

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
2023

# Fire Line Newsletter

## In This Issue:

From the Desk of  
Your Fire Chief  
- Chief Gerritson

Acting To Save...

Leave Behind  
Program  
- AC Schumacher

News at the  
Station

Sprinklered Buildings  
- AC Knowles

Safety  
Tips  
- DC Roberts



## Happy New Year!

First off, I hope everyone had a safe and Happy New Year!

The middle-to-end of 2022 was such a great year and we were able to accomplish such great things as outlined in my last newsletter article, but the future for 2023 looks even more promising. There are many exciting changes that are happening that will improve the department operationally, and we also have some new additions to the family that will have a tremendous impact on Fond du Lac Fire Rescue.

The first item I would like to mention is the accomplishment of four of our members finishing their probationary period and becoming full-status members of the department. Gavin Forster, Clare Wolf, Jodi Peterson and Patrick Hart were all just recently sworn in at a fantastic ceremony at Fire Station 1. These members worked extremely hard over the past year to complete numerous check-offs and show their competencies in many areas in order to complete the probationary process. We cannot be more proud of their accomplishments and we are extremely excited to see what the future holds for them in the Fond du Lac Fire Rescue family.

Secondly, January 1<sup>st</sup> brought forth a re-structuring of the department that will surely improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our agency. We have implemented Battalion Chiefs to be dedicated to a Command Car. This allows the BC's the opportunity to be the first on the scene as an incident commander, rather than arriving on scene last with the Ladder Truck. Additionally, the BC's have the ability to go on additional incidents that would require a Command presence without taking a Fire Company out of service. To make this

re-structuring happen, we appointed the Captains, Jim Wamser, Joe Maramonte and Ben Stephany to the Battalion Chief rank and eliminated the Captains position. This much needed change in our structure is exciting and we look forward to this incredible operational improvement.

Lastly, we have added nine new members to the agency and we are eager to get them in the on-boarding process. Carter Aisbet, who completed all of his pre-employment education started the 4 week Recruit Academy in December and will complete the academy in January and be added to shift at that time. Carter is a great addition to the shift and we look forward to his probationary period. The next eight new members are all in paramedic school and are expected to graduate in May. Doug Jacobs, Kyler Lotspeich, Tyler Downs, David Krueger, Cole Berendsen, Drew Ashley, Ty Davis and Alex Zabel are all going to school, performing clinicals and on their days off are learning the operations of Fond du Lac Fire Rescue. If all goes as planned, these members will be on shift by early summer and will be serving the citizens of Fond du Lac as Paramedic Firefighters.

This operational change and new additions are going to make an extraordinary impact on our ability to provide the very best service to the citizens of Fond du Lac. The future looks bright and I am so thrilled to see these members of the FDLFR family develop and advance.

*Until next month, be safe!!*

*"Your Fire Chief"*  
Chief Erick Gerritson

## ...Acting to Save

Types of Calls:	December 2022	December 2021	Year to Date (2022)	Year to Date (2021)
Alarms Involving Fire	9	7	126	104
Fire Mutual Aid Given	3	2	15	16
Fire Mutual Aid Received	0	0	3	5
Other Calls (False Alarms, Service Calls, etc.)	90	87	1070	1049
Emergency Medical Calls	625	580	6618	6477
Paramedic Intercepts	4	3	79	72
Interfacility Transports	39	39	497	490
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>7814</b>	<b>7630</b>
Fire Inspections Completed	151	443	2663	2897
Defects found during Fire Inspections	83	165	1396	1208

## CONGRATULATIONS!

***Thank you for your dedication and hard work to FDLFR!***

Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Stephens – 5 Years

Firefighter/Paramedic Laura Ketelhut – 20 Years

Engineer Joe Goldapske – 20 Years



**Adam Stephens**

Hire Date: 1/22/2018



**Laura Ketelhut**

Hire Date: 3/3/2003



**Joe Goldapske**

Hire Date: 3/3/2003



# EMS is Life!

By: Assistant Chief Garth Schumacher

## Leave Behind Program

The New Year has already seen some changes in how we operate as well as introduced a new Record Management System. Some of these will be easy transitions and others are proving a little more cumbersome. In any case, we will strive to make these transitions a positive for our community, our personnel, and our department as a whole.

One of the programs that we rolled out was the Narcan Leave Behind Program in partnership with the Fond du Lac County Health Department. I have had a few questions about this rollout and whether or not we are enabling or supporting users to overdose, the answer is an absolutely not. People with addiction related illness are going to use, relapse, or overdose whether there is narcan available or not. This aspect is and has always

been an issue, people that use aren't only using when there is an avenue to correct an overdose, realistically, I don't know that it is even in the thoughts of someone who is about to use.

Recently, I watched a video online of doorbell cam footage in which a teen carried an obviously unresponsive friend to the front porch of his home. The mother was awoken by the dog barking and went on to find her son unresponsive. In the video, you can see a distraught mother as well as a distraught friend that brought him home. As the video progresses, CPR is started and ultimately four doses of narcan were given to save this teens life.

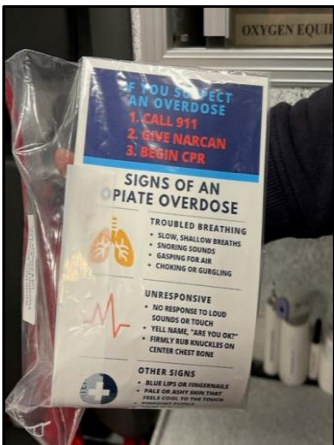
There are many opinions out there as to the opioid epidemic, what is being done, and how to handle the people that are addicted to these drugs. I look at it through the

eyes of a parent, knowing what I know and how addiction can sneak up on everyday people; I can only feel empathy towards those who have addiction. As a parent I cannot imagine having one of my children dropped at my front door in that condition and how helpless I would feel having to wait for medical personnel to arrive and administer narcan to hopefully give my child another chance.

That is one of the great things this Leave Behind Program does, it offers a second chance for an addict who overdoses to recover. A second chance for a family to recover and help their loved one through this crisis. I am not oblivious to the fact that relapse isn't a huge issue in recovery of addiction, but having narcan out there in the community in large numbers offers the best chance for those suffering addiction to live through these relapses and hopefully continue on with their treatment.

I hope that this program is highly successful and that our numbers of overdoses that we respond to diminish in severity and hopefully frequency. When you see a potential need for these kits to be left behind do not hesitate to do so. You will very well be saving a life by doing so, and offering someone battling addiction the chance to recover and get ahead of a terrible epidemic we have in this country.

*Until next time,  
please be safe and  
continue to do great  
work out in the community.*



*Fond du Lac County Health Department and Fond du Lac Fire Rescue are pleased to announce the start of a Narcan Leave-Behind Program in the City of Fond du Lac. Fond du Lac Fire Rescue Paramedics will distribute Narcan kits for layperson use after incidents of suspected opioid overdoses.*



*FDLFR was able to perform "live fire" training as part of the New Recruit Training Academy. This day is a culmination of the first 3 weeks of training, showing knowledge and proficiency. Great job Carter and FDLFR crew!*



A pinning and swearing-in ceremony was recently held for Gavin Forster, Jodi Peterson, and Clare Wolf. These members worked tirelessly over the past year to complete numerous tasks and competencies in order to reach this achievement. Gavin was pinned by his father, Mark. Jodi had her son Derek pin her badge on and Clare was pinned by family friend, Carrie.

*Congratulations!*



FDLFR had an awesome day at Envision Fond du Lac's Career Connections 2023 held at MPTC. We were able to provide exposure to the career of being a firefighter paramedic to around 300 students.



FDLFR had the pleasure of hosting the *Responder Strong Mental Health Curriculum -Train the Trainer* course to help provide emergency responders resiliency training. 35 in person and 25 virtual responders from around the Nation received some great training to help our responders.

## Happy Birthday!

~ January ~

Nate Philipisky • Ben Kooiman • Cade Curtis • Patrick Hart •  
Chris Behnke • Tyler Downs

~ February ~

Dusten Hilgendorf • John Hicken • Jed Rathke • Ty Davis •  
Chief Gerritson • Jack Prall • Adam King • Jake Vogds

~ March ~

Dave Krueger • Cole Berendsen • Paul Wilson • Laura Ketelhut •  
Adam Stephens • Matt Simon • Sean White

# RECENT NEW HIRES

I started this role in mid-November and have been settling in and learning so much. I joined the department with a passion for safety and spreading that knowledge and advice to the community and I have already been able to do that in my short time here. I am currently enrolled in Fire Inspector class at FVTC and am on a waiting list to be a certified car seat installer as well. I've had opportunities to do both of these things to gain some experience while I am obtaining these certifications. Jason and I have also done a few fire extinguisher trainings for businesses as well as some general CPR/safety trainings for groups of all ages from middle school through adults and have a few more scheduled as well. I would like to say a huge thank you to every for being so welcoming and helpful as I learn this new role and settle in. It's not always easy stepping in to a new job and learning all new things, but it has been great, and I feel right at home. Stay safe!



**Jennie  
Mildebrandt**  
Community Risk  
Reduction  
Specialist



**Carter  
Aisbet**  
Probationary  
Firefighter  
Paramedic

I graduated from high school in 2014 from Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School in Jackson, WI. I then graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2018 and then obtained my Paramedic/Firefighter Degree from MATC. I currently live in Neenah and in my free time enjoy woodworking and building things. I also love the outdoors and enjoy finding new places to go on a hike or camp and cheering on the Badgers or Packers on the weekend. I am honored to have been chosen to serve as a Firefighter/Paramedic for the City of Fond du Lac, and I look forward to earning my place among the high-quality and talented men and women in this department.



**Cole Berendsen**



**Dave Krueger**



**Doug Jacobs**



**Drew Ashley**



**Kyler Lotspeich**



**Ty Davis**



**Tyler Downs**



**Alex Zabel**

FDLFR welcomes eight new members who are all in paramedic school and are expected to graduate in May. We look forward to their recruit academy so if things go as planned all can be on shift by early summer serving the community as full-time firefighter paramedics.

**Welcome!**





## Well-trained people are the best defense against fire.

By: Assistant Chief of Training/Safety  
James Knowles III

### The Golden Rule: Firefighting Tactics for Sprinklered Buildings

When it comes to firefighting tactics, the golden rule for stretching a hose-line for a structure fire is, never enter the fire area without a charged hose line. This is done for one reason, firefighter safety. The line provides firefighters with a valuable level of protection, in an area that is immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH). The fire service uses this line to protect themselves, make rescues and extinguish fires, in that order.

This does not mean that advancing or stretching a heavy, charged hose-line full of water starts at the front door. There are many times when a *dry stretch* is acceptable and may provide a significant tactical advantage. As far as firefighting tactics are concerned, the stretching of hose without water is lighter, easier, faster and may allow the line to be better positioned at the drop point, outside of the IDLH area. The drop point is where the fire attack begins and usually consists of a section of the hose, the nozzle and nozzle operator. This is typically just outside of the structure on a residential or single-story commercial building fire.

#### COMBINED SYSTEM HOSE STRETCH

When conducting fire operations in multiple level buildings equipped with combined fire sprinkler and standpipe systems, this deployment changes as we

now start to rely on building fire protection systems. We need to first determine whether the standpipe portion is automatic or manual while understanding that the fire sprinkler is fully automatic. A combined system just shares a common water supply between the sprinkler and standpipe systems and are designed under separate standards. Automatic standpipe systems automatically provide the pressure and flow required for structural firefighting, while manual wet or dry standpipe systems require the fire service to provide that pressure and flow needed from the fire department connection (FDC).



#### FIREFIGHTING TACTICS AND THE FDC

This is critical in coordinating the hose stretch and understanding when the system needs to be charged from the FDC. If the system is fully automatic and the fire service has the protected stairway to operate from, the line can be dry stretched in the stairway prior to making entrance to the fire floor. This system will automatically provide the needed fire sprinkler/standpipe demand

and only requires the system to be supplemented at the FDC. Once the door to the fire floor is opened, we are now engaged in fire attack operations and should already have a fully charged hose line in place prior to making that hallway entrance.

#### FIREFIGHTING TACTICS AND MANUAL WET STANDPIPES

This scenario is a bit different with the combined systems found in mid-rise buildings. The water is only providing the system demand for the automatic fire sprinkler side of the system. In order to utilize the standpipe portion of a midrise combined system, the fire service must provide the required pressure and flow needed for structural firefighting. This is a manual wet standpipe design and is allowed in buildings where the highest occupied floor is less than 75 feet from the level of fire department access. Any attempt at using the standpipe system without supplying it from the FDC will only reduce sprinkler demand and the effectiveness of the sprinkler system in controlling the fire.



While the drop point in a mid-rise building with a combined system has not changed, it does bring us back to the golden rule of not placing firefighters in harm's way as they attempt to make rescues and extinguish fires. Unlike automatic sprinkler systems, once fire fighters enter a structure with a manual wet standpipe system, they are now without a water supply and deployment of a hose line is not an option for protection until the system is supplied from the FDC.



This system should be charged from the FDC as firefighters enter the building, providing the needed water supply pressure and flow needed for operations and not only when we encounter a hazardous environment. This allows the interior crews the opportunity to properly deploy hose lines and the level of protection intended by the golden rule.

Source: National Fire Sprinkler Association. (Dec. 2022).

Retrieved from:

<https://nfsa.org/2022/12/20/firefighting-tactics-and-sprinkler-systems/>

# Community Risk Reduction & Life Safety

By: Division Chief Jason Roberts and  
Community Risk Reduction Specialist Jennie Mildebrandt



Fond du Lac Fire Rescue is currently on a waiting list to become certified car seat installers. However, we are more than happy to have you visit our station, take a look at your seat with you to ensure the directions are followed, and your seat and child are as secure and safe as possible. We have additional materials for each stage your child goes through to make sure they are safe while riding in the car at Station 1. Fond du Lac Fire Rescue will be promoting the car seat installation program across media platforms once we have the official certification. Please review the reference card for choosing the correct seat for your youngster.

While we have been blessed with a very mild winter so far, it's inevitable that we will encounter Wisconsin winter weather at some point before the spring weather is here to stay. Ice, Snow, and freezing rain makes the ground becomes slippery, so your Fire Rescue team has provided some tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe during this Winter season.

Fond du Lac Fire Rescue has been encouraged by the outreach from local organizations and businesses that have utilized free fire extinguisher, first aid, and

other risk reduction education programs. The public has been exposed to recent events that relate to community risk reduction. First, we would like everyone to be aware of these opportunities that are available. Furthermore, we would like to share a few resources pertinent to the recent events. These include short video resources on hands-only CPR, consumer product safety tracking, and a first aid app available from the American Red Cross.

## American Heart Association

<https://www.heart.org/>  
-Hands-only CPR

## American Red Cross

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/hands-only-cpr.html>

-Hands-Only CPR  
-First Aid App

## Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

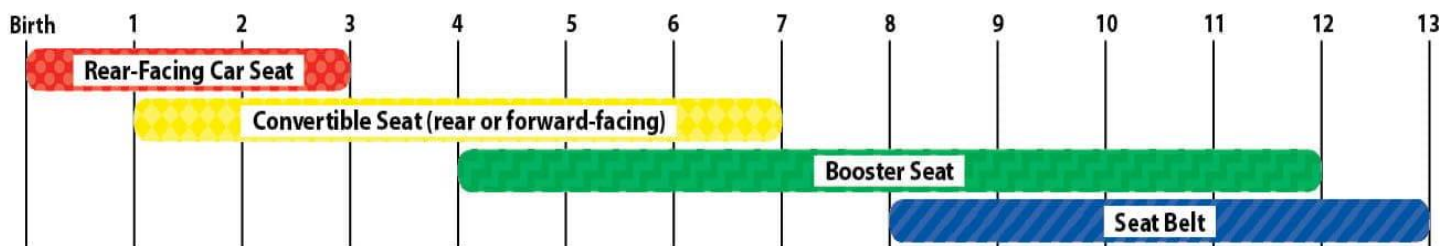
[https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/ProductSafety.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ProductSafety.aspx)

-"Keep Your Kids Safe" newsletter  
-Children's Product Recalls and Advice

## United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls>

## How to Choose the Right Car Seat





# 6 Tips to Avoid Slips in the Winter

- 1 When outside wear shoes or boots with heavy treads for increased traction and avoid icy areas.
- 2 Keep walkways, stairways, and other work areas clear by removing hazards like snow immediately.
- 3 Look where you are going and have your hands ready to steady yourself should you slip.
- 4 Avoid carrying heavy loads that may compromise your balance.
- 5 Mark hazardous areas by using signs, cones, or barricades to warn pedestrians.
- 6 Make yourself visible to drivers by wearing a brightly colored jacket or clothing.