

HOT NEWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENOMONEE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

FULL- AND PART-TIME TESTING HELD ON SEPT. 26

On Saturday, Sept. 26 the MFFD training rooms and lobby were full of part-time and full-time candidates waiting to take the testing. A total of 19 candidates showed up that day.

As they waited for it to begin, it was so quiet in the room you could hear a pin drop. This made me uncomfortable, thinking how nervous some of them probably were so what did I do? I turned on my running playlist in the background in hopes of livening it up a little. I'm sure that wasn't awkward at all and didn't stick around to find out.

We had three different stations for candidates to go through: the written exam, physical ability test and interviews (for part-timers only). Those working that day on Red Shift helped the tests go smoothly: BC Kurt Harthun, FF Aaron Koepke, FF Ed Burg, FF Sean Foley, FF Joe Jankowski, FF Matt Wilson, FF Bob Marki, FF John Schut and FF Dan Schroettner. FF Drake Barczak and retired Lt. Kevin Porter also deserve a thank you for volunteering their time

We also want to thank the Butler Fire Department for bringing their aerial ladder truck to help with the ladder climb portion of the physical ability test.

Hopefully we'll be able to welcome many of the candidates into our ranks soon!

-Jessi Coon

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

The Peer Support Team (PST) is starting up and will be available to all fire department employees and their families in the near future. The purpose for starting the PST is to provide resources for people having a difficult time with a multitude of things like issues with a marriage, addiction, or depression. The people on this team will by no means be counselors but can help bridge the gap in connecting people looking for help with the people that can.

In the end of September, Battalion Chief Kevin Rokenbrodt, Lieutenant Rae Ann Schone, Cody Porter, Rico Bishop, Josh Diehl, Kory Mueller, and Lisa Ulicki attended several courses at the BIT in Milwaukee to help become better liaisons. Once a policy is finished more details and resources will be made public to the department.

- Firefighter/Paramedic Cody Porter

TRIVIA QUESTION

US fire departments responded to an average of how many home structure fires per year started by cooking activities in 2014-18?

- A. 106,800
- B. 122,500
- C. 154,400
- D. 172,900

(answer on page 4)





FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS

The fire service in Wisconsin has undergone several changes over the last decade in terms of the standards it requires firefighters and fire departments to adhere to. From the transition from COMM 30 to SPS 330 in 2011 to the updates since then, each individual's familiarity with this document is critical to the operation of the department. Most of you are minimally familiar with the standards we discuss most often—two in/two out; responsibilities of a safety and health committee; minimum training standards, etc. In reality, each firefighter should not just reference SPS 330 as needed but instead should be intimately familiar with the document. After all, it is the single most important document for the Wisconsin fire service. While NFPA Codes and Standards are considered consensus standards, they do not carry the weight or legal obligation that SPS 330 does. Take time to read and digest SPS 330—it is vital to our operation.

READ:

New Comparison of Natural and Synthetic Home Furnishings

<https://ulfirefightersafety.org/research-projects/comparison-of-synthetic-and-natural-home-furnishings.html>

FAMILIARIZE:

WI SPS 330

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/sps/safety_and_buildings_and_environment/326_360/330

REVIEW and DISCUSS:

NIOSH death in the line of duty...

Two Fire Fighters Die and Three Fire Fighters Injured in a Fire Apparatus Crash—West Virginia

<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/pdfs/face201808.pdf>

GET INVOLVED:

<http://www.brewcityfools.com/>

FREE TRAINING:

Center for Disaster Preparedness

<https://cdp.dhs.gov/find-training/discipline/fire-service>

- Battalion Chief Nicholas Boehlke



ITALIAN ROAST BEEF SANDWICH

This recipe will fill your home with an amazing aroma while it slowly cooks. From the Firehouse to your house, enjoy!

Ingredients

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3 C water | 1 tsp dried parsley |
| 1 tsp salt | 1 tsp garlic powder |
| 1 tsp ground black pepper | 1 bay leaf |
| 1 tsp dried oregano | 1 pkg dry Italian-style salad |
| 1 tsp onion salt | dressing mix |
| Pick your choice of buns | About 5 pounds rump roast |

Directions

- Preheat oven to 275.
- Add water to a pot. Bring to boil and add the dry ingredients and stir.
- Place the roast on an oven pan that will also be able to hold water and dry ingredients you have at boil. Pour over the roast and cover with aluminum foil.
- Cook for 5 hours. When done shred with a fork in the same pan.
- Add to your choice of bun.

(A slow cooker can be used instead of baking. 10-12 hours on Low or 4-5 hours on High.)

- Submitted by Lt. Steve Schmitz

NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

After 13 years on the department, **Ryan McMenamin** recently left us for the big city—Milwaukee FD.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & WORK ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 10/10 | Rico Bishop |
| | Capt. Mark Franzowiak |
| 10/14 | Doug Mueller |
| 10/20 | Camron Hepp |
| 10/23 | Matt Medrow |

ANNIVERSARY DATES

22 years

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 10/09/1998 | Kurt Smith |
|------------|------------|

12 years

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 10/07/2008 | Bob Marki |
| | Kevin Myers |

10 years

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 10/05/2010 | Jerry Erjavec |
| | Dan Neary |
| | Joe Waite |

7 years

- | | |
|------------|-------------------|
| 10/29/2013 | Nichole Dorvinen |
| | Heather Gunderson |



A neighborhood block party

TRIVIA ANSWER

D. 172,900

- US fire departments responded to an estimated average of 172,900 home structure fires per year started by cooking activities in 2014-2018. These fires caused an average of 550 civilian deaths, 4,820 reported civilian fire injuries, and more than \$1 billion in direct property damage per year.
- Home fires caused by cooking peaked at Thanksgiving and Christmas. In 2018, fire departments responded to an average of 470 home cooking fires per day.
- Ranges or cooktops were involved in the 61% of reported home cooking fires, 87% of cooking fire deaths and 78% of cooking fire injuries.
- Households that use electric ranges have a higher risk of cooking fires and associated losses than those using gas ranges.
- Unattended cooking was the leading cause of cooking fires and casualties. Clothing was the item first ignited in less than 1% of these fires, but clothing ignitions led to 8% of the home cooking fire deaths.

More than one-quarter of the people killed by cooking fires were sleeping at the time. More than half of the non-fatal injuries occurred when people tried to control the fire themselves.

MFFD MONTHLY INCIDENT COUNTS

SEPT. 2019

Station 1 - 167

Station 2 - 44

Station 3 - 91

Station 4 - 56

Station 5 - 16

Total Runs - 374

SEPT. 2020

Station 1 - 173

Station 2 - 50

Station 3 - 104

Station 4 - 62

Station 5 - 25

Total Runs - 414

CERTIFICATIONS

Nicki Porter and Dan Schroettner recently received their Driver/Operator—Pumper certifications.

COMMUNITY EVENT

A couple of Hamilton High School students, Nico and Jonathan, are organizing a food drive in our honor. The drive will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 21 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Falls Area Food Pantry.
(N85W15382 Menomonee River Pkwy)

Please consider supporting this event!



HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST

SEPTEMBER 2020

9/2/20—Dispatched for a Delta-level outside fire at Veolia. Prior to arrival was notified by dispatch that there was a dumpster on fire with unknown HazMat inside. 2764 arrived on scene and noted smoke coming from a dumpster. Veolia employees on scene stated there was acetone solid waste in the dumpster. According to the ERG, CO2 was preferred means of extinguishment. Water can be used but not with a straight stream. Fire was too large to use an extinguisher so attack initially made with deck gun from 100 feet away.

2764 then connected to the hydrant for continuous water supply. After most of the fire was knocked down, crew from 2764 deployed the RAM and 100 feet of 3-inch to line up directly east of dumpster. Attack with deck gun was discontinued. Crew lobbed water in with the RAM at approximately 80 feet from the dumpster. There were still some areas they were unable to extinguish.

Germantown Truck put their platform up to get a better view of the dumpster. The RAM was not reaching all parts of dumpster so a supply was connected from 2764 to the Germantown Truck. Germantown finished the attack with the aerial monitor. There was also indication that an ember had started the adjacent dumpster tarp on fire which they also extinguished.

When the fire appeared to be fully extinguished, 2764 investigated and determined temperature to be down to 70 degrees. They also confirmed there was no fire in adjacent dumpster. It appears fire started due to mixed waste and spontaneous combustion.

9/8/20—A woman dropped off a cat with a can stuck on his head at Station 2. One member secured the cat while another slowly removed the can from the cat's head. Crew gave the cat a bath with dawn dish soap and warm water and dried him off. They then filled a 10mL syringe with milk and fed the cat. HAWS was contacted to pick up the cat, who has since been adopted.

9/18/20—Dispatched for an electric pole on fire. The middle of 3 poles was on fire from the ground up and two of the transformers were on fire. WE Energies was already on scene and waiting for their staff to show up and kill the power. 2764 staged until power was shut down and tested by WE Energies. When given the all clear, they used the deck gun to spray 1,000 gallons on the fire and to cool down the transformers. WE Energies said the small amount of smoke still coming from the transformer was something they could work on and no longer needed assistance.

9/25/20—A service gas line was cut through with a skid loader while moving dirt for landscaping. The line was shallow, less than a foot. No markings for the service were visible and the business owner stated Digger's Hotline was not used. The leak was minimal at this time but there was a slight odor in the air. The homeowner and occupants were evacuated and moved down the block. Neighbors were not home at the time and windows were closed. WE Energies was called to the scene and clamped the line. The home was checked for gas with zero readings.

9/26/20—Dispatched for arcing wires in trees on Lancaster Ave. An electrical power line was arcing when the wind would blow the branches of the trees around. Arcing location was right above the roadway and the embers fell near the house and into trees. WE Energies was requested shortly after arrival. 2755 remained on scene and watched for additional fires from falling embers. Neighbors nearby were advised of the hazards. No power outage in the vicinity.

well done

I already called and thanked some of the members of your department that responded to an accident which involved my parents earlier today. I am writing you to let you know about what your members did in caring for my parents.

I have yet to see my parents as I am on duty myself today. When I spoke to my parents, they said very little of their injuries and spoke more about how they felt being cared for by your firefighters. My parents felt as if they were being cared for by family. Those on the ambulance made my mom and dad feel comfortable, safe and well cared for. Your team made sure my parents had all their belongings accounted for and taken care of (they are in the area for a wedding tomorrow). One member, Lt Schmitz (my mom said he was off duty and passing by), even finished making a delivery of food for an elderly relative of ours whose wife of 64 years passed away earlier this year. I can think of no greater example of going above and beyond the call of duty!!

My parents were released from the hospital around 6pm and are spending the night with relatives. They are sore, stiff, bruised and tired. I will see them in the afternoon and get a better idea of their true injuries. I feel it is important to thank everyone involved and also to inform you, their leader, so that you know the character of those that work for you. On behalf of my parents, myself and my family, THANK YOU!!! for your help and compassion. You are all an amazing example of why the fire service is so important and so great.

Please extend our gratitude to **Lt Schmitz, Capt Jared Klug, FF Aaron Koepke, FF Josh Hutwagner and FF Dan Corbin** (I apologize in advance...if I left anyone out).

With Sincere Gratitude!!

Joe Klemm
Lieutenant, Red Shift (Northbrook FD—IL)
Hazardous Materials Team Leader

Chief Washington,

Thank you so much for the time spent with me this morning during your Applicant Testing process. I enjoyed our conversation and your thorough explanations of the current state and future of the MFFD. It is refreshing to see so much enthusiasm and excitement around the FD and within our community. Chief, you bring a wealth of knowledge and different way of looking at opportunities within the department. I purposely stayed behind the scenes this morning so as not to interrupt the important mission of the day. Looking forward to creating more partnerships between the commission and FD when and where appropriate. I believe this is an extremely important part of our continues success.

To all our current full and part time firefighters of Menomonee Falls, Thank You for your continued hard work, sacrifices, and your commitment to the community. To those working off hours, weekends and nights, I personally recognize what it takes to alter ones life and sleeping habits coming from a 24x7 industry and working it for many years myself. My hat goes off to all of you, your families and loved ones for what you do every day and what you are all working so hard to accomplish. Your support personal structure is so important. Please know that your community is solidly behind you and supports you too.

When Covid-19 begins to slow down, I look forward to continue my visits to the various firehouses meeting all the firefighters and learning their personal stories.
Thank you for keeping us safe!

Sincerely,

Commissioner Gerry Luisier



SERVE UP Fire Safety IN THE KITCHEN!™

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™

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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK: SERVE UP FIRE SAFETY IN THE KITCHEN!™

The Menomonee Falls Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years — to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!" The campaign works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Almost half (44%) of reported home fires started in the kitchen. Two-thirds (66%) of home cooking fires start with the ignition of food or other cooking materials.

"We know cooking fires can be prevented," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice-president of outreach and advocacy. "Staying in the kitchen, using a timer, and avoiding distractions such as electronics or TV are steps everyone can take to keep families safe in their homes."

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 4-10 and we encourage all residents to embrace the 2020 Fire Prevention Week theme.

Click on the images below to download printable coloring sheets with this year's theme.



ADULT



CHILD

SAFETY TIPS TO KEEP YOU FROM HAVING A COOKING FIRE

- Never leave cooking food unattended. Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling or broiling. If you have to leave, even for a short time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.
- You have to be alert when cooking. You won't be alert if you are sleepy, have taken medicine or drugs, or consumed alcohol that makes you drowsy.
- Always keep an oven mitt and pan lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan to smother the flame. Turn off the burner, and leave the pan covered until it is completely cool.
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.