Fire Ravages Home

An improperly installed chimney on a wood burning stove is believed to be the culprit in a 2-alarm fire on Ralston Road in Machesney Park. The homeowner tried to put the fire out before calling 9-1-1.

see story and photos pg. 2 & 3

INSIDE:
- Home Condemned after fire........p. 2 & 3
- Another Home destroyed by fire......p. 4
- Accidents ............................p. 6 & 7
- Construction .............................p. 8
- Santa Comes to Harlem-Roscoe ......p. 10
- Station Gossip ...........................p. 14
2-Alarm Fire
Story & photos by Sheryl Drost

December 1, a house that had withstood time since the 1800’s and built with square nails was condemned after fire ravaged through it. The house is believed to have even been an orphanage at one time.

That Thursday morning, the resident of the home tried unsuccessfully to put out a fire that had started above his wood burning stove before calling 9-1-1. Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters arrived to find a house fully charged with smoke and fire.

A MABAS Box, 2nd Alarm was called and brought help to the scene from Loves Park Fire, North Park Fire, Northwest Fire, and South Beloit Fire. North Boone Fire #3 covered Station #1.

An inside attack was ceased as conditions inside the home became dangerous. Three long blasts were sounded from the attack fire engine signaling all firefighters to immediately exit the building. Firefighters then continued with an exterior attack as the fire collapsed part of the roof.

The old house was built in what is called balloon construction. This means there are no fire stops between the floors and walls. The fire had nothing in its way as it quickly took over the attic and burned into the second floor. Black smoke and flames billowed out the windows.

Firefighters were on scene for several hours throughout the call. An improperly installed chimney pipe to a wood burning stove is believed to be the cause of the fire. The Salvation Army Canteen was called to the scene with hot drinks and food for the cold firefighters.
Loves Park Fire Chief Phil Foley has West side command of a North Park Fire crew.

A Loves Park Fire crew overhauls the walls of the second story.

Loves Park Fire’s Aerial was used to help extinguish the fire.

Firefighters take a break in rehab. Paramedic Mike Powell writes down numbers as EMT Amber Aaker takes blood pressures and pulses.

The attack Engine 701 can be seen through icicles from frozen hose spray.

A South Beloit Fire crew works on overhauling the area where the roof had collapsed.

H-R Investigator Captain Mike Drost and two Loves Park Fire Investigators check out the area around the chimney of the wood burning stove.

Harlem-Roscoe Captain Don Shoevlin and South Beloit Fire Assistant Chief Mike Davenport check for fire extension next to the condemned sign. Machesney Park Village Officials condemned the home after deeming it unsafe.
Fire Destroys another Home
Story and Photos by Sheryl Drost

11:25 pm December 5, Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters were sent out into single digit temperatures to fight another house fire. The 9-1-1 call said the house was filling rapidly with smoke. First in crews arrived to find heavy smoke billowing out the front door and along the length of a front porch. As hose lines charged with water, the whole front porch area lit up with fire. It was also reported that a propane tank was possible inside so the crews advanced with due caution. The propane tank was never found but crews encountered other dangerous obstacles fighting this fire. It seems a gas can and an ATV in the living room helped fuel the fire. The fire was extinguished and overhaul was completed. Sadly 2 dogs and 2 cats had died in the fire. One cat had been rescued early in the fire and treated with oxygen before settling into the warm loving arms of its owner. The fire totally destroyed the home. The fire is undetermined but started in the area near the ATV and a wood burning stove.

Fire lit up the whole length of the front porch as hose lines were charged with water.

A quick attack from outside by firefighters Dan Zintak and Lt. Jeff Ball knocked down the fire flashover.

Lt. Jeff Ball and Lt. Aaron Miller feed hose line to firefighter Dan Zintak inside the front door as smoke still rolls over their heads on the porch.

Firefighters Matt Lane, Mike Sherbon, and Brad Delmore fight the fire from the side window.

Lt. Chad Radke lights up the roof as Firefighter Mike Morrison heads up the ladder on the backside of the home. Amber Aaker and John Donovan stay the ladder as Mike Huffman looks on.

Firefighter Brad Knipp uses an axe to overhaul the front porch.

Paramedic Bill Scheider gives oxygen to a rescued family cat. Sadly four other pets died in the fire. The Winnebago County Animal Control was called to the scene and arrived quickly to take care of the animals.
New Construction Hit by Vandals
Photo by Sheryl Drost

November 11, insulation was started on fire at a construction site on Main Street. Luckily the fire burned itself out. The fire is under investigation by the Roscoe Police Department.

Toaster Catches Fire
Story & Photos by Sheryl Drost

November 21, Firefighter Ramona Baldoni-Lake uses a heat gun to check for any fire extension around a burned toaster. Luckily the fire was contained to the toaster area. A positive pressure fan was used to rid the home of smoke in the North Creek Road home.

Parked Car Catches Fire
Photo by Sheryl Drost

Firefighter Brad Delmore finishes putting out a fire under a car in the McDonald’s parking lot on North Second. It seems the driver was having a medical emergency and a depressed accelerator pedal overheated the exhaust pipe and started the fire in the parked car. The driver was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

Car Crashes through Beloit Home
Photos courtesy of the Stateline Technical Rescue Team

November 19, the Stateline Area Technical Rescue Team was activated for an accident on Shopiere Road in Beloit. It seems a car had crashed through a house. The house was now unstable and could collapse. A crew from Harlem-Roscoe responded with the department’s technical rescue trailer to assist with operations. The trailer contains shoring for collapse and trench rescues. Two victims were transported to the hospital where one later died.
Semi Overturns on I-90
Photos by Sheryl Drost

November 21, Harlem-Roscoe Fire was dispatched to I-90 for a truck accident. It seems a semi truck turning into the Turtle Creek Rest Stop just south of Hwy 75 didn't make the turn and rolled on its side. Harlem-Roscoe Fire's Paramedics checked out the driver and the passenger, but both refused treatment. A language barrier posed a small problem where both men could not speak English. The police were able to send out an officer that spoke Russian. It seems a couple containers of a paint product inside the trailer had broken during the accident and spilled into the ditch. The off ramp to the rest stop was closed as a tow truck and cleanup crews cleared the accident scene under the watchful eye of the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT) Director Dennis Lolli.

The barrels of paint broke out the roof of the trailer as it rolled on its side.

SERT Director Dennis Lolli checks over the paint product's MSDS Sheet with Deputy Chief John Presley, Captain Mike Drost, and an officer.

Thanksgiving Day Accident
Photo by Sheryl Drost

Thanksgiving Day, November 24, Harlem-Roscoe Fire responded to an accident on Elevator Road and Love Road. Units arrived to what looked like a war zone with 2 cars with major damage in the South ditch and a pickup on its side in the North ditch. A Bobcat on a trailer the pickup was pulling also separated from the truck and was thrown out in the middle of the road. The drivers of the cars as well as their passengers were transported to the hospital by 3 Harlem-Roscoe ambulances. The driver of the pickup refused treatment.

Elevator Road was closed to traffic until the Police finished their investigation and the scene could be cleaned up. It is believed the pickup was trying to miss a car that had braked in front on her. The bus then sideswiped a van that was heading east. The driver of the van refused treatment as well as the driver of the bus. 4 Maple School students that were on the bus were also unhurt and released to their parents at the scene.

The accident blocked both lanes of Ralston Road.

Firefighter Mike Sherbon and Captain Mike Drost take vehicle information as Paramedic Kirk Wilson checks out the damage.

The driver of the van refused treatment.

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"There are two classes of people in this world-- those who take the best and enjoy it and those who wish for something better and try to create it. The world needs the appreciation of the first and the discontent of the second." -- Florence Nightingale
The end of the year is fast approaching. We have had much success and accomplished quite a bit this past year. Just to name a few items - We finished a mechanical bay, purchased a new state-of-the-art rescue unit, ordered an ambulance and hydraulic gurney, purchased ice rescue equipment, and are in the process of finishing the addition at station three that includes a larger station, more classrooms and an indoor training bay. We have a new class of recruits that will start responding this month. We also held many dinners and classes at our station this year. Now we will finish the year with our needy family Christmas program. And, we also answered a record number of calls this year. Now we shall start all over planning the year ahead.

I personally want to thank each and every one of you who have given of your time and missed many of your own events to respond. You make our department one of the best. “THANK YOU!” Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!

Oscar

Note: Will Oscar be right this year? Help us keep count. Any snow counts that a dog or cat can leave prints in.

Construction Snapshots
Photos by Chief Presley

Process on the inside of the old station is progressing rapidly. The walls are drywalled, windows are in, and ceiling and floorings are going in.
Firefighters Ramona Baldoni and Tom Lake really did tie the knot. They finally produced a picture taken at their reception. The nuptials were August 20 with a reception at their home in Roscoe.

Congratulations Tom and Ramona!!

Donations

Jewell Nelson, Bruce, and Cheryl present Chief Oscar Presley with a memorial check in loving memory of Dale Nelson.

BunPuppies owner, Bill Coleman presents Chief Presley with an envelope containing $504.00 from a silent auction he held at his restaurant. The money is being donated towards the department’s Christmas Needy Family Drive.

A huge Thank You to BunPuppies and all the other businesses that donated items to be auctioned: Jim Blevins State Farm Insurance, Colby Jacks, Classic Cuts, Alexander Hair Company, Video Outlet, Main Street Meats, Hilander Video Rental, Clark Fine Arts, Gotta Have It, Gateway Bank, & Blackhawk Bank.

Happy Birthday!

Clint Evans 25th January 13th

Chaplain’s Notes
By Chaplain Jim Cole

December already! My mother told me that time would go faster the older you get, and she was right! This is a hectic time for most people with Christmas shopping, parties, and the like. It is the time for me to wish you Merry Christmas, or Happy Holiday, or whatever. For 78 years, it has been Christmas for me. This can also be a sad or hard time for a lot of people.

I remember a Christmas Eve a number of years ago in a town where I was pastor. There were railroad tracks that divided the town. A man who lived on one side of the tracks crossed that track thousands of times. One morning he was distracted and did not see the train coming. His wife became a widow in one awful moment.

Then, just a few years ago, Harlem-Roscoe had a house fire on Christmas day. A woman had left a hot pad on the stove, and it caught fire. Tragically, she and her husband died of smoke inhalation.

Let us pray for a safe, pain-free, fire-free, holiday. And I pray that Harlem Roscoe will be not called out for any kind of emergency on December 25. And, do have a wonderful holiday.

Mark Your Calendars!

- The Christmas Needy Family Drive is in full gear. You can still drop off your donation at Station #1 of toys or non perishable food. Firefighter will be needed to help with the delivery of the presents and food baskets on Saturday, December 18.
- There will be no training December 27.

Birthdays

December
8th Matt Lane
10th Ron Ferguson
12th Tracy Wilson
19th Shirley Schoonover
24th Andrew Willis
26th Ron Klaman

January
3rd Jim Johnson
5th Matt Bush
13th Clint Evans 25th
17th John Presley
25th Jerry Lund
28th Chad Radke
31st Mark Soppe

January Breakfast Crew

Check the new 2006 list when it is posted at Station One.

Total Calls

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!! We already have surpassed last year’s total of 1697!!
EMS Report
By Lt. John Bergeron

To all Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department Personnel, I would like to wish all of you a Joyous holiday season to start with. I also want to thank you for all you do to make Harlem-Roscoe Fire and Medical what it is today. We have had several opportunities for continuing education offered through our department and next year should be no different. To all of the personnel who taught CPR/AED/FIRST AID to our community and schools a BIG THANK YOU for the time you put into that. It is a pleasure to work with all of you on this Department- Lt. John Bergeron

Winter Safety Tips
By Deputy Chief Kirk Wilson

With winter upon us, it may be important to keep these following tips in mind.

Before you lay down for that nice winter nap it may be a good idea to take that extra two seconds to dress appropriately. Place your shoes and socks in a place where you can quickly find them. Keep your vehicle backed in your driveway for that quick response and have your key ready. If you vehicle is parked outside, place a piece of cardboard over the windshield. This will help keep your windshield clear and cut down on that hard winter frost.

When responding to the station, be aware of the road conditions. Watch your speed and adjust it accordingly. If you’re involved in an accident, you’re not serving the community in their time of need. Apparatus drivers should address the road conditions as well. Pump operators keep in mind you should recirculate the water in your pump and tank to prevent freezing. When hose lines are stretched and charged, keep the bale on the nozzle cracked to keep water moving. There is nothing worse than a frozen hose line.

Fire Personnel, I can’t stress enough the importance of dressing properly. Take that extra time to dress. We want to prevent frostbite at all costs. It may be wise to have a pair of mittens or extra pair of gloves in case your firefighting gloves become wet. When the incident commander sends crews to Rehab, get inside the ambulance or rescue squad and take off your wet gear and give your body a chance to warm up. If available, take in warm fluids. Keep a dry pair of socks at the station.

While working at scenes, use extreme caution when working on icy surfaces. Roads as well as stairs or steep grades may have ice built up on them. This may make carrying tools or simply walking very difficult. All apparatus should have ice melt ready for these conditions. Take extra precautions when on rooftops. Don’t forget the basics when performing ventilation.

I hope some of these tips will keep you safe while responding and working at the fire scene. You’re worth it! Happy Holidays and stay safe.

Drill Night Training Snapshots

December 6 - Ice Rescue
Instructor Jim Johnson introduced some new equipment Harlem-Roscoe has recently purchased and how to use it. Left, Dan Zintak demonstrates one of the new cold water suits. Below Jim demonstrates a new rescue board.

Snow can be Blinding

We’ve all heard the expression "a blinding snowstorm". Though that refers to white-out conditions where visibility is reduced, make no mistake, the snow can be blinding too. Bright sun reflecting on a blanket of fresh white snow can reflect damaging rays into unprotected eyes. The casualty may not be aware of the damage at the time – not feeling the effects for up to several hours.

Watch for these symptoms of snow blindness:
• Eyes become sensitive to light
• Pain in eyes or forehead
• Gritty feeling in the eyes.

First Aid for Snow blindness
1. Make sure the patient is safe and that you have clean hands.
2. Cover the eyes with thick, moist dressings to cool them and keep light out.
3. Secure dressings in place and get patient to a doctor.
4. Reassure the patient often, as they will only be temporarily blinded.
**Senior Turkey Dinner**

November 17, over 250 local seniors enjoyed a turkey dinner with all the fixings at the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Station #1. The annual Roscoe Lions Club sponsored event gives local seniors a chance to visit with fellow seniors and enjoy a delicious meal cooked by Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters and served by Lions Club members.

**Christmas Lighted Parades**

Parade Chairman Joe Quast and crew were kept pretty busy this year in all the local lighted parades. A big Thank You to all that participated!

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**Keep the Wreath Red!**

Harlem-Roscoe Fire has started their "Keep the Wreath Red" fire safety campaign. Each of the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Stations has a large holiday wreath lit with red bulbs. Left, Joe Koeninger and Jordan Stark set up the one at Station One. If there are no fires the wreath remains red. If there are any fires which occur during the holiday season, the red bulb is replaced with a white one. By looking at the wreaths, the community will be able to see how "fire safe" Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District residents have been. This program will run from Dec. 1 through Jan. 2. At press time there has been two white bulbs put up for the Ralston and Otto Road fires.

Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department personnel urge you to follow some of the simple safety guidelines listed below to help promote a safe holiday season:

- If you have a real tree, be sure to check for freshness, some trees are cut months in advance and are already too dry on the tree lot.
- Cut off about 2" of the trunk of the tree when you get home to improve water absorption and to keep the tree fresh longer.
- Keep your freshly cut tree watered at all times.
- Place your Christmas tree away from any open flame or heating devices.
- If your real tree feels like it is getting too dry, do not turn on your decorative lights and take the tree out of your home for the safety of you and your family.
- Use only UL (Underwriters Laboratory) tested decorative lighting.
- Do not overload extension cords.
- Check your decorative lighting cords for frays, broken spots, bare wires or cracks and discard if you find any imperfections.
- Never leave home with your holiday lights on.
- Use caution with holiday candles, fragrance burners, etc. never leave them burning unattended or near flammables.
- Never burn wrapping paper, evergreen branches or Christmas trees in your fireplace.

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**Let it Snow  By Sheryl Drost**

Wow, 5 snowfalls by the first week in December. We might just get a winter like the ones I remember when I was growing up. The last few years have been a little skimpy on the snow, but maybe this year!

Throughout the history of the fire department though there have been some pretty memorable snowfalls. The department has always risen to the need using volunteer’s 4-wheel drives and snowmobiles where needed. The department keeps a list of firefighters and locals that have 4-wheel drive pickups, plows, and snowmobiles that can be called up at a moments notice. If an extreme storm is expected, teams of snowmobiles and trucks are actually mobilized at the stations and crews put on standby. Another advantage the department has is that we have firefighters that work for the local municipalities that have access to the bigger plows. So, let it snow!!
Extrication Team Wins at State Competition!

November 9-13, Harlem-Roscoe Fire’s Extrication Team participated in the 2005 National Extrication Challenge in Las Vegas, Nevada. The team placed 3rd in the Unlimited Pit, 5th in the Rapid Pit, and 4th Overall. Congratulations to Captain Mike Huffman, Jeff Morris, Lt. Aaron Miller, Lt. Chad Radke, Jim Daughenbaugh, and Radi Huggard. Here are a couple pics of the team in action!

Winning Team members – L-r Lt. Chad Radke, Jim Daughenbaugh, Mike Huffman, Radi Huggard, Jeff Morris, & Lt. Aaron Miller.

The group posed with firefighters from the Clark County Fire Department in front of one of their trucks. Aaron has family on the department.
December 3, Harlem-Roscoe Fire hosted their Annual Breakfast with Santa for the children of the fire personnel. After a delicious breakfast, Mr. Mustache entertained the children with his drawings. Then Santa arrived by fire truck to the squeals of the children braving single digit temperatures. A group picture was snapped and everyone quickly were ushered inside for the best part….the presents! A huge thank you to Deb Alms and he helpers for another great party!
Station Gossip

- Another Trustee has gone under the knife. This time Jerry Ocker had surgery on his shoulder. Jerry, we hope and pray for a speedy recovery!
- Still waiting for John Morgan to fully recover. You think he is milking this injury leave?
- Car trouble stranded Jon Pyzynski for a weekend without an extra set of clothes. Now, as a woman, I don’t see how that would be a bad problem…I would get to go shopping for new clothes.
- This really did happen to Mike Huffman. Just imagine…You’re in the shower and you don’t hear the medical call toned out. You get out of the shower, wrap yourself in a towel and notice flashing red lights outside your apartment. Oh no, did you miss a call? You run over to the patio door and whip open the curtain only to see April and the EMT’s staring right at you. Question, do you wave?
- Clint says he and Danny were on the hose line at the Ralston Road fire and that Danny didn’t even see the raccoon run between his legs. Clint adds that he sure did when the raccoon ran by him!
- Radi had a great time at the Ohare Airport. We just can’t take him anywhere…😊 And I wonder if he ever found his shoes?

- Ron Klaman shows off his buck he shot during deer season. Ron wanted to make sure I got a picture this year, so before even going home, he stopped by to have me take a picture! Ok guys, I know there are more of you that bagged a deer – Need those pictures!

Please Be Responsible this Holiday Season!
By Tracy Wilson – Public Relations Division

During the holiday season most of us have numerous parties to attend. Remember that we all need to be safe. If you plan on consuming alcohol during an event, have a designated driver. There are many factors that contribute to your blood alcohol content. Some of these are gender, metabolism rates, medications, amount of food in stomach, elapsed time, and rate of consumption are just a few. There is no true guideline for how much you can drink and still drive safely and/or avoid being arrested. Remember, impairment begins with the first drink. The best policy is don’t drink and drive.

ALCOHOL IMPAREMENT CHART
APPROXIMATE BLOOD ALCOHOL PERCENTAGE
*One drink is equal to 1 ¼ oz. of 80-proof liquor, 12 oz. of beer, or 4 oz. of wine.

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Chart courtesy of www.beerboozebooks.com

The following are just a few things that people might try to sober up. None of them work. The only thing that reverses the effect alcohol has on the body is time.

- Drinking coffee doesn’t sober you up; it just makes you pee more.
- Eating mints doesn’t affect the Breathalyzer. It measures the alcohol content not the smell. And any police officer that sees your impared driving and then smells the strong smell of mints isn’t going to be fooled.
- Eating a large meal before drinking doesn’t slow the absorption rate of alcohol. If you drink too much, you will become intoxicated. Eating a large meal will just be more to bring up.
- Splashing cold water on your face or taking a cool shower does nothing but make you clean.
- And for your drink that was “mostly” pop; carbonated beverages allow alcohol to be absorbed more quickly into the bloodstream. This is also true with champagne and wine coolers.