

HOT NEWS



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENOMONEE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF'S CORNER

Spring has sprung! Just about one year ago, I accepted the position to be your Interim Fire Chief. It didn't take me very long to recognize the opportunity to be a part of something truly special. Not only were there talented personnel eager to "join in", there was a community that recognized the value of their fire department. These important ingredients are needed in order to have a successful, forward-leaning organization. Once I received the green light from my family (I think they were ready for me to be unretired), the decision was easy to apply for the full-time position. What a year it has been! Who would have ever thought that we would remain in pandemic protocols, while attempting to do business as usual for the residents and visitors of Menomonee Falls and Lannon?

We have accomplished so much in the past year. We have congratulated new chief and company officers, welcomed new team members, dedicated new apparatus, and continue to get positive feedback from our internal and external stakeholders. While this has been a challenging year, you continue to make me proud to be a part of this amazing department. The warp speed pace that has been placed on implementing new policies, procedures, initiatives, training and education have been embraced with professionalism and enthusiasm. This is like nothing I have ever witnessed in my career. The trust and faith we have in each other is not lost on me, I have been embraced with respect and kindness from day one. While I don't have a crystal ball to see what our future holds as a department, I do know it will be met with preparedness, integrity and excitement. Thank you!

- Fire Chief Gerard Washington

MFFD MONTHLY INCIDENT COUNTS

MARCH 2020	MARCH 2021
Station 1 - 156	Station 1 - 160
Station 2 - 48	Station 2 - 46
Station 3 - 100	Station 3 - 94
Station 4 - 56	Station 4 - 48
Station 5 - 21	Station 5 - 20
Total Runs - 381	Total Runs - 368



TRIVIA QUESTION

What was the estimated number of firefighters in the U.S. in 2018?

- A. 894,000
- B. 1,115,000
- C. 1,473,000
- D. 1,826,000

(answer on page 4)



Well-lit hallway at Station 3

STATION 3—A LITTLE BIT BRIGHTER

During the months of February and March every interior lightbulb at Fire Station 3 was replaced with LED bulbs. It sounds crazy to say, but that total is over 600 bulbs. Most of the bulbs replaced were fluorescent, but many were still incandescent. Station 3 has the largest energy bill of all of the stations, and every bulb we replaced will result in a minimum of 50% cost of energy savings. For many of the bulbs we will see an 80% reduction. We were able to purchase LED bulbs that were a direct replacement for the fluorescent bulbs, and actually bypass the ballasts within these fixtures. Bypassing the ballasts means there will no longer be a maintenance cost for replacing them.

With our maintenance department we estimate that it will take less than 15 months to recoup the cost of the bulbs through reduced electricity bills. In addition, many areas of the station are now more well lit because the new bulbs actually output more light. There was no additional labor cost to this upgrade, we were able to complete it in-house with on-duty personnel. While he had some help, FF Nick Coon primarily completed the job by himself. Well done, thank you Nick!

TURNOUT GEAR UPDATE

The February Hot News had an article on our new turnout gear. We have received our first set – our “demo set”. This first set allows us to evaluate how the gear is designed before the large order is placed into production. Thanks to being able to see it in action, we will be modifying the glove holder that is attached to the gear to a design that will be more rugged. Also, we have added two “D” rings to the bottom of the back of the coat to allow for the radio strap to be secured regardless of whether you wear yours on the right side or the left side. The original design had a single “D” ring in the middle of the coat. The gear is now ready for full production, hopefully within the next month. The new helmets that were ordered have arrived and are in the process of being issued.

- Deputy Chief Kevin Rokenbrodt

STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL ON APRIL 15

Wisconsin's statewide tornado drill is an annual event, typically held in mid-April during the Thursday of Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week (which is April 12-16 this year). During the drill, everyone in the state is encouraged to discuss and practice their plans on what to do during a tornado warning. For many people, this includes going to their designated tornado shelter, whether they are at school, work or home.

Due to concerns about the technical limitations of the drill, a decision has been made by Wisconsin Emergency Management, the National Weather Service, the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, and Wisconsin Emergency Alert Systems (EAS) Committee to permanently discontinue the EAS live code test portion of the drill. Other aspects of the drill, including associated public messaging safety campaigns encouraging people to practice their plans during the 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. time slots, will proceed as planned on April 15, 2021.

Visit the [National Weather Service website](#) for more information on Wisconsin's Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week.



Aerial training

FROM THE TRAINING BUREAU

Aerial Training: We are beginning training of our third group of operators which includes all new aerial certifications in the last two years. This process will take several months and coordination with the crew at Station 2.

Recruit Class 21-02: Class will begin April 18 and conclude April 30. The format of this academy will once again be two weeks in-person followed by four weeks of ride-along time. If you are interested in observing or assisting with instruction, contact Acting Battalion Chief Biedenbender.

Walmart Market: MFFD recently signed a contract to utilize the old Walmart Neighborhood Market on Main and Pilgrim for training. The store is vacant and we will have use of it at least until Sept. 30, 2021. If you have an idea for training utilizing this facility, please contact Acting Battalion Chief Biedenbender.

Department Training: Department training will resume on April 2. It will be a combination of fire and EMS training and accomplished through department-wide trainings, shift trainings, company trainings and individual trainings. We will be looking to supplement training with TargetSolutions, though the goal is an overall reduction in reliance on it as the sole platform for training.

Training Space: Thanks to the hard work of many members, the basement at Station 3 is available for training. In the coming months we will work to design and build props to support our training objectives. Special thanks to DC Rokenbrodt and DC Umhoefer for the countless hours they spent making the basement once again a useable space.

TargetSolutions: We are in the process of revamping your entire TargetSolutions experience. While most of the changes will be done by April 2, you will notice additional changes throughout 2021. The goal is to make the site user friendly while maintaining easily accessible real-time training progress.

Community Paramedicine: Lt. Myers and EMT Saltzman will be attending a unique program sponsored by UWM and WCTC to explore the world of community paramedicine. Upon completion of the program, MFFD will look to for opportunities to help underserved individuals within our community.

- Deputy Chief Nicholas Boehlke

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Take a few moments to review the following links about current events.

READ:

Fire Law Blog
['Self-Licking Ice Cream Cones': How To Deal With Leaders With Selfish Motives](#)

WATCH:

Passive Entry Techniques
<https://youtu.be/HghKdONja0>

REVIEW and DISCUSS:

Mortality in a cohort of US firefighters from San Francisco, Chicago and Philadelphia: an update
<https://oem.bmj.com/content/77/2/84>

FREE TRAINING:

Lexipol
[Racial Inequity in the Fire Service](#)

BOOK OF THE MONTH:

[Shackleton's Way: Leadership Lessons from the Great Antarctic Explorer](#)
 Margot Morrell and Stephanie Capparell



April 15, 2001—Swearing-in ceremony for Deputy Chief Don Umhoefer and Captain Mark Franzowiak



BLACK BEAN SALSA

This salsa is great to serve over grilled mahi-mahi.

In a mixing bowl combine 1-1/2 cups prepared black beans (drained), 1/4 cup finely chopped red onion, 2 tbsp chopped cilantro, 2 tbsp rice wine vinegar, 2 tbsp olive oil, and one clove of minced garlic. Add cayenne and salt to taste. I also like to add 1 small jalapeno. Remove the seeds for less zip but if you like spicy leave them in. Mix and let sit for at least one hour in the refrigerator.

- Submitted by Lieutenant Steve Schmitz

TRIVIA ANSWER

B. 1,115,000

NFPA estimates there were an estimated 1,115,000 career and volunteer firefighters in the United States in 2018. Of the total number of firefighters 370,000 (33%) were career firefighters and 745,000 (67%) were volunteer firefighters.

In 2018, 93,700 (8%) of the firefighters were female. Of the career firefighters, 15,200 (4%) were female firefighters. There were 78,500 volunteer firefighters who were female, which was 11% of the total number of volunteer firefighters.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & WORK ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

4/6	Bob Marki
4/7	Nick Coon
4/8	Drake Barczak
4/11	Joe Jankowski
4/15	DC Nicholas Boehlke
4/16	Brandon Mumm
4/23	Jacob Evaska
4/26	Dan Neary
4/27	Chief Gerard Washington
4/29	Lt Cody Porter

ANNIVERSARY DATES

10 years

4/12/2011 Josh Hutwagner

7 years

4/1/2014 Rico Bishop
Lt. Ed Burg
Camron Hepp
Lt Cody Porter
Kevin Porter

5 years

4/2/2016 Dan Schroettner

3 years

4/1/2018 Matt Medrow
(With 4.8 previous years of service)



Leon Road fire

HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST

3/13/21—Dispatched to W Good Hope Rd for an outside fire. En route, informed that the fire had extended to the porch of the building and response was upgraded to a structure fire. Upon arrival porch was no longer on fire but car parts that the owner was working on were on fire. The car parts were full of gasoline and put out using a dry chemical extinguisher. Porch was inspected for hot spots that were extinguished with a pressurized water pump can. The porch was saturated with water and all hot spots were extinguished..

3/14/21—Dispatched for structure fire at residence on Norman Dr. All occupants had evacuated and MFPD attempted extinguishment with a dry chem extinguisher. 2753 helped with water supply while 2772 pulled a pre-connect to the rear of residence and entered for fire attack along with 2764. There was an active fire in the dining room wall next to rear entrance. Significant charring noted to roof decking and rafters directly above bathroom and water applied.

2764 began extinguishment and 2772 pulled ceiling and drywall. A small section of shingles was removed by 2765 for inspection, smoke was coming from the roof. The fire had worked into the attic space of the lower half of the roof. Interior crews began pulling ceiling to extinguish the fire. As 2764 continued extinguishment 2772 went to the second floor to check for extension. On the second floor there was still low heat and minor smoke. Inspection holes were made where suspected void spaces were made with no extension found.

2772 and 2764 checked for extension into the bathroom and hallway. Hot spots were put out and the fire was marked under control. A locked bedroom door was forced and no fire was found in any of the bedrooms. The second floor was again checked to ensure the fire was extinguished.

3/20/21— Dispatched to Leon Rd for a structure fire at an industrial facility, in a dust collector. 2761 and 2765 were assigned interior operations. There was light smoke throughout and crew quickly located a machine near the middle of the factory that was smoking. The power had been shut down to the machine, all of the panels on it were open, and there was an empty dry chemical extinguisher next to it. The smoke was coming from the dust collector pipe connected to the top of the machine. 2765 disconnected the pipe and discharged a dry chemical extinguisher into the pipe, then checked for extension with a TIC. When no extension was found, both crews assisted with ventilation of building.

Fire extinguishment was done by exterior crews. 2772 used a pressurized water extinguisher to knock down fire in hopper, but that was not enough water. 2764 arrived around back and opened up with fire attack by using the deck gun on the apparatus. 2764 and 2763 continued to spray water on the hoppers. 2765 relocated to platform next to a dust collection unit to continue to extinguish any hot spots found.

After cooling the hoppers, a crew from Germantown was sent up a ladder to open bigger doors exposing filters that were smoldering. The attack line was focused on the filters. After cooling down the filters Germantown crews removed the filters and threw them to the ground level where 2763 spread them out so they could be extinguished completely with a handline.