

HOT NEWS

How Can We Help

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENOMONEE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

STATION 2 OPEN HOUSE BEING HELD JUNE 26

Join us on Saturday, June 26 from 9 a.m.—noon for our first open house of the summer! It's being held at Station 2 located at N56W14971 Silver Spring Drive.

You'll be able to tour the station, meet your local first responders and watch the main attraction for the day - a car fire demonstration.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & WORK ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------|--------------------|
| 6/9 | Dan Corbin |
| 6/17 | Lt Todd Dettmering |
| 6/22 | Quincy Beeks |
| 6/27 | Lt Ed Burg |
| | Dan Nolan |

ANNIVERSARY DATES

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <u>22 years</u> 6/7/1999 | DC Kevin Rokenbrodt |
| <u>21 years</u> 6/20/2000 | Lt Steve Schmitz |
| <u>18 years</u> 6/10/2003 | Steve Rehse |
| <u>13 years</u> 6/10/2008 | BC Rae Ann Schone |
| <u>12 years</u> 6/9/2009 | BC Jared Klug Lt Dale Rome Greg Schneider Julie Wagner |
| <u>10 years</u> 6/28/2011 | Sean Foley |
| <u>7 years</u> 6/1/2014 | Gabe Norton |
| <u>4 years</u> 6/19/2017 | BC Kurt Harthun Joe Jankowski Aaron Martinez John Schut |
| <u>1 year</u> 6/15/2020 | Chief Gerard Washington |





EQUIPMENT TESTING, CERTIFICATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE

During the week of May 3 Reliant Fire Apparatus was on site at Station 3. These dates were scheduled with Reliant in January. We were able to schedule our annual DOT inspections, preventative maintenance, and pump test certifications for our fire engines. Reliant offers a special price discount for doing all at once, and a further discount for scheduling ahead of time. While here they also took care of some items in need of repair, and currently have the reserve engine for more in-depth repairs.

We also had Abednego Fire Protection on site May 26 to conduct DOT mandatory 10-year hydro testing on all of our SCBA cylinders. In years past we have spent weeks cycling cylinders out to a testing service. Abednego provided great service, and was able to complete all testing and repairs in one day. The amount of time that this frees crews up is significant.

Blaze Landscape has been contracted to maintain the large lawns at Stations 3 and 4 in addition to the work they had already been doing at Stations 1 and 5. The size of these lawns had taken most of a day for on-duty crews to complete, and required us to house equipment that required maintenance as well. While our crews have always done the best they could, the professional equipment and crews from Blaze have definitely made a positive impact on the look of these green spaces. Station 2 grass has been cut by Village staff when they cut Willowood park, and that will continue. Freeing up this time for our crews helps keep our response times low and allows for additional training and public education outings.

Another new company we will be using is FireCatt who will provide this year's annual hose test certification for all of our department hose. This is currently planned for August. FireCatt has an excellent reputation, and has the ability to test all of our hose in two days. We will continue to use NHTS for our annual ladder certification, which will be done in the next few months.

Having these high quality outside companies provide services and certifications allows us to know that our equipment is in top shape.

- Deputy Chief Kevin Rokenbrodt



LATEST FROM THE TRAINING BUREAU

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

[Oklahoma FD Sued Over Meth-Related Death - Fire Law Blog](#)

WATCH:

High Voltage Vehicle Firefighting

<https://youtu.be/8n5Wf7TlGrU>

REVIEW and DISCUSS:

NIOSH

[Fire Fighter Fatality Investigation Report F2018-18 | NIOSH | CDC](#)

FREE TRAINING:

FEMA

[National Fire Academy \(fema.gov\)](#)

BOOK OF THE MONTH

On the Line: Women Firefighters Tell Their Stories

Linda Willing

- Deputy Chief Nicholas Boehlke

MFFD MONTHLY INCIDENT COUNTS

MAY 2020

Station 1 - 140

Station 2 - 33

Station 3 - 81

Station 4 - 58

Station 5 - 16

Total Runs - 328

MAY 2021

Station 1 - 172

Station 2 - 52

Station 3 - 124

Station 4 - 49

Station 5 - 21

Total Runs - 418

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Be happy with what you have while working for what you want.

- Life's Little Instruction Calendar

TRIVIA QUESTION

Highway vehicle fires are most common between which times?

- A. 6—9 a.m.
- B. 9 a.m.—noon
- C. Noon—3 p.m.
- D. 3—6 p.m.

(answer on page 4)



THE REV'S REFLECTIONS

In a May 12, 2021, Chief Washington sent out an email about a news story from CBS 58. It was about "First Responder Stress". All of life has stress. There is good stress, called "eu-stress." And there is bad stress, called "dis-stress". We all know that the fire service has much, much more stress than most professions. Every time the alarms goes off, our stress level goes way up. The things we see, the people we deal with, the accidents we respond to, to say nothing of the conditions we face in fighting fires, all are high stress producers. So what do we do with all that bad stress? In the old days, we stuffed it down deep inside, we tried to drink it away, we attempted to deny it. As a result, fire fighters died early deaths from heart attacks, liver disease, kidney failure, etc. We had above average divorce rates. Suicide was all too common, including suicide by the bottle.

Today things have changed. We now have resources to help us cope with dis-stress. There are trained fire chaplains to respond to the need. Our department, has a Peer Support Team, trained by one of the best peer support teams in the Midwest. We have a Fitness program to work off that extra stress. And we are covered by Employee Assistance Programs through our village. There are training videos to help us eat right, exercise right, live right. But it depends upon you. You have to reach out to the chaplain. You have to talk with someone on peer support. You have to get involved in a fitness program. You have to admit that you might need help dealing with too much stress.

What are the signs of dis-stress? Change in sleep habits, gaining weight or losing weight, loss of concentration, changing sexual habits, fixation on particular calls (not able to get images out of your mind). In short any change from your normal life style. Stress is out there. And stress can kill. But you can protect yourself. You can have a better life for your sake, for the sake of your family and friends.

At your service,

Chaplain Russ Knoth

TRIVIA ANSWER

D. 3–6 p.m.

According to research done by the NFPA, highway vehicle fires were most common between 3–6 p.m.

US fire departments responded to an estimated 212,500 vehicle fires in the United States during 2018. These fires caused an estimated 560 civilian deaths; 1,500 civilian injuries; and \$1.9 billion in direct property damage.

Vehicle fires accounted for 16 percent of the 1.3 million fires reported to US fire departments. Vehicle fires also caused 15 percent of all civilian fire deaths and 10 percent of all reported civilian fire injuries.

The leading causes of vehicle fires were mechanical failures or malfunctions and electrical failures or malfunctions. Older vehicles accounted for three-quarters of the highway vehicle fires caused by mechanical or electrical failures or malfunctions. Maintenance is important throughout the vehicle's years of use.

Collisions were the leading cause of vehicle fires that resulted in death.

Click [here](#) to read more findings from the research.