



HOT NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENOMONEE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

APRIL 2 FIRE

April 2 early afternoon found me in a meeting at Station 2 with BC Klug and DC Boehlke. As the tones sounded for a small grass fire BC Klug left the meeting and attached to the call. While none of us knew how large the call really was or how much it would take to mitigate the situation, it soon became apparent.

As reports of large amounts of smoke and possibly multiple fires came in DC Boehlke, ABC Biedenbender and myself responded together. We approached and surveyed to the west to determine what danger there was to the MFPD shooting range and trailer. BC Klug had established incident command and due to the size of the call split into numerous sector commands. He assigned myself and ABC Biedenbender to be Lannon Road command where we worked with crews from numerous departments. Crews did a great job and were able to protect the homes in the area, the green house to the west and contain the fire, keeping it from traveling further west.

Once that area was controlled, ABC Biedenbender and myself were reassigned to be Chateau command. Again, we worked with crews from multiple departments. This area was lined with homes along Tamarack and the swamp and had a high possibility of spreading to them. LDH was laid out with a portable monitor set up in an unsuccessful bid to stop the spread to the north. Multiple hand lines were stretched to protect the exposures to the homes. Again, the crews did an excellent job protecting all personal property and homes, although we were unable to stop the fire spread to the north.

Once this area was secured we were reassigned to rehab where I was able to see the job well done by the staging officers. Here I was also able to see the tremendous mutual assistance we were given by dozens of surrounding departments. Containing this from spreading north of Good Hope Road was quite an accomplishment. If it had spread, there were crews available to continue with the extinguishment effort.

From the rehab/staging area I was assigned back to the command post where I saw first hand the cooperation set up with the police department, Waukesha County Sheriff's department, MABAS representative and various other mutual aid including chief officers. A call of this size, with this amount of resources, requires a solid command structure. The positive outcome of no homes being damaged and no injuries shows the effective command structure that was set up. Thank you to all who responded, whether it was to the scene or to back fill stations allowing us to continue emergency response to the rest of the Village of Menomonee Falls.

MFFD MONTHLY INCIDENT COUNTS

APRIL 2020

Station 1 - 127
Station 2 - 50
Station 3 - 96
Station 4 - 52
Station 5 - 16

Total Runs - 341

APRIL 2021

Station 1 - 129
Station 2 - 55
Station 3 - 112
Station 4 - 50
Station 5 - 24

Total Runs - 370

MAY BIRTHDAYS & WORK ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

5/1	Jesse Holmes
5/12	Nicki Porter
5/13	BC Rae Ann Schone
5/22	Duane Kantowski
5/27	Heather Gunderson
5/29	Julie Wagner
	Josh Diehl

ANNIVERSARY DATES

None

TRIVIA QUESTION

In which year was the first National EMS Week observed?

- A. 1908
- B. 1929
- C. 1961
- D. 1974

(answer on page 6)



Recruits training on extrication

LATEST FROM THE TRAINING BUREAU

Recruit Class 21-02: Class began on April 18 and concluded on April 30. Recruits will be regularly scheduled members as of June 1.

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

Live Burns: All firefighters are scheduled to participate in live fire training October 9, 10 and 11. All EMS personnel are scheduled to support rehab at the training. Be sure to check InTime to see when you are scheduled and mark it on your calendar.

READ:

Fire Law Blog

[Connecticut Firefighter Faces Backlash Over Narcan Comment - Fire Law Blog](#)

WATCH:

Ground Ladder Tips

<https://youtu.be/65d6iMThSjw>

REVIEW and DISCUSS:

FIREHOUSE

[Two Firefighters among Four Killed in OK Fire | Firehouse](#)

FREE TRAINING:

Lexipol

[The Ready Responder: How Physical and Mental Wellbeing Affects Performance \(lexipol.com\)](#)

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Legal Considerations for Fire and Emergency Services, 3rd Edition

J. Curtis Varone

- Deputy Chief Nicholas Boehlke

MEET MFFD's NEWEST MEMBERS



Name: Andrea Alvarez

Where do you live? Shorewood

Why did you join MFFD? As an ER/trauma nurse I have always loved being a front liner, especially caring for trauma patients. I want to work front line outside of the hospital as well, as a first responder for medical and for fighting fires, helping people when they need it the most.

What classes will you be taking? FF, Paramedic

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? ER/trauma RN

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Multiple ER/trauma centers in Chicago (travel RN). I have worked ER COVID in most of the hot spots since the pandemic started.

Family/pets? Significant other—Mark, Children—Jacey (23), Jaden (15) & Angelica (13)

Any hobbies? Spending time with the people I love, traveling, hiking, swimming and singing at church

Name: Jamie Bohacek

Where do you live? Wales

Why did you join MFFD? When I heard RNs could apply, I did.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? I'm a critical care and emergency room registered nurse, certified in ACLS, PALS, BLS, TNCC, NIHSS

What classes will you be taking?

Paramedic or whatever is offered. I love learning

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? I worked in law enforcement.

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Froedtert Menomonee Falls Emergency Department

Family/pets? Daughter—Trinity (17), Sons—Elijah (14) & Logan (8)

Any hobbies/activities involved in? Working out, traveling

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I like coffee....LOTS.OF.COFFEE.



Name: Quincy Beeks, Que

Where do you live? Milwaukee

Why did you join MFFD? To help and protect the Village of Menomonee Falls

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? Fire 1 & EMT

What classes will you be taking? Fire 2 this summer and Paramedic this fall

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? Butler Fire Dept

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Cargill Meat Solutions

Family/pets? A girlfriend

Any hobbies? Working out, playing basketball

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I'm at the beginning of my career. I want to learn as much as possible so please be patient with me.



Name: Jim Creegan

Where do you live? Richfield

Why did you join MFFD? Not ready to retire from the fire service. There are minimal hours available at Germantown and MFFD has the opportunities I'm looking for.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? Fire 1 and EMT-B

What classes will you be taking? Tech rescue/hazmat if it returns

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? Started fire/EMS in 1994—Richfield, and last 8 years on Germantown

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? WI DSPS, occupational safety inspector (OSHA) for government employees, and amusement & ski lift inspector

Family/pets? Wife—Tracy, Son—Logan (14), Dog—Marlow, Cats—Grayson, Gretta & Gilbert

Any hobbies/activities involved in? Beekeeper, making maple syrup, ATVs

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I'm always willing to share knowledge and experience and help others.

MEET MFFD's NEWEST MEMBERS



Name: Devin Godager, Dev, Go-dages

Where do you live? Meno. Falls

Why did you join MFFD? It was a very solid department close to home with great ability to move up and absorb information from fellow members.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? Fire 1, HazMat, EMT-B

What classes will you be taking? Fire 2 and AEMT

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? No

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Advanced Power Systems

Any hobbies/activities involved in? Hunting, fishing, any kind of sports, working out and cooking

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I work hard and am an open book so anything else you want to know about me, let me know. Hope to get to know more people on the department.

Name: Greg Holley

Where do you live? Downtown Milwaukee

Why did you join MFFD? I received my EMT cert and a firefighter told me it would be a good idea to get some experience.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? EMT-B

What classes will you be taking?

Open to all classes, Fire 1, Paramedic

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? No

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Creative Business Interiors (interior design company)

Family/pets? I have a girlfriend

Any hobbies/activities involved in? Working out, playing sports, fishing

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? Currently on the Milwaukee Fire Department recruit list. My father was a police officer for Milwaukee for 25 years, and my brother is a firefighter for Milwaukee now. That's how I became interested in the profession.



Name: Midou Gueye

Where do you live? Milwaukee

Why did you join MFFD? To get more experience on a progressive department and to be part of an organization that has a lot of potential.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? Fire 1 & 2, MPO, Inspector, WI React HazMat Tech and EMT-B

What classes will you be taking? Aerial and AEMT

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? Lisbon, Fitchburg, Wind Lake

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Town of Lisbon DPW

Family/pets? A 12-year old brother

Any hobbies/activities involved in? I'm mechanically inclined and like working on trucks.

Anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself? I love helping people. I'm a big teddy bear.

Name: Rebeca Juarez

Where do you live? Waukesha

Why did you join MFFD? Because I'm passionate about helping others and MFFD had an opening for me to help a community.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? Paramedic

What classes will you be taking? In the future I'd like to take Fire.

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? North Prairie in 2009 for a year

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Midwest Medical (Paratech & Medicare) and Event Medical Solutions

Family/pets? Son—Yamir who will be 11 soon

Any hobbies/activities involved in? Yamir has been in hockey for 5 years and is with the Waukesha County Youth Hockey Association. We like to hike and recently bought kayaks.

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I took some time off from EMS (2010-15) to raise my son and was going to school for nursing. I also became a CNA in that time and worked at a nursing home in Brookfield for 2 years.

Open to all classes, Fire 1, Paramedic

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? No

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Creative Business Interiors (interior design company)

Family/pets? I have a girlfriend

Any hobbies/activities involved in? Working out, playing sports, fishing

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? Currently on the Milwaukee Fire Department recruit list. My father was a police officer for Milwaukee for 25 years, and my brother is a firefighter for Milwaukee now. That's how I became interested in the profession.

MEET MFFD's NEWEST MEMBERS



Name: Jeff Mason

Where do you live? Lisbon

Why did you join MFFD? Looking for a modern, fast-paced, progressive fire department

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? Fire 1 & 2, D/O-Pumper, Instructor I, HazMat, EMT-B

What classes will you be taking?

AEMT in Aug., Paramedic in Jan., Officer I and Aerial

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? Curtis Ambulance

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Lisbon FD and Butler FD

Family/pets? Two dogs named Captain and Corona

Any hobbies/activities involved in? Living history, WW2 history, vehicle restoration



Name: Dan Nolan

Where do you live? Brookfield

Why did you join MFFD? I've always loved working in a physical field and working with the body. At this job I can do both. I thrive working with a team and under pressure.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? EMT. I have an exercise sports science degree too.

What classes will you be taking? Fire 1 & 2, Paramedic

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? No. I have been training with Milwaukee since October.

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? I'm a PE teacher and the athletic director for Milwaukee College Prep. I'm also a throws coach for track at Brookfield Academy HS.

Family/pets? Wife—Jenny (advanced math teacher), Sons—William (16) and Charlie (14). Cats—Peanut, Leela and Louise

Any hobbies/activities involved in? Triathlons, shot put-discus-hammer/weight throw-javelin, long distance biking, rock climbing, cooking/grilling, video games

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? My biggest regret in life is not going into the military right out of high school or college. To me this is the perfect alternative for me and my family. And a perfect way to help the community.



Name: Eli Ornstein

Where do you live? Watertown

Why did you join MFFD? I wanted to be on a department that holds training in high regard and pushes its employees to better themselves.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? Fire 1 & 2, EMT-B, Building Construction, Fire Behavior, HazMat

What classes will you be taking? Instructor, Officer, MPO, IFSI RIT Under Fire

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Western Lakes

Family/pets? Mom—Suzette, Dad—David

Any hobbies/activities involved in? Living history, vehicle restoration



Name: Ericca Peet

Where do you live? Milwaukee

Why did you join MFFD? For experience

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? EMT-B

What classes will you be taking? Would like to take Paramedic

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? Currently on Milwaukee FD ranking list

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Medtronic

Family/pets? Spouse—Daren, Kids—Skylyn (7), DJ (2) & Edyn (10 months)

Any hobbies/activities involved in? Doing hair/braiding, crafting

MEET MFFD's NEWEST MEMBERS



Name: Jeff Plewa

Where do you live? Moved from Milwaukee to Jackson about a year ago

Why did you join MFFD? To be more involved in the fire service and get more experience while serving a community I have a nostalgic connection to

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? Fire 1 and

EMT-B

What classes will you be taking? I'd like to take MPO and Paramedic once I have a bit more EMS experience.

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? POC with Germantown FD

Family/pets? Fiancée—Caitlin, who I'm marrying Sept. 11. Dog—Jocko (8 months), a South African Mastiff named after Jocko Willink

Any hobbies/activities involved in? Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, lift weights and play music in my band "Emblazoned"

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I feel very fortunate to have been given this opportunity to work for the MFFD and serve this community to gain more experience to be a valuable asset to this team.



Name: April Schuermann

Where do you live? Brookfield

Why did you join MFFD? To be able to give my service to the community, be an EMT so I could work on the ambulance, and be a firefighter.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? Fire 1 & EMT-B

What classes will you be taking? Paramedic associate's degree program this fall

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? Volunteer at Elm Grove EMS

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Vernon FD

Family/pets? Mom—Esther, a single mom, hard-working hairdresser. Dog—Shallby (8), an Australian Cattle Dog, Red Heeler

Any hobbies/activities involved in? Love to read, explore nature, hang out with my best friend

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? I want to dedicate myself to helping people in need, because I believe I can help there in the best way. I aspire to be a paramedic, to work in the ambulance and help as a firefighter.



Name: Amanda Scheel

Where do you live? Far East Side Milwaukee

Why did you join MFFD? It has a good reputation with outlying companies and departments. Looking for a positive environment.

What classes have you taken related to Fire or EMS? EMT-B, AEMT, HazMat

What classes will you be taking? Fire 1 in summer, Paramedic in fall

Have you been on any other depts or in a related field? 1.5 years at Paratech Milwaukee & Madison

Are you employed somewhere besides MFFD? Casual status at Paratech MKE

Family/pets? 9-month old Golden Retriever puppy named Ella

Any hobbies/activities involved in? Hiking, spending as much time on the beach as possible, exploring new music, cooking

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself? Don't let my face fool you, I'm actually really friendly!

TRIVIA ANSWER

D. 1974

The first National EMS Week was observed in 1974 when President Gerald Ford declared the week to acknowledge the crucial work of this critical link in emergency medical care.

The theme for 2021 is: *This is EMS: Caring for Our Communities.*



*Wildland fire on April 2
Photo by Alexandra Lang*

THE REV'S REFLECTIONS

Lately, I've been thinking a great deal about the concept of trust. I believe trust is a foundation for life in general and especially for life in the fire service. We start with a basic trust in ourselves. I mean, we have to trust our training and our experience to be effective. If we don't feel we have the needed training, then we have to have the willingness to get more, to enhance our skills so that we can trust that we are going to be able to do what is needed to be effective. The circle widens out to include those we serve with in the fire service. Do we trust our partner? Do we trust that he or she has the skills to get the job done so that we can be a team. I remember when I was a volunteer firefighter in Osseo. On a fire calls, two of us were called to take a 1 3/4" hose line into a structure for a small fire. We advance the line into the room with the fire. Yes, there was smoke and some fire. I opened the nozzle and began doing what I was trained to do—extinguish the fire. When it was knocked down, I started to again advance the line to check for hot spots and could not move. I turned around and my partner had left the room. I was alone! From that point on, I could not trust that other fire fighter, no matter what the situation. Trust, it's key.

We also have to trust our leaders, company officers and command staff. We have to trust that they are making to right decisions not only on scene but more importantly for the good of the organization. Will they work to make sure that our department has the needed equipment and training so that we can get the job done and done right. Will they work to get qualified personnel increase the ranks. We have to trust that they are fair with discipline and with praise. Trust it is so critically important. We have to trust the community and the community leaders that they respect the role of the fire service in Menomonee Falls. And that they will support us as best they can.

Finally I believe, especially considering the year that we have just been through, we have to trust in a power greater than ourselves. It is an old saying, but I believe it is a truth: "We do not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future." We are moving through this pandemic. When it began we did not know much about Covid-19. But we trusted that science would find out and figure out what to do. We did not have a vaccine, but we trusted that a safe vaccine would be found. Our trust allowed us to learn and our learning allows us to live. We do not know what is around the corner, but we know who walks with us around that corner. That trust allows us to take the next step. Trust is, I believe, a gift that we have received and one that we need to rely upon if we are to grow and be faithful.

Trust!

- Chaplain Russ Knoth