

2nd Quarter
2023

Fire Line Newsletter

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Summer 2023

As we move into the second quarter of 2023 and with the anticipation for much warmer weather, we at Fond du Lac Fire Rescue look forward to some great activities and events that will take shape.

The first will be the start of a “New Recruit” academy in June. As our members that are currently enrolled in Paramedic school graduate with their degree, we will be able to transition them from their college studies, directly into a four week training academy. This recruit class will be one of the largest classes that FDLFR has held and should produce some excellent Firefighter Paramedics by academy end. We are so excited to get these members on board and get them out on the streets providing a high level of service to the community.

The next big event that Fond du Lac Fire Rescue will be hosting is the brat fry to benefit Red Cross. The date for this event will be Friday May 12th, which is one of the first brat fry’s in the community and is a welcome sign to kick off the season. This fund raiser is the largest Fond du Lac Area Red Cross receives. FDLFR members will be grilling hundreds of delicious hamburgers and brats at Fire Station 1, (815 S. Main St.). Come down to the station for lunch, or keep your eye out for the opportunity to place a pre-order that can be delivered for larger groups within the community.

During the week of May 21-27 we will be celebrating National EMS week. During this week we not only take time to thank our Paramedic Responders for the excellent service

they provide day in and day out, but we will also host an EMS Open House to deliver educational opportunities to the public. This Open House will occur on Tuesday May 23rd at Fire Station 1. Mark your calendars for a family friendly event that will be packed with numerous activities, demonstrations and booths, providing education and fun for people of all ages.

Come the second weekend in June is the tremendous Walleye Weekend event held at beautiful Lakeside Park. Not only will Fire Rescue be on duty making sure everyone is safe, but our Firefighters Local 400 will once again be sponsoring a tent with some of the best event food available. Walleye Weekend is always a great time for the entire family, and with so many entertaining shows and activities happening, this is a fun and free festival that all community members should make time to attend. Be sure to stop down and see the awesome members that make up Fond du Lac Fire Rescue and if you’re hungry...buy yourself a delicious Gyro!

With summer on the horizon, there are so many great things happening at Fond du Lac Fire Rescue and in the Fond du Lac community. Continue to follow us on Facebook for more events and information that will be happening this year. I am eternally thankful and inspired by the great work that the FDLFR family does on a daily basis.

Until next month, be safe!!

*“Your Fire Chief”
Chief Erick Gerritson*

...Acting to Save

Types of Calls:	February 2023	February 2022	Year to Date (2023)	Year to Date (2021)
Alarms Involving Fire	8	7	19	17
Fire Mutual Aid Given	2	1	5	2
Fire Mutual Aid Received	0	0	1	0
Other Calls (False Alarms, Service Calls, etc.)	116	67	194	140
Emergency Medical Calls	474	457	1059	947
Paramedic Intercepts	8	2	16	12
Interfacility Transports	46	29	84	57
TOTALS	598	531	1272	1173
Fire Inspections Completed	455	483	728	694
Defects found during Fire Inspections	157	177	281	231

CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to FDLFR!

Firefighter/Paramedic
Nick Fahrenkrug – 10 Years



Nick Fahrenkrug
Hire Date: 4/1/2013

In Their Own Words...

This section of the newsletter features a note or card received from the people we serve. Whether it is during an ambulance call, fire call, or a public education assignment, the members of Fond du Lac Fire Rescue are always dedicated to making their contact with area residents a positive experience.



*Because of you,
there's someone who
is thanking God today.
Someone who appreciates
your warm and caring way,
Someone who's remembering
the special things you do
And wishing you His blessings
every day
the whole year through.*

Thank you all so much!



EMS is Life!

By: Assistant Chief Garth Schumacher

EMS Updates

For this quarterly edition of the newsletter, I want to provide updates as to a few things we have implemented and improved upon.

The end of last year and the beginning of this have seen some changes in how we learn and operate. We have implemented a new Patient Care Reporting system and although there has been some headaches and a learning curve, I am confident this system will end up working very well for the department. From a data analysis standpoint, it has already proven much more user friendly and an overall better format for gathering and analyzing data sets.

Another change to our training platform has been Foam Frat; this is an accredited training platform that is proving to

challenge us more than the previous platform. I have received some great feedback on this platform and am hoping that this provides us with a more thorough education that relates to the service we provide.

We received new Lucas 3 devices for CPR administration. Our old units were 8 years old and after looking into the devices found that 8-10 years is their usual end of use timeframe. Additionally, the new devices fall under the updated AHA parameters more closely and can transmit data from usage to be added into the Patient Care Reports. This is a nice feature for gathering information on how well we are performing CPR.

This year I will be looking further into replacing our

Lifepak 15's with either new Lifepaks or another platform. So far, we have looked at another monitor but I would like to see if we could get a look at the new Lifepak that is currently in FDA approval. New monitors are allocated to be replaced in 2024 with CIP funding.

Our new ambulance is ordered and we hope to start building the end of this year with delivery in spring of 2024. The new ambulance will be placed on a Ram chassis, which will be a change from the Ford F550. We hope that this brings down some of the maintenance related costs that we have had with the Ford units. So far, the Braun modules have served us pretty well and the customer service has been very good, procurement of parts is still the biggest hurdle when we need repairs performed.

Lastly, please pay attention to communications from the State and from administration as License renewal will be coming up fast and we need to make sure we are following all the procedures for maintaining licensure. Information will be coming out very soon with the procedure for this renewal period. Again, please pay close attention to communication on that front.

Spring is upon us, so gear up for warmer weather.

Be safe and keep up the great work you do for this community!

March provided great weather to train on ice water rescue. Crews trained on the ice just off the shores of Lakeside Park near the Yacht Club. The crews brought back to shore the ice which turns to honeycomb when the spring weather warms up during the day and freezes again at night.





Congratulations to John Hicken! After almost 28 years of dedicated and selfless service to the City of Fond du Lac, Lt. Hicken retired from FDLFR on February 9th. Lt. Hicken was presented the Station 3 flag along with a proclamation and key to the City from City Council President Patrick Mullen and Chief Gerritson. John's family and several members of FDLFR were on hand to help celebrate. Thank you John for your dedication and friendship!



FDLFR received the Wisconsin ESGR Freedom Award. This award is the highest honor for employers that provide extraordinary support to their Guard and Reserve employees. Lt. Shawn Kneeland nominated FDLFR and along with Chief Gerritson were presented the award at a recent banquet.



Congratulations to AC Jim Knowles for receiving the 2022 Instructor of the Year Award from the WI Society of Emergency Services Instructors. This is a well-deserved and hard earned award. **Congrats Jim!**



A pinning and swearing-in ceremony was recently for three members of FDLFR. Taylor Huenink was promoted to Lieutenant, Laura Ketelhut was promoted to Engineer and Patrick Hart was able to progress from probationary status to a full-member status. PFC President Marty Ryan gave them their Oath of Office. Family members pinned them with Patrick being pinned by his mom; Taylor being pinned by his father; and Laura being pinned by her children.

Congratulations!

~ April ~

Mike Spencer * JB Hoepfner * Ben Stephany * Curt Smits
* Brett Hefty * Noah Kreilkamp * Rick Faris * Alex Zabel * Reece Rick

~ May ~

Jason Roberts * Shawn Kneeland * Jack Olstinski
* Max Blitzke * Zach Mueller * Jim Knowles

~ June ~

Edgar Ramirez-Tellez * Rick Gerritson * Carl Bahr



Well-trained people are the best defense against fire.

By: Assistant Chief of Training/Safety
James Knowles III

Training Objectives

Upon arrival of the first fire company to a structure fire, the company officer conducts a scene size-up and communicates the initial arrival report. Moments later, a chief officer arrives, makes initial contact with the first due company officer, conducts his/her own scene size-up, and then assumes command. To satisfy the role as the incident commander, an incident action plan is established. Within the IAP is a list of strategic and tactical objectives that drive the overall activities of firefighters and how everyone should engage to support the plan of the incident commander for mitigating the situation.

Typically within training, fire instructors do not actually manage an incident while in the classroom or on the grounds of a practical session. However, they should be utilizing objectives to satisfy the overall goal of

learning or behavior modification of each training participant. Learning objectives are similar to strategic and tactical objectives within an actual incident. A learning objective is a specific statement that defines a goal that is achieved through the attainment of a measured or observed skill and/or knowledge. In some training sessions, learning objectives can also be referred to as a performance (psychomotor) or behavioral (cognitive) objective.

It is important that the fire instructor use learning objectives as the foundation for building all content and activities utilized within the learning environment. The objectives should drive the discussion held throughout the session and the required training activities for all participants. Emphasis toward all instructional

delivery should be to follow the given training plan utilizing the established content to meet the specific objective(s). The delivery component is simple - all instructors should be able to read and comprehend all of the pre-authored information within the lesson plan and simply convey the training material. There is nothing wrong with injecting small pieces of information to enhance the training content while staying on track with the established objective(s). Instructors tasked to lesson plan development should be focused on creating the training plan that should be achievable by all participants and successful for the entire training event.

When it comes to building learning objectives there are a few different formats that can be utilized. One method is to build the objective utilizing the condition,

behavior, standard format. Another method includes the audience, behavior, condition, degree format. An example: The firefighter (audience) shall raise a 24-foot extension ladder to a second-floor level window (behavior) without assistance (condition) within 1 minute of deployment from ladder truck (degree).

In the absence of properly created learning objectives followed by suitable content and activities, learning opportunities are missed. At the fire scene, we use the incident action plan and the established objectives to set our firefighters up for success. In the classroom or training grounds we should up our firefighters up for success by using the lesson plan that includes objectives that directly connect with the training content, activities, and great discussions.

Several trainings were held recently at FDLFR: Wisconsin Society of Emergency Service Instructors & ISFSI – Live Fire Instructor for Fixed Facility Credential / Wisconsin Task Force 1 – Rope Rescue Technician I & II Certification / HMEP Grant – Confined Space Rescue Technician Certification. All trainings incorporated the use of our classroom space at Fire Station 1, the Public Service Training Facility, and various facilities / locations within the City of Fond du Lac – Wabash, Fives, Mercury Marine & Milk Specialties.



Community Risk Reduction & Life Safety

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

Prepare kids for home fires

Teach them what a smoke alarm sounds like.

Practice a family escape plan.

Tell them to never go back into a burning home.



Thank you to our Community Partners for providing fire education to their employees. It has been great to work with several community businesses and staff to educate and promote fire education. Fond du Lac Fire Rescue staff recently teamed up with BK Laser, YMCA, Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Dept., Fox Valley Savings Bank and several other organizations to provide education on topics such as hands-only CPR, first-aid, fire science, emergency planning, flow paths and use of fire extinguishers. The proactive efforts of these business partners promotes safety within the workplace as well as knowledge and safety that will also carry over into their homes and other places outside of work. The results will be positive and will help limit the loss of work production, absence from work, lower the instability in the home, lower injury risk and potential long term illnesses and allows for greater personal and business economic growth and success. These seemingly small actions, that may be often overlooked, have triggered some very positive results in our community.

Fond du Lac Fire Rescue and its members are proud of their national accreditation and being ISO Class I. Our crews are consistently arriving at your emergency within four minutes from time of dispatch. However, the quickest response still cannot outpace the speed of fire. Flashover in a room can

now occur in as little as 2 ½ minutes and usually within 4 minutes imperative for our citizens to receive education and be proactive to assist in saving their families and possessions. This can start with simple actions by installing smoke alarms, making an escape plan and practicing it, closing doors, and receiving fire extinguisher training.

For all of this to happen, it is first important to understand fire growth. Fire now grows faster and hotter than ever before. This is a direct result of lighter weight building construction materials being used today compared to the past and the impact that occurs when the materials are exposed to fire and heat. The fire feeds off of the large amount of combustibles, specific to plastic and foam, which fill our homes. The smoke and by-products of combustion create a faster, more dangerous atmosphere to the occupants in the building as well as the fire fighters.

Every individual in our community can save lives and mitigate the amount of property loss from a fire by following a these few simple steps:

1. Perform a monthly check and test smoke alarms.
2. Replace batteries once a year (*unless they are 10-year lithium ion sealed unit alarms) and replace

smoke alarms every 10 years based on the manufacture date which is located on the back of the alarm.

3. Close bedroom and basement doors at night and when not in use. Be sure to close doors behind you as you are evacuating when there is a fire incident.
4. Take a short class on fire science and learn how to operate a fire extinguisher.



Fire extinguishers are often walked passed in commercial buildings or recognized as an afterthought in private homes. These can be utilized as a valuable tool to maintain and often put out small fires before they grow out of control. In businesses, there are requirements about where to place them and how to maintain them. There are no such requirements in a private residence, but best

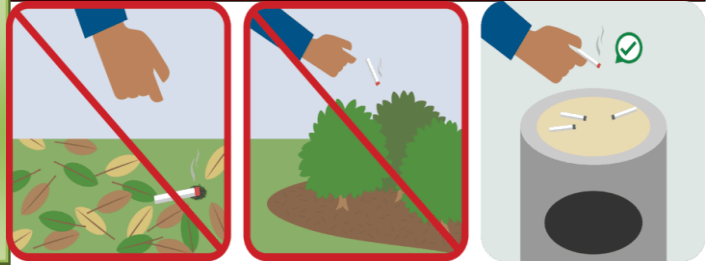
practice would be to have them readily accessible and place them near an exit so if the fire grows bigger than the extinguisher can handle, the user has a safe and easy way to escape. There is a date stamped on the bottom of each extinguisher and it would be best to replace them after about 10 years



So far in 2023, Fond du Lac Fire Rescue has responded to incidents where the actions of the occupants has limited fire loss and destruction by having a working smoke alarm. In one case, the alarm alerted some neighbors that there was an issue and triggered a 911 response. Additionally, the actions of citizens sleeping with their door shut or shutting their door upon evacuation has provided direct evidence of undamaged property to those areas of the home and saved the lives of those who were unaware that there was an emergency.

Community Risk Reduction & Life Safety

Continued...



The effects of wind on fire conditions

Spring and early summer days often bring wind that dries out the vegetation and landscape. In 2022, Fond du Lac Fire Rescue responded to these types of fires during the timeframe of April-early June. A wind-driven fire on West Bank Street in late April of 2022 showed the direct impact wind can have on progressive fire incidents. Many of the incidents last spring were a result of improper disposal of cigarettes. The cigarettes landed in the crevasse of wooden porches/decking, in the mulch/vegetation near buildings, or in the channel of the vinyl siding. Here are some ways that Fond du Lac Fire Rescue encourages residents to take safety steps

to reduce the risk of these types of incidents in our community:

1. Use a sturdy, commercial ashtray station or a metal can.
2. Be sure to place the disposal unit away from and off anything that is combustible.
3. Do not dispose of cigarettes in vegetation (mulch, potted plants, peat moss, landscape materials, dry grass, or inside structures).
4. Make sure cigarette butts and ashes are out by dousing with water or placing in sand.
5. Smoking outside is highly recommended
6. Never smoke while using oxygen or near anyone who is.

Take the Pressure off! Fond du Lac Fire Rescue performs Home Fire Safety Checks

Fond du Lac Fire Rescue is happy to perform home fire safety home visits for residents in the city. We are able to schedule these visits at the private residence to accommodate the busy schedules of the citizens so it is convenient for them. The visits last between 30 minutes-1 hour based on the size of the home and the need for smoke/CO alarm installations. This is an interactive visit that includes education and fire safety around the kitchen, safe use of heating devices,

garages/storage, and use of electrical devices. Personnel provide education on smoke and co alarms, fire extinguishers, Close Before you Doze, and emergency preparedness.

Contact Fond du Lac Fire Rescue CRR Specialist Jennie Mildebrandt or Division Chief Jason Roberts at (920) 322-3808 to schedule your free home fire safety inspection.

One of these rooms is **safer** than the other.

CLISE
BEFORE YOU DOZE

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