



# HOT NEWS

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENOMONEE FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

### FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

The summer days in Wisconsin are flying by. Whether you have had a vacation with your family, attended any of the fabulous local festivals, taken in a Brewers game, joined us for the amazing summer fiesta (thank you Jessi & Jenni), or just relaxed in your backyard, I hope you are making certain to enjoy time with your loved ones. As a department, we continue to be busy with responding to emergencies, training, public education, inspections and station and vehicle upkeep. I, along with the command staff, have noticed and want to thank you for your continued professionalism and dedication to each other and to the residents of the Villages of Menomonee Falls and Lannon.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the countless accolades that I have received from the public and my peers regarding our department and the change they have witnessed in our service delivery and appearance. I have and will continue to give all the credit to the membership for your willingness and trust to "join in". Thank you and keep up the amazing work!

Please continue to take care of yourselves mentally and physically.

- Fire Chief Gerard Washington



EMS recruits & instructors

### MFFD MONTHLY INCIDENT COUNTS

#### JULY 2021

Station 1 - 159  
Station 2 - 56  
Station 3 - 131  
Station 4 - 46  
Station 5 - 27

**Total Runs - 419**

#### JULY 2022

Station 1 - 236  
Station 2 - 40  
Station 3 - 112  
Station 4 - 40  
Station 5 - 40

**Total Runs - 468**

### STATION 1 OPEN HOUSE

Station 1 will be hosting their Open House on Aug. 20 from 9 a.m.—noon. Bring your friends and family to tour the station and watch a car accident demonstration.

### TRIVIA QUESTION

On average, how many home fires reported per day are caused by candles?

- A. 10
- B. 15
- C. 20
- D. 25

(answer on page 5)

# MENOMONEE FALLS PEER SUPPORT TEAM

The mission of the Menomonee Falls Peer Support Team (PST) is to provide all members with an opportunity to receive peer support through times of personal or professional crisis, and to build resiliency in the members and their families. The PST strives to create an environment that enables members to identify and address the life challenges and inherent crises at work that may easily overwhelm one's coping mechanism, while working proactively at building a resilient organization.

Recently, the MFFD peer support team has coordinated and participated in both critical incident defusing and debriefings after significant department events. You may be wondering the difference between a defusing and a debriefing.

A **defusing** is conducted within 12 hours after an event, with the goal to be within two hours.

This defusing is to be attended only by peer support team members and those personally involved in the call. The aim of a defusing is to equalize the information among the group members, as it is often helpful for group members to know what others had done, from other people's point of view. As an individual it may be possible to think "could I have done more," but as a team, the defusing allows you to see all that was done for the patient and each other. Defusings typically last less than an hour, and the reassurance provided can significantly help process the event.

A **critical incident stress debriefing (CISD)** is conducted more than 24 hours after an event, usually within 72 hours, but for sure within two weeks. A CISD is to be attended only by mental health professionals, peer support team members, and those who were personally involved in the call. In a CISD, everyone is offered the opportunity to speak, but no individual is required to. What is discussed is to be kept in confidence by all in attendance, no notes are taken, and no report of what is said is given to administration. A CISD is not an operations critique, but rather focuses on the human elements of the experience. After the CISD, peer support members are able to provide further assistance or referrals for any individuals that request.

The trust of membership is absolutely vital to the success of our peer support program, and confidentiality is the foundation of the PST. Because of this, you have not, and will not, hear from the PST regarding help that they have rendered, or statistics in any form.

Peer support team members work to maintain their training so as to always be prepared to assist a peer in need. As is the nature of firefighting, problems do not always occur during normal business hours, therefore PST members are available day or night to assist as needed. Peer support team members work within the scope of their training, and can refer to a mental health professional if needed. The peer support team strives to support MFFD members and their families to help support both personal and professional success.

Peer support team members are available to both fire department employees and their families. There are postings in each fire station listing members of the peer support team and their phone numbers. Members also have business cards that can be taken home for both employees and their families. Being a part of the PST is a rewarding experience. If you are interested in completing the training and joining the team, please reach out to a team member.

*- Deputy Chief Kevin Rokenbrodt*

# FROM THE TRAINING BUREAU

## EMS & Training Upcoming Events

Training with Dr. Shepherd—4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday @ 1700

Live Burns—October 15, 16, 29 (Tentative)

Full-Time Recruit Academy—August 22-September 30

## READ:

Fire Law Blog

[Oklahoma Fire Department Sued For Wrongful Death - Fire Law Blog](#)

## WATCH:

Fire Engineering

[The Art of Go/No-Go](#)

## REVIEW and DISCUSS:

CDC

[Career Lieutenant Dies and Four Firefighters Injured at a 3-Story Multi-Family Residential Occupancy-Massachusetts \(cdc.gov\)](#)

## FREE TRAINING:

FEMA

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

## RECHARGE:

[FDIC 2022: Douglas Mitchell Jr.--Evolution You: Mission, Motivation, and Mindset](#)

*- Deputy Chief Nicholas Boehlke*

## THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

You were born with the ability to change someone's life. Don't ever waste it.



## RIDDLE OF THE MONTH

What gets wetter the more it dries?



Truck Day at the Menomonee Falls Public Library



## HAPPENINGS OF INTEREST

6/23/22 - Dispatched to a Delta level structure fire at the above location. While responding advised dispatch to upgrade to a level 1 due to multiple reports of fire and smoke visible from a distance. Upon arrival found a well involved detached garage with partial roof collapse. 2763 was stretching a 2 1/2" line for defensive fire attack with 52 establishing the water supply and 2710 assumed command. 2761 was directed to pull apartment load for further fire attack on the Charlie side of the structure. 2765 assigned to gain access through the garage door towards the bravo side. Brookfield engine deployed second line off apartment load with assistance from 61 driver to extinguish active fire under collapsed roof sections that was inaccessible from other directions. Germantown Chief assigned to staging and 2703 assigned to safety upon their arrival. Brookfield Chief assigned to Operations and received briefing from 63 officer on progress and current actions. Foam initiated due to burning flammable liquids from different sources. Fire under control at 1838, with crews mopping up hot spots and continuing overhaul to check for extension. Loss stopped at 1906, and crews began to be released after passing through rehab. On scene fire investigation conducted by 2703.

7/3/22 - 2761 dispatched for a Charlie level MVA. 2761 arrived on scene to a single vehicle with minor damage out of traffic in a parking lot. Driver struck a large rock while backing up which ruptured the vehicles gas tank. Around 12 gallons of gasoline leaked from the vehicle. Driver denied any injuries. 2761 contained the gasoline spill with oil dry and remained on scene until the tow company arrived. Once the vehicle was moved 2761 put more oil dry down due to more gasoline spilling. All gasoline was contained to the area and swept up.

7/24/22 - Dispatched for a delta level structure fire, extinguished. 2753 first on and established command. Nothing showing from all sides. 2753 made contact with the home owner who stated that he was burning some weeds outside of his house in a mulch bed when the weeds caught fire and moved to the siding of the house. He then grabbed his in home fire extinguisher and extinguished the flames. 53 cooled the area of the siding and under the house with a water pump can and went to investigate in the house. In the basement there was some haze. Ventilation was initiated by opening basement window. 2765 arrived on scene and continued ventilation with PPV. A TIC was used in the basement and outside to look for hot spots in the siding and walls. No hot spots were found. Command was terminated and the house was turned back over to the homeowner.



# THE REV'S REFLECTION

Probably most of you have heard or seen "The Firefighters Prayer." For those who haven't seen it, or to refresh our memories for those of us who have, here it is:

## *Firefighter's Prayer*

*When I am called to duty,*

*God wherever flames may rage, give me strength to save a life, whatever be its age.*

*Help me to embrace a little child before it's too late, or save an older person from the horror of that fate.*

*Enable me to be alert to hear the weakest shout, and quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.*

*I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me, to guard my neighbor and protect his property.*

*And if according to your will I have to lose my life, bless with your protecting hand my loving family from strife.*

As firefighters we always work in teams. Even when working on the ambulance, we always have a partner. We train together. We respond together. We have "company" officers. When we enter a burning structure, we know that we have others with us, working with us, ready to assist us, especially if we get in trouble. Having co-workers is just a part of the fire service.

This prayer reminds us that we have another partner. This Partner is the source of strength, wisdom, power, and love. Throughout the ages others have looked to God for all that they need. The psalmist could pray: "The Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need." (Psalm 23:1)

May God's blessing always be with us and protect us.

Peace,

Chaplain Russ Knoth

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/8	BC Chuck Zielke
8/15	Dan Schroettner
8/26	Randy Garrett
	Paul Griffin
8/27	Justin Biehn
8/29	Paul Krueger

## AUGUST WORK ANNIVERSARIES

### 15 years

8/7/2007 Jessi Coon

### 12 years

8/10/2010 Jesse Holmes  
Rev. Russ Knoth

### 9 years

8/6/2013 Wendy Osborne

### 2 years

8/2/2020 Drake Barczak  
Brandon Mumm

## TRIVIA ANSWER

**D. 25**

On average, there are 25 home fires reported per day caused by candles.

## RIDDLE ANSWER

**A towel**



In June and July trainings were held which included extrication and aerial operator training.

