

2024
2nd Edition

Fire Line Newsletter

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Spring is in the Air!

Although we have had a very mild winter this year, I always look forward to spring in Wisconsin. The reason is - spring brings in signs of being “reborn and new life,” with the budding of the trees, new growth in plants and flowers as well as the sight of green grass. Additionally the warmer weather brings increased outdoor activity, which appears to bring “new life” to the City and the Community.

Here in Fond du Lac, spring will also bring “new life” to our department and the Fire Rescue family. Our six most recent hires will all be graduating from Paramedic school in May and shortly thereafter begin our “new recruit” academy in early June. These members will go through a rigorous month of training that provides them the knowledge, skills and abilities to be the very best Firefighter Paramedics in the nation. This training is provided “in-house” and is taught by some of the best, most experienced FDLFR instructors, providing the recruit with an incredible foundation for a long lasting and safe career. This is an exciting time for our agency and we can’t wait to get these recruits on-boarded so they can provide the highest level of service to the community.

As mentioned the warmer weather brings increased outdoor activities throughout the community and that includes our agency as well. FDLFR has three planned fundraising events this spring that will hopefully bring support to our community.

- The first is a fundraiser that **Jersey Mike’s Subs** shop had brought to us, to raise funds of our community risk reduction activities. The event will take place on **Tuesday April 16th from 4pm- 7pm** at 221 North Peters Ave. Jersey Mike’s is graciously donating 50% of sales during those hours to Fond du Lac Fire Rescue.

- On **May 10th** we will once again be hosting our **Brat Fry to benefit Red Cross**. Fire Rescue 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.
- The last event is still in its early stages of planning, so at the time of publishing this newsletter we unfortunately cannot provide many details. The idea originated from a community partner to provide a fund raiser for Fond du Lac Public Safety. The date is tentatively planned for **May 23rd**, and a planning committee is in place with more details to be provided soon. Keep an eye out on our social media sites for more information.

There will be so many more events and activities that will happen throughout the spring and summer that FDLFR will be involved in. Starting in May we will have; EMS week, open house and blood drive, Guys who Grill, Cops on the Roof, Coffee with Public Safety. In June; Walleye Weekend, Juneteenth, the Car Show, Dock Spider games, Boys and Girls Club events. In July brings; Lakeside Park Fireworks, FDL County Fair, Big Brothers, Big Sisters events. And these are just the scheduled events, the City of Fond du Lac has so many awesome events to look forward to that you will no doubt see FDLFR active and involved in our treasured Community.

Until next time, be safe!!

*“Your Fire Chief”
Erick Gerritson*

...Acting to Save

Types of Calls:	February 2024	February 2023	Year to Date (2024)	Year to Date (2023)
Alarms Involving Fire	4	8	16	18
Fire Mutual Aid Given	1	1	3	4
Fire Mutual Aid Received	0	0	0	1
Other Calls (False Alarms, Service Calls, etc.)	96	103	199	184
Emergency Medical Calls	468	486	1074	1073
Paramedic Intercepts	4	6	8	13
Interfacility Transports	20	45	47	83
TOTALS	568	597	1289	1275
Fire Inspections Completed	282	445	525	1197
Defects found during Fire Inspections	166	152	287	377

CONGRATULATIONS!

Your hard work, achievements and dedication to the community and the FDLFR family is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations on reaching this milestone in your career!

thank you

Lieutenant Jerry Golla – 25 Years

Lieutenant Carl Bahr – 20 Years

Firefighter/Paramedic Jed Rathke – 10 Years

Firefighter/Paramedic Jack Olstinski – 5 Years



Jerry Golla

Hire Date: 5/3/1999



Carl Bahr

Hire Date: 5/17/2004



Jed Rathke

Hire Date: 6/9/2014



Jack Olstinski

Hire Date: 4/29/2019



EMS is Life!

By: Assistant Chief Garth Schumacher

Aurora – Fond du Lac

For this newsletter, I wanted to choose an event that is close to happening in the very near future. Aurora Fond du Lac will be opening a new Emergency Department and inpatient rooms. With this happening in May, I thought it was a good time to discuss the impact this could have on the community as well as with Fond du Lac Fire Rescue.

The addition of this hospital may bring some challenges when explaining to patients why they may need to go to SSM St. Agnes when they wish to go to Aurora. Transporting patients to appropriate facilities for their medical events is paramount in getting them the best care. Patients often time do not understand the differences. Currently Aurora has no Trauma Designation that will come after they have been

operating for a period of time and they are able to use the data for the designation determination.

St. Agnes is a Level 3 Trauma center, so patients with Traumatic injuries that may require specialty services like surgery or Ortho may be best served there or even a higher level Trauma Center in Neenah or Milwaukee.

Patients experiencing a cardiac event that need interventions from a Cath Lab will also be best serviced by a facility with Cath lab capabilities. Currently St. Agnes is the closest 24 Hr. Cath Lab capable hospital.

St. Agnes is the closest Stroke certified hospital in Fond du Lac, if you suspect a patient is having a stroke this explanation may help them understand the importance of being transported to a stroke certified hospital.

Many of the patients we see only require basic medical care and interventions; in these cases, it will be nice for patient's to have options for their ER or hospital stay. Patient choice dictates where patients are transported overall, regardless of the appropriate facility, that's why explaining this becomes so important.

This is why educating patients based on what they are presenting and having them understand where they will best be treated is important. It increases a positive outcome and ultimately saves time and the financial burden for them.

I am not writing this as a plug for either hospital, but I do hope this message is received well by patients and the way we explain it to patients and families will be extremely important.

Our job is simple, we treat the patients to the best of our ability, help them navigate their current medical need, and get them to the facility that will best serve that need.

I do anticipate there will be a large number of patients that will want to go to Aurora when it opens, it is a great facility and will be a huge benefit to the community. It is my hope that patients understand what capabilities are out there and where to best be served in their time of crisis. Doing our part to guide that decision on EMS incidents will be instrumental in giving patients and their families the knowledge they need in a timely manner.

Until next quarter, stay safe and enjoy the spring weather.



FDL County K9 Iro recently visited FDLFR to present pet masks to the department. One of the critical treatments early on after Iro was wounded in the line of duty was oxygen. FDLFR paramedics provided Iro's handler a "pet mask" and oxygen at the scene to place over Iro's snout. Iro along with his handler and Sheriff Waldschmidt presented the masks to paramedics at Station 1 to help other animals who inhale smoke or have other breathing issues at an incident.

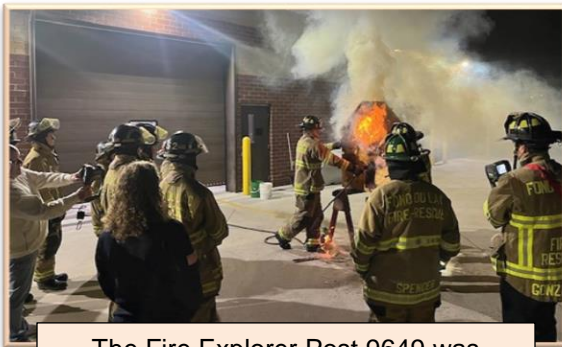
**Thank you
Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Office!**



FDLFR held a pinning and swearing-in ceremony recently for Firefighter/Paramedic Carter Aisbet who joined the family in December of 2022 and was able to progress from probationary status to a full member status. Carter took the oath from City Clerk Maggie Heffer and had his badge pinned on by his wife Whitney.
Congratulations Carter!



FDLFR welcomes two interns who are studying Fire Science at Fox Valley Technical College. Mason Walters (left) and Deion Hargrove (right) will be spending this semester learning all of the finer points of being a firefighter/paramedic through our internship program.
Welcome Mason & Deion!



The Fire Explorer Post 9649 was recently introduced to fire behavior with the use of a Palmer doll house. This unique demonstration allows for firefighters to recognize smoke conditions and witness fire dynamics.



Station 2 – A Shift recently practiced with the Special Olympics – Champions of Fond du Lac basketball team. Always a fun time with the Special Olympic Champions!



May

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

April

Mike Spencer	Keegan Schwab
Alex Zabel	Jim Hoepfner
Ben Stephany	Curt Smits
Brett Hefty	Noah Kreilkamp
Amber Evers	Rick Reece

June

Anthony Gonzalez
Rick Gerritson
Carl Bahr



Well-trained people are the best defense against fire.

By: Assistant Chief of Fire
James Knowles III

Measure Twice, Cut Once

I have recently been involved in several woodworking projects that incorporated cutting and applying finish boards and trim. During several construction projects that I have been involved with, finish woodwork has not been my preference. This is due to the precision of the measuring, dynamics of angled or mitered cutting, correctly applying the piece of wood that will continually be seen, and the overall time needed to ensure proper craftsmanship. During my time with finish woodworking, I have always held the adage of "measure twice, cut once" as a guide to emphasize the importance of careful planning and conducting accurate steps before applying a board or piece of wood trim. The same saying also applies to our personal and professional lives for placing careful considerations, providing

necessary insight toward achieving goals, and being attentive through the journey. Setting personal goals is a fundamental aspect of personal development. Applying the "measure twice, cut once" philosophy includes careful planning and placing thoughtful considerations to achieve your goals. By measuring twice, you should thoroughly assess your available resources and identify your challenges to ensure that your efforts are focused and effective for achieving the desired outcome.

Effective communication is key to your professional and personal relationships. The importance of thoughtful communication should incorporate the adage. Taking time to measure the impact of what you are going to say before speaking can

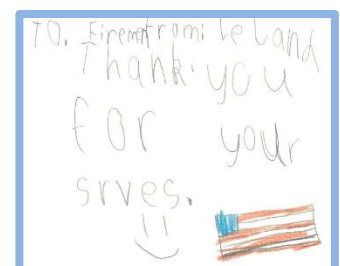
prevent misunderstandings and unnecessary conflict in personal and professional relationships.

On the fire ground, it is important to blend our training and experience into what is presented to us at the moment to safely and properly engage on the situation all of the time. If we take shortcuts, we have the high probability to injure personnel. Performing a complete situational size-up at all incidents allow the opportunities for firefighters, company officers, and the incident commander to grasp several important measurements before engaging on the situation. Taking the time to pre-plan information on an occupancy and thoroughly discussing the potential tactics on common situations with our crew members are proper

measurements toward meeting successful outcomes. Reviewing procedures to overcome a high-risk / low-frequent event in the time of crisis prepares our members to make complex decisions to overcome dangerous circumstances. By embracing the "measure twice, cut once" approach, we direct our path with greater accuracy. This involves considering potential risks, evaluating opportunities, and ensuring all of our steps align to reach the goal. The philosophy is a constant reminder that precision and solid thought lead to successful outcomes in various aspects of our personal and professional lives. When we measure twice, cut once, we place careful considerations and the pursuit of excellence in what we do.

In Their Own Words...

This section of the newsletter features a note or card received from the people we serve. This group of thank-you notes were received from children who were at the Children's Museum enjoying the fire truck display and wanted to say thank you to the firefighters! 😊



Community Risk Reduction & Life Safety

By: Division Chief Jason Roberts



Spring Weather

Wisconsin Spring weather is upon us. It was a dry summer season last year carrying through a mild winter. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was showing a high fire danger for much of Northwest Wisconsin prior to this recent snowstorm.

It is important to understand the regulations in place where you live and whether your community falls under the DNR burn restriction mandates. Visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov> for additional details.

It is important to remember that there is no burning within the City of Fond du Lac without a burn permit. Additionally, it is important to understand the open flame burning ordinance that is available on the fire department website www.fdl.wi.gov/fire/

Smokey Bear reminds everyone to use extra caution as the sunny days and cool nights present opportunities for recreational campfires. <https://smokeybear.com>

Campfire Safety

Please follow the below tips regarding campfire safety.

- Make sure campfires are allowed.
- Monitor weather and do not build a campfire in extreme, dry conditions.

- Make sure proper distance from structures and other combustibles is maintained.
- Only allow small sticks for starting the fire and burn dry firewood that is on the ground that wildlife are not using.
- Maintain a manageable fire and never throw combustibles that may explode or is a danger to the environment in the fire.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Always have a water source for extinguishing the fire and make sure it is fully extinguished when done enjoying.

FREE Car Seat Check and Installation Event

Fond du Lac Fire Rescue will be hosting the first of two car seat check and installation events on Monday May, 13, 2024 at Fire Station 1, 815 S. Main Street. Community members are encouraged to spread the word and have interested parties call to schedule a time that works for them. Please call 920-322-3807 to schedule your appointment. The event will run between 4-7 p.m. Fond du Lac Fire and other community car seat technicians continue to be available on a scheduled

appointment basis. However, this opportunity allows for many more community members to be served at one time. A Spanish interpreter and communication means will be on-site to assist with language barriers.

Fireworks Season

The summer season and patriotic celebrations brings the urge of including fireworks. It is important to distinguish between legal and illegal fireworks. The State of Wisconsin allows the sale, possession and use of sparklers at or less than 36" in length, cones, fountains, snakes, smoke bombs, caps, noisemakers and certain confetti poppers and other like devices per Wis. Stat. §167.10.

Although it is possible to get a permit from a retail fireworks stand or shop for possessing other types of fireworks, it does not give the individual the right to ignite or fire off the firework. Therefore, do not get confused when receiving

a permit from the retail shop. Please reach out and ask questions prior to purchasing to make sure you will be in compliance. For pyrotechnic displays, the City of Fond du Lac has a permit application process available at City Hall.

Fond du Lac Fire and Police along with other departments across the State of Wisconsin have through multiple media platforms worked to inform and educate the general public on fireworks statute, permits and safety. The end goal is safety for our citizens, visitors and community property. Authorized personnel will take enforcement action on those that continue to choose not to adhere to the law.

In addition, Fond du Lac Fire Rescue will complete compliance checks and inspections of retail stores selling fireworks within the City of Fond du Lac. We ask that we work together as a community to make it a great, safe place to work, live and play.



SAVE THE DATE!

Fond du Lac Fire Rescue Brat Fry

All proceeds to benefit the local Red Cross

Friday, May 10th

10:00am – 2:00pm

held at

Fire Station 1

815 S. Main St. Fond du Lac



**FOND DU LAC
FIREFIGHTERS
LOCAL 400**



**American
Red Cross**