Fire agrees with Mr. Paulison and has Fire Prevention Programs in place, especially with the children. Did everyone remember to change their batteries in their detectors on Daylight Savings Time on April 3? If you didn't, please do!

It is important to have a working smoke detector on every level of your home, including the attic and garage, and inside every bedroom or sleeping area. You should test your smoke detector monthly to be sure it functions properly. If you are unable to reach your smoke detector easily, take the end of a broomstick to press the test button. You should also clean your smoke detector frequently. Dust, cobwebs and grease in the air can clog the detector so that they don't function properly in an emergency, especially in your kitchen.

When was the last time your family had a "practice" home fire escape drill? Now is a great time as you are changing your batteries to educate your children on the proper procedure to take when they hear a smoke detector going off. It is important for them to know to call 9-1-1 and to get out of the home to a family meeting place. A properly working smoke detector can truly save the life of you and your loves ones - won't you please be sure to check yours today!

...Debbie Rykowski, Public Awareness Division.