

THE FIREHOUSE SCENE



is a publication of the
Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District

March 2022

Fire Chief Don Shoevlin

Editor Sheryl Drost



STA.
NO. 1

10544 Main St. Roscoe, IL



STA.
NO. 2

825 Ralston Rd. Machesney Park, IL



STA.
NO. 3

13974 Willowbrook Rd. Roscoe, IL



FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK
BY FIRE CHIEF DON SHOEVLIN

Did you remember to spring forward with your clocks? If you have not by the time you are reading this, you are probably late for work, school, or an appointment. Please remember to also change your batteries in you smoke and CO alarms. I would ask as you do that, check to make sure they are operating properly.

Well, we have flipped over to the first month of meteorological spring. Wow, what a mild winter we have had. I won't complain. I am confident that any winter that may appear will be short-lived. As we move into March all the signs point to spring, and the Irish. As we enter this month there are events that might help us in doing this. On March 13th we pushed our clocks ahead (spring forward) and on March 17th it's good Ole St. Patty's Day. Everyone thinks and wears green along with being Irish on that day, don't they? Then next it is spring break for the schools. To those traveling, we wish you save travels and much enjoyment wherever you may be heading.

Also with spring comes the ever-loving season of road construction. I ask us all to remain patient and smile as our frustration builds from delays. Avoid other items that may distract us while in these construction areas. Also please remember those emergency vehicles; It becomes more difficult for the firefighters and EMS to get through these areas as well when responding to an emergency.



Last Friday we held our annual appreciation dinner. Thank you to the trustees for a great evening. All members of the department are so deserving of this event for all their commitment and accomplishments throughout the year. It is an honor and a pleasure to work with these individuals and the Board of Trustees. I am proud of

the way all of them continue to adapt and improve as we face new challenges every day. Our continuous training, improved equipment, improved apparatus, and improved stations are a few examples of the support from the Board. However, it means nothing if we don't have our greatest asset -- which are our members (The boots on the ground). And it goes unsaid that we wouldn't be who we are without the dedication and commitment of our members. You will find pictures and awards that were handed out elsewhere in the newsletter.

It also goes without saying, we greatly appreciate your continuous support and feedback. If you have any questions about anything regarding your fire department, please don't hesitate to call me or stop by. Don't forget to friend us and follow us on Facebook or visit us on our website. www.harlemroscoefire.com

Stay Safe
Chief Shoevlin

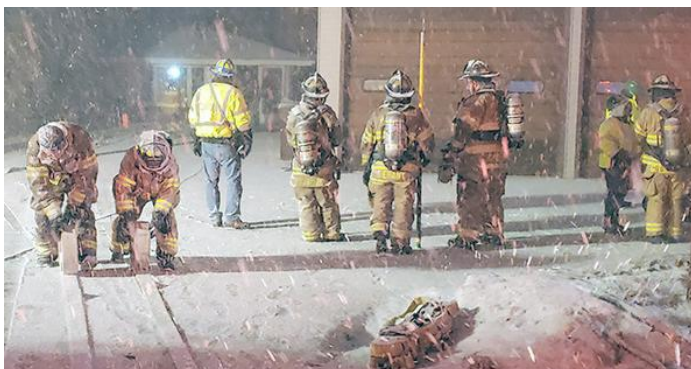


HOUSE FIRE

PHOTOS BY DIV. CHIEF TOM AAKER

Firefighters were dispatched to a possible structure fire (called in by a neighbor) on Ventura Blvd just after 6pm on Feb. 18th.

Incident Command, Div. Chief Tom Aaker reports, "We arrived to find a multi-story residence with two of the back rooms fully involved in fire with dark smoke throughout the house. There were no occupants home, but neighbors on scene told us that there were animals in the residence. Several attempts were made to rescue the animals, but sadly they perished in the fire. The fire was extinguished quickly with multiple lines and neighboring departments on scene. Fire was extensive in the back two rooms and the house has smoke damage, but we were able to save the majority of the structure. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Thank you to the mutual aid departments that assisted on the fire scene as well as covered our stations."



COMMERCIAL FIRE

PHOTOS BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to a commercial fire on N. Alpine Rd. around 2am on March 8th. Chief Shoevlin reports, "First arriving crew encountered a manufacturing business filled with smoke. The crew quickly found the source and extinguished the fire. The fire was contained to a dust collector and the sprinkler head above it activated which held the fire from traveling. The building was cleared of smoke and employees returned to work."



FURNACE FIRE

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Firefighters responded to a report of a furnace fire on Speckled Hawk Dr. on March 8th.

First in units found smoke but the fire had been extinguished.





HEAVY WRECKERS BY CAPTAIN MIKE HUFFMAN

Heavy wreckers can play a significant role in the positive outcome of a rescue operation. A positive outcome includes victim survivability and rescuer safety. The fire service has come a long way in developing a positive working relationship with the towing and recovery industry.

Calling for the Heavy Wrecker

With a few exceptions, most fire departments do not own or staff their own heavy wreckers (although a few do). This means a system for automatic response or calling from the field should be in place. Let's look at each of these.

Automatic Response

This refers to an instance when the 911 center has to meet specific criteria for an emergency where a heavy wrecker is needed and is immediately called for. Since heavy wreckers are considered a private sector resource, the 911 center must call the heavy wrecker dispatcher to get that resource on the road.

Calling from the Field

This is the most common system for getting a heavy wrecker to the scene. Based on information obtained en route or from on-scene size-up, a heavy wrecker is requested. It's up to each department to determine the level of empowerment its personnel have relative to requesting a heavy wrecker—some departments may allow only personnel with the ranks of captain and above to call for the wrecker; others may authorize the first arriving officer to call for it.

Calling for the Right Wrecker (or Wreckers)

The last thing you want to happen is to call for a heavy wrecker to lift a large truck off a passenger vehicle and have a rollback (flatbed) wrecker show up. The fire service has no specific "typing" of heavy wreckers; however, the wrecker industry does. Fire service interaction with the wrecker industry is considered a low-frequency event, thus retaining wrecker industry category knowledge may be a challenge.

When calling from the field, we must understand that this request travels from the field to the 911 dispatcher center and then to the wrecker dispatcher or on-call wrecker driver. With this many communication touches, there is a chance that some information may be lost or miscommunicated. This reinforces the importance to train with wrecker companies before the incident, so proper terminology is covered and understood.

One way to help ensure that the proper wrecker is requested is for the field unit to paint a good picture of what is needed—for example, "I need a heavy wrecker (Rotator) to lift a fully loaded tri-axle dump off a passenger car with people trapped" can easily be conveyed from the field to the wrecker driver. This gives the wrecker driver an idea of the weight of the truck and the urgency of people trapped. The wrecker driver may also bring other resources, including an additional heavy wrecker or support vehicles that carry additional equipment such as lifting bags. It may also be

beneficial for the field unit to provide specific information on how the wrecker can best access the scene. For example, if a limited-access highway has been safely shut down by law enforcement, the wrecker may be able to travel against the normal flow of traffic to access the scene faster.

When possible, having the on-scene field unit (incident commander) communicate with the wrecker driver directly by cell phone or radio can be helpful. This allows the wrecker driver to ask specific questions so he can determine what other resources will be needed and how to best access the scene.

Each response agency has various dynamics within its jurisdiction that can impact the notification and response of heavy wreckers to an emergency scene. That is the reason pre-incident training involving emergency response agencies and wrecker companies is critical.

What is the difference between a wrecker and a tow truck?

Wreckers are generally used for recovery and can sometimes tow but are not always equipped to tow. ... A tow truck is a truck that can tow or haul a vehicle, but a wrecker truck can recover vehicles.

What is the difference between a wrecker and a rotator?

A rotator is a wrecker — usually a heavy wrecker, as used for semis and buses — with a recovery boom that can be rotated to winch or lift to the side of the wrecker rather than being fixed toward the back of the truck as most wreckers are.

A rotator tow truck is one of the heaviest and the largest tow trucks available. It has several varieties. While some certain types of heavy-duty tow trucks feature a fixed boom, others have pivoting parts. ... Some models of this powerful tow truck have the capacity to lift up to 70 tons

Following are 3 common uses for a rotator tow truck:

1. Heavy-Duty Towing - have the capacity to lift up to 70 tons
2. Towing from an Embankment or Ditch. The arm of these trucks can rotate 360 degrees and can easily extend a height of about 30 feet, which means it is better suited than most other types of tow trucks to handle difficult roadside situations.
3. Recoveries from Freeways. In such situations, using a rotator tow truck is highly beneficial as it requires a relatively smaller area to upright or winch trucks/equipment back to the road safely and efficiently. Since you can turn the boom of the rotator tow truck, it fits the requirements of various jobs. Furthermore, it also works parallel to the wreck which means more lanes of the freeway will remain open, hence some of the traffic disruption will be eliminated.



Heavy Miami Dade fire rescue rotator

2021 TRUSTEES AWARDS DINNER

PHOTOS BY SHERYL DROST

Harlem-Roscoe Fire Trustees John Donahue, Bart Munger, and Al Bach held the department's Annual Appreciation Awards Dinner on March 11th at Franchescos in Rockford.



Years of Service Recognition were: 30-year Fire Service Award to Div. Chief Jay Alms and Capt. Tim Bergeron. 25-year Fire Service Awards to Div. Chief Tom Aaker, Eng. Joe Quast, and Admin. Asst. Colleen Bloyer. 20-year Fire Service Award to Fire Chief Don Shoevlin, BC John Donovan, and Mechanic Mark Soppe, 15-year Medical Service Pin - Rob Lukowski. 10-year Fire Service Pins to Chaplain Paul Meyers, Lt. Ryan Sarver, and Justin Harwood. 5-year Fire Service Pins to Gus Larson and Taylor Larson. 5-year Medical Pin to Lt. Sam McNames.

Other Award Highlights were: Firefighters Choice of Good Service Award - Lt. Sam McNames. Most Valuable Member by Station. Sta. #1 - Engineer Marty Green, Sta. #2 - Hannah Benard, and Sta. #3 - Andrew Wiechman, Chaplain of the Year - Chaplain Tom Vojtech, Fire Bureau Most Valuable Member - Everett Peterson, C.E.R.T. Member Volunteer Award - Kevin Harvey, Most Training Award - Capt. Tim Bergeron

Recognition highlights were new Paramedics Tyler Young, Brian Mayer, and Eric Ceniti, new EMT's Ryan Donner, Ryan Schelin, and Stephani Hipp. and several firefighters also received State Certifications.

A video compilation of photos and videos put to music from 2021 was also played at the dinner. We have posted it on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4h1618uqQ-I>

FIRE AND MEDICAL SERVICE RECOGNITIONS BY FIRE CHIEF DON SHOEVLIN

In our ever-changing world, lives and families, it is rare to reach peaks that these individuals have. The knowledge they have gained over the years, experiences they have endured along with the hours committed while working other jobs is phenomenal. They are all a testament to commitment, desire, and the success of our fire department. They continue to teach others along with the sharing of our history and stories. They continue to be an example of the fire brotherhood to all of our young and up and coming firefighters. They are a foundation of success and history, but furthermore continue working to solidify that foundation. It has been an honor for me to work alongside them for my past 20 years as a member here. This department has been blessed and continues to be so with their contributions.



30-Year Fire Service Award: Div. Chief Jay Alms and Capt. Tim Bergeron.



25-year Fire Service Award: L-r, Admin. Assistant Colleen Bloyer, Engineer Joe Quast, and Div. Chief Tom Aaker.



L-r 20-year Fire Service Pins - BC John Donovan, Mechanic Mark Soppe, Fire Chief Don Shoevlin. Not pictured 15-year Medical Service Pin - Rob Lukowski. 10-year Fire Service Pins - Chaplain Paul Meyers, Lt. Ryan Sarver, and not pictured Justin Harwood. 5-year Fire Service Pins to Gus Larson and Taylor Larson. 5-year Medical Service Pins to Lt. Sam McNames.

MORE AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



L-r, New EMTs Ryan Donner, Ryan Schelin and not pictured, Stephanie Hipp. New Paramedics Tyler Young, Brian Mayer, and Eric Ceniti.



L-r, Firefighters Choice of Good Service Award - Lt. Sam McNames. Chaplain of the Year Award - Chaplain Tom Vojtech.



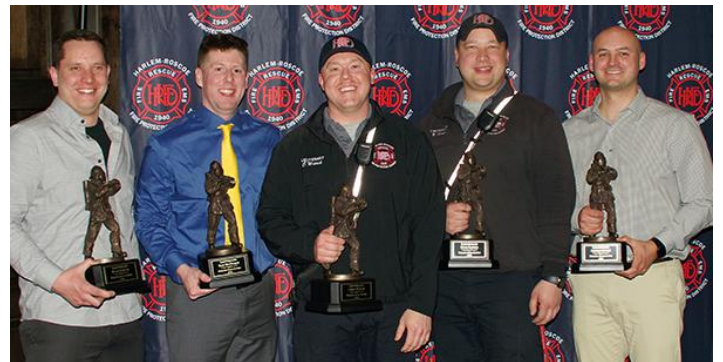
Most Valuable Member by Station. L-r; Sta. #1 - Engineer Marty Green, Sta. #2 - Hannah Benard, and Sta. #3 - Andrew Wiechman



L-r Fire Bureau Most Valuable Member - Everett Peterson, C.E.R.T. Member Volunteer Award - Kevin Harvey, and Most Trainings Award - Capt. Tim Bergeron.



Officers Recognition L-r; Div. Chief Jay Alms, Div. Chief Tom Aaker; BC Kevin Briggs, DC John Bergeron, BC John Donovan, Capt. Tim Bergeron, BC Patrick Trollop, and Capt. Mike Huffman.



Officers Recognition L-r; Lt. Ryan Sarver; Lt. Sam McNames, Lt. Chris Witcik, Lt. Nate Sarver, and Lt. Jordan Stark. Not pictured - Lt. Kyle Swanson.



STATE CERTIFICATIONS L-r, Zeb Wolfe – Basic Operations Firefighter and Hazardous Materials Operations, Andrew Wiechman – Rope Operations and Water Operations, Brandon Sherbon – Fire Service Vehicle Operator, Joe Koeninger - Fire Service Instructor I, Justin Harwood – Fire Service Instructor I and Rope Operations, Hannah Benard – Vehicle and Machinery Operations and Basic Operations Firefighter and Hazardous Materials Operations, BC John Donovan – Fire Investigator, Jared Christiansen – Vehicle and Machinery Operations and Basic Operations Firefighter and Hazardous Materials Operations, John Hawkins – Basic Operations Firefighter and Hazardous Materials Operations and Vehicle and Machinery Operations, Lt Chris Witcik – Fire Service Instructor I and Advanced Technician Firefighter, and Lt. Sam McNames – Fire Service Instructor I and Vehicle and Machinery Operations, and not pictured - Lt. Kyle Swanson – Rope Operations and Water Operations and Vehicle and Machinery Operations, Ryan Donner – Fire Service Instructor II and Rope Operations.

ACCIDENTS PHOTOS BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHERYL DROST AND DUTY OFFICERS



02/17/22 Hwy 173 entrance to I-90



02/22/22 I-90



02/19/22 Hwy 173



03/02/22 Hwy 251 and Hononegah Rd.



03/02/22 Hwy 251 and McCurry Rd.



03/03/22 Hwy 173 entrance ramp to I-90





National Weather Service



LIGHTNING SAFETY FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS!

Each year in the United States, there are about 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes and about 300 people struck by lightning. Of those struck, about 30 people are killed and others suffer lifelong disabilities. Most of these tragedies can be prevented. When thunderstorms threaten, get inside a building with plumbing and electricity, or a hard-topped metal vehicle!

The National Weather Service collects information on weather-related deaths to learn how to prevent these tragedies. Many lightning victims say they were “caught” outside in the storm and couldn’t get to a safe place. Other victims simply waited too long before seeking shelter. With proper planning, similar tragedies can be avoided.

Some people were struck because they went back outside too soon. Stay inside a safe building or vehicle for at least 30 minutes after you hear the last thunder. While 30 minutes may seem like a long time, it is necessary to be safe.

Finally, some victims were struck inside homes or buildings while they were using electrical equipment or corded phones. Others were in contact with plumbing, outside doors, or window frames. Avoid contact with these electrical conductors when a thunderstorm is nearby!



Lightning discharge on a golf green. Photo: E. Philip Krider

AVOID THE LIGHTNING THREAT

- ✓ **Have a lightning safety plan.** Know where you’ll go for safety and ensure you’ll have enough time to get there.
- ✓ **Postpone activities.** Consider postponing activities if thunderstorms are forecast.
- ✓ **Monitor the weather.** Once outside, look for signs of a developing or approaching thunderstorm such as towering clouds, darkening skies, or flashes of lightning.
- ✓ **Get to a safe place.** If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, seek safety immediately. Fully enclosed buildings with wiring and plumbing are best. A hard-topped metal vehicle with the windows closed is also safe. Stay inside until 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder. Sheds, picnic shelters, tents or covered porches do NOT protect you from lightning.
- ✓ **If you hear thunder, don’t use a corded phone except in an emergency.** Cordless phones and cell phones are safe to use.
- ✓ **Keep away from electrical equipment and plumbing.** Lightning can travel through the wiring and plumbing if your building is struck. Don’t take a bath or shower, or wash dishes during a storm.



Stadiums and other outdoor venues should have a lightning safety plan. Photo: NOAA

For more information, visit weather.gov/safety/lightning

B A B Y



Congratulations to Harlem-Roscoe Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Street and his wife Megan on the birth of their son, Jaxson Conner Street. Jaxson arrived on February 16th measuring in at 7lbs. 12 ozs. and 20 3/4 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great! Jaxson is being doted on by his two big sisters, Lily (12yrs) and Marley (3yrs)! Jaxson's grandpa is HRFD Div. Chief Jay Alms and Megan also served on HRFD. Congrats again Jason and Megan, he is adorable!



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

hAPPY BIRTHDAY

MARCH

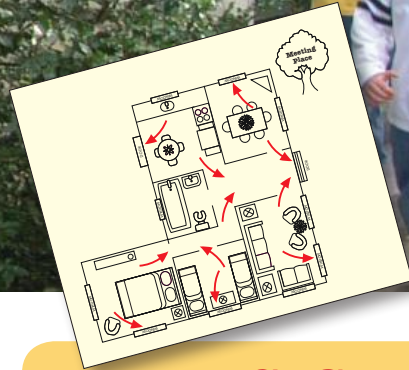
- 3rd Ambriana Corrado
- 4th John Donovan
- 9th John Donahue
- 9th Tracie McCormick
- 16th Aaron Miller
- 22nd Jay Alms
- 22nd Tyler Young
- 29th Sheryl Drost

APRIL

- 3rd Nate Sarver
- 7th Chris Witcik
- 10th Colleen Bloyer
- 14th Tom Vojtech
- 17th Zeb Wolfe
- 22nd John Morgan
- 22nd Aaron Morley
- 25th Ryan Sarver
- 29th Cecilia Young
- 30th Brian Mayer

Escape Planning

Plan Ahead! If a fire breaks out in your home, you may have only a few minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Everyone needs to know what to do and where to go if there is a fire.



SAFETY TIPS

- » MAKE a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- » KNOW at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- » HAVE an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- » PRACTICE your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- » PRACTICE using different ways out.
- » TEACH children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- » CLOSE doors behind you as you leave.

IF THE ALARM SOUNDS...

- » If the smoke alarm sounds, GET OUT AND STAY OUT. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- » If you have to escape through smoke, GET LOW AND GO under the smoke to your way out.
- » CALL the fire department from outside your home.

FACTS

- ! A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Install smoke alarms inside every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- ! According to an NFPA survey, only **one of every three** American households have actually developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- ! While **71%** of Americans have an escape plan in case of a fire, only **47%** of those have practiced it.
- ! **One-third** of American households who made an estimate thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. And only **8%** said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!

Harlem-Roscoe Fire Prot. Dist.

DIAL 911



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Rock River Valley
BLOOD CENTER 

BATTLE OF THE BADGES



VS



THURSDAY
3-31-22
NOON - 6 P.M.
ROSCOE
VILLAGE HALL
10631 MAIN ST.

TO SCHEDULE A
DONATION
VISIT RRVBC.ORG
THE MYRRVBC APP
OR CALL 815-965-8751.
WALK-INS ARE ALSO
WELCOME