Station Gossip

• There will be a group picture taken Sunday, Sept 7, before the Fall Festival Parade, promptly at 9am. Dress Blues will be the attire. New firefighters that don’t have them can wear dark blue or black dress pants with white shirt and dark tie. See Chief if you don’t have any anything that will work. We would appreciate everyone trying to be there for this picture.

• A young neighbor of one of our firefighters was playing with a lighter and thought it would be neat to burn off the fringe on his shorts. Luckily his friend was able to put the fire out. The boy received a severe burn on his leg.

• Note to new guys - If you rescue an animal, it would be nice to get a picture. :)”

• Who are well known for saying the following at the Station?
  • Seriously?
  • Huh?
  • Do you need a hug?
  • Why are you so angry?
  • Did you consider?

The Zen of Fighting

• There is no substitute for training.
• In an emergency situation, you don’t rise to the occasion; you fall back to your level of training.
• To the public you’re not just a firefighter, you’re the fire department.
• When they say “somebody do something”, you’re the somebody they’re talking about.
• Hit it hard, hit it fast, do it right.
• Learn all the jobs, at some point you’ll have to do them.
• Look around, often.
• If you must run away, do so quietly, screaming looks bad on the news.
• A hero is nothing but a sandwich.
• Learn the job, know the job, do the job.
• Being popular can get in the way of being an effective leader.
• Nothing will save your butt as often as the basics.
• Know where the splatter zone is before it hits the fan.
• If you aren’t dressed to play, stay in the bleachers and off the field.
• Predictable is preventable.
• A rapidly escalating fire has the right of way.
• If the fire is in range, so are you.
• If the red lights on your truck are melting, you parked too close.
• Courage is fear holding on a minute longer.
• Very little on a fire rolls uphill.
• No piece of ground is worth a person’s life.
• Leadership secrets of Attila the Hun, “Chieftains must teach their Huns well that which is expected of them. Otherwise, Huns will probably do something not expected of them.”
• Fires give the test just ahead of the lesson.
• Remember, it’s a very short distance between ‘ok’ and ‘oh h%##’

Extrication Team at Nationals

By Mike Huffman

Harlem-Roscoe Fire’s Extrication Team traveled to Chili NY for the 5TH ANNUAL NATIONAL EXTRICATION CHALLENGE on June 24-29. Harlem Roscoe showed a strong showing in the Limited Pit as well as the Unlimited Pit. In both Pits we used advanced stabilization as well as awesome vehicle stabilization, patient safety and Greta tool knowledge. All of the team members did an excellent job. We even had a new medic without a lot of prior training. We placed 5th in the Limited Pit, 8th in the Unlimited Pit, and 3rd Overall. We were consistent in both pits to rank 3rd Overall.
Grain Dust Explosion
Story & photos by Sheryl Drost

Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters responded to a report of a grain dust explosion at a local grain facility on Prairie Hill Road on July 28. It seems a small grain dust explosion had sent a fire ball at a worker in a room under the area where the trucks unload corn. The worker was not injured and got out of the confined space on his own. A small amount of smoke was all that was left when firefighters, in full gear and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs), entered the underground room to check for fire. They also used meters to check for various harmful gases. A fan was then used to clear the room of smoke. Two firefighters also climbed up to the top of the silos with a company worker to check to see if the fire had traveled to any of the silos. The silos were fine, and they did see where the fire ball had luckily exited one of the pipes before reaching the silos of corn.

Husband on Fire?
Story & photos by Sheryl Drost

It seems a mistaken dispatch for a call on Danica Dr. on July 29 said that a lady had reported her husband was on fire! Firefighters on the first-in fire truck reported back that indeed there was a fire, but it was the home, not the husband that was on fire. When firefighters arrived at the scene they found the kitchen stove area was on fire, the home was full of smoke, and everyone was out. The first-in crew made a great knock-down of the fire and then fans were used to rid the home of smoke. A family cat was also found in the home by firefighters and delivered to the residents waiting outside. The fire was found to have started in the stove area.

IFSI Trench Operations Class
Photos and story by FF Tom Lake and Lt. Ramona Baldoni-Lake

With the district’s influx of new construction, both commercial and residential, there is a high potential for a trench incident. Fortunately we were able to attend an IFSI Trench Operations class last month to be better prepared to respond to such an emergency. Have you ever noticed on a new construction site where a basement is located, there is an area that goes the perimeter of the foundation where the dirt is away from the concrete poured walls? If this area is deeper than five feet, per OSHA, it is a trench and should be treated with caution. Yet the potential danger of collapse and entrapment tends to get overlooked because we become lax. So many times we see these situations without any shoring or protection. It happens all the time.

Unfortunately this danger was learned first hand in a video we saw where a contractor had pulled the dirt away from the foundation of a house to waterproof a leaky basement. It was deeper than five feet, which qualified it as a trench. The contractor did not treat it as a trench with proper shoring and safety measures put in place. A laborer was down in the hole when the trench caved in and trapped him from the waist down. The local fire department was called and the technical rescue team was deployed. The rescuers faced hazards such as utilities, time, weather, and secondary collapse. The victim faced the possibility of injuries such as broken limbs, crushing injuries and compartment syndrome. The extrication took several hours, but was successful.

So what happens if we find ourselves in a similar situation in our growing district? Thanks to a progressive minded, “be prepared”, department, we can be ready.

Thanks to this recent class we are both now more prepared.
Can You Take the Heat?
By Deputy Chief Kirk Wilson

With the “dog days” of summer here, it’s not hard to figure out that it’s hot outside.

With the heat, comes heat related problems. As firefighters, we always find ourselves in “hot and sticky” situations. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can quickly become a dangerous reality when dealing with fire suppression. It is very important for us to recognize the signs and symptoms of Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke.

Heat related emergencies are very serious and require prompt attention. With the summer months upon us, try and keep yourself well hydrated through out the day. Prepare yourself to respond to that structure fire or long auto accident involving extrication. Recognizing the signs and symptoms early may reduce further complications or even death. I know all of us as firefighters want to portray an image of being invincible, but let’s look at the truth, we are only human. Take care of your body and stay safe.

Heat Exhaustion
This usually occurs when the body is exposed to heavy working or exercise while in a very hot environment. Heat exhaustion is caused by the body depleting itself of fluid and electrolytes. Profuse sweating occurs causing the body to try and cool itself. This is a very dangerous situation for firefighters exposed to extreme heat.

Symptoms include: Profuse sweating, cold clammy skin, pale or gray in color, extreme thirst, and dry mouth or tongue. The firefighter may be dizzy, weak or fainting. These symptoms are signs that need swift attention.

Treatment for Heat Exhaustion: Remove the firefighter from the warm environment and place him/her in a cool place. (If possible) Remove any excessive clothing including all turnout gear. Encourage the firefighter to lie down. If fully conscious, have him/her start to take in fluids. Water and/or an electrolyte fluid replacement should be given. Do not try to re-hydrate with soda pop or other carbonated products. If symptoms do not resolve within 20-30 minutes, a more aggressive action may follow such as IV therapy and transport to the hospital.

Heat Stroke
Heat Stroke occurs when the body is overwhelmed by excessive heat - such as firefighting. The body’s cooling mechanism has been overwhelmed and unable to get rid of the excessive heat. This is a very dangerous condition and needs prompt attention.

Symptoms include: A change in behavior or mental status. The firefighter may become confused. The firefighter may become unresponsive. Skin will be very hot and dry to touch. (Fever) Color may be very flushed or red. Again, this is a very serious condition that may lead to death is not treated aggressively.

Treatment for Heat Stroke: Remove the firefighter from the environment. Remove excess clothing or turnout gear. Start the firefighter on oxygen at 12-15 liters per minute. Apply cold pack to the neck, under armpits and in the groin. Cover the patient with cool towels keeping a close eye on the body temperature. Paramedics start IV therapy and rapidly transport to a medical facility.

Boat & Water Rescue Upcoming Trainings
These trainings are open for all firefighters!
Wear shorts and old tennies. This will be hands-on training.

August 20 – Wed - Winnebago County Dive Team Training. Meet at Station One @ 6pm.
August 24 – Sun - Boat Operations - Meet at Station One at 8am.
September 13 & 14th – Sat & Sun – Boat Operations skills - Multi department training - tentative
September 21 – Sun - Boat Operations and skills - Multi department - tentative

Training Night Snapshots . . .

07/22/08 Patient Packaging

07/22/08 Aerial Operations

08/05/08 Water Rescue Training

Firefighters Respond Mutual Aid to Industrial Fire
Story & photos by Sheryl Drost

Harlem-Roscoe Fire responded to a MABAS Alarm from Loves Park Fire for an industrial fire on Charman Drive on July 29. The Box Alarm called for Harlem-Roscoe to send a Chief and an engine. Chief Don Shoelvin responded as well as Engine 702 out of Station Two. The crew included Lt. Ramona Baldoni-Lake, Tim Schrader, Gina McCauley and Andrew Yastrab.

The Chief could see the column of smoke from the fire as he left Roscoe. The crew on Engine 702 and Chief Shoelvin would see a lot of fire and would spend over five hours on the scene.

07/22/08 Aerial Operations

With thousands of gallons of oil and other fuels feeding the fire, the ground crews were pulled back as aerials continued to hit the fire.

07/22/08 Patient Packaging

Lt. Baldoni-Lake, Gina, and Andrew had one window. Loves Park firefighters had another window, and on the right, Chief Shoelvin is command of this sector.

Gina and Lt. Baldoni-Lake head to rehab after a stretch working the fire.

Andrew, Lt. Baldoni-Lake, and Gina pull hose as smoke covers the building.

Chief Shoelvin had command of two sectors and directs Lt. Baldoni-Lake where he wants her crew to go.
Accidents

Photos by Sheryl Drost

August 5, a GMC Acadia was t-boned by a Chevy Blazer on Hwy 173 by the Boone/Winnebago County Line. Seven injured were transported by ambulance by Harlem-Roscoe Fire, Capron Ambulance, Lifeline Ambulance, Rockton Fire, Metro Ambulance, and South Beloit Fire. Two helicopters had been called for but were unable to fly because of fog. Two victims in the Acadia also had to be extricated.

Multiple Injury Crash
Photos by Sheryl Drost

Station Updates
By Assistant Chief Ken O’Dell

Fill the Boot - We would like everyone that can help to hit the streets on Friday the 22nd and Saturday the 23rd. Friday from 11am until whenever and Saturday from 9am until whenever. The Muscular Dystrophy Telethon will be September 1 at Rock River Ford, and at approximately 4:30pm, we will present what we have collected. If you can help contact: Station One - DC Presley, Station Two - Lt. McCormick, and Station Three - Lt. Knipp.

The Chaplain program is back up and running. They have been given ID cards and will be responding when called.

Cruise update - We are up to 26 people going on our West Caribbean Cruise Fundraiser. If you know of anyone wanting to join us, there is only one balcony room, four ocean view rooms, and five inside cabins left on the cruise.

The Fall Festival Weekend is September 5-7. We will need everyone’s help to man our tent. We also need everyone to participate in the parade on Sunday. A new group picture will be taken at 9am at Station One - Dress blues to be worn – please see Lt. Aaker if you are missing any part or something doesn’t fit. New firefighters wear blue or black dress pants with white shirt and dark tie.

Fire Safety Talk
Lt. Ramona Baldoni-Lake gives a safety talk to a group of kids at the Life Church.

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Editor-in-Chief - Chief Don Shoevlin
Editor, Layout, Photo - Sheryl Drost
The Firehouse Scene is available at Station One - 10544 Main Street in Roscoe and on the department’s website after the second Sunday each month.
www.harlemroscoefire.com
Email submissions to: Firefoto4@aol.com

Birthday

August
7th Tom Lake
8th Kirk Wilson
9th Jeff Morris
11th Rico VanHeyden
14th Tim Schrader
18th Gerard Pena
22nd Brad Knipp
25th Dona Zopp
27th Mike Sherbon
28th Keith Lincoln
Tom Persin

September
3rd Ramona Baldoni-Lake
5th Adam Eich
12th Bart Munger
13th Marty Green
13th Joe Koeninger ‘25’
14th Amber Aaker
23rd Debbie Rykowski

September Breakfast Crew
Sept. Breakfast has been moved to the 7th. Donuts and Coffee will be served during the short meeting before parade duties.

Total Calls Through 7/31
1443

Roscoe Community Days

Roscoe Community Days

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Fires can be prevented from starting if you take some simple precautions:

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• Assign a non-impaired “event monitor”
• Clean up immediately after parties and take all trash outside
• Do not overload electrical outlets
• Keep space heaters and halogen lamps away from flammables
• Put out candles and incense when unattended
• Extinguish all smoking materials thoroughly
• Don’t smoke while tired or impaired

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You can also protect yourself from becoming trapped in a fire situation by following some important suggestions:

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• Be sure they are in proper working condition
• Install new batteries at the beginning of each semester

PLAN ESCAPE ROUTES
• Know where all exits are located in the building
• Practice your escape plan

TAKE FIRE ALARMS SERIOUSLY
• Do not ignore fire alarms
• Do not wait to see fire or smoke
• Do not worry about grabbing your stuff

From the Chief’s Desk
By Fire Chief Don Shoemiel

Wow, it’s hard to believe, but where did summer go? Before we know it school will be starting. Please remember to drive safely as our children will be on their way to school; whether it is walking, waiting for the bus, or driving. Remember children’s actions are unpredictable. This will add to the already crowded roads with all the construction still in progress.

The request for our services continues to grow. Our firefighters are doing a wonderful job of meeting those requests as well as spending well-deserved time with their families and friends. It is a very hard balancing act between work, family, and volunteering for calls. We are accepting applications for new volunteer firefighters. Our next class will begin in January, however, we have an informational meeting in December. Just stop by Station One at 10:54AM Main Street in Roscoe to pick up an application. You will be surprised how much fun you can have as well as joining a wonderful group of individuals.

Summer and early fall also brings with it many community events. We just finished with Roscoe Community Days and First Night Out. The first weekend of September, we will be at the Annual Roscoe Fall Festival in Leland Park. Don’t forget about the parade either on Sunday. We have plans for a sprinkler exhibit, safety demonstrations with our smoke house, and we will have equipment on display. Please, stop by to visit us, take our survey, and register for our drawing.

We also have quite a few classes starting up as well. Our personnel are always improving their knowledge and I thank them all for that. All of the divisions have been hard at work at continuing our commitment to the excellence, integrity, and caring in the performance of our services. We have just purchased two Caravans for use by our Fire Prevention Bureau. These will also be used by firefighters when they travel to classes. They will be more economical for the district than the Suburban’s we were using.

Take you all for your continued support to the men and women of the Harlem Roscoe Fire Protection District. I look forward to meeting with many individuals at these events. If I can be of any assistance please don’t hesitate to contact me.

HRFD Receives Grant

Photo by AC Ken O’Dell

With the increase in the temperature lately, let’s take a brief look at heat related emergencies.

When the body is in a hot environment, or when too much body heat is produced, the body will attempt to rid itself of excessive heat. The body’s most efficient way to do this is by sweating and dilation and evaporation of the blood vessels. Dilation of the blood vessels brings blood to the skin surface, which increases the rate of radiation of heat from the body. When these ways to relieve heat are overwhelmed, the body is no longer able to tolerate the heat, and we become ill.

When outside temperature becomes high enough, it reduces the body’s ability to lose heat by radiation, and increased humidity reduces our ability through evaporation. During activity, our body may lose more than 1-liter of sweat per hour, which causes a loss of fluid and electrolytes.

People who are at greatest risk for heat illnesses are the elderly and children. The elderly are on medications, lack mobility, or do no adjust well to the heat. Newborns and infants have poor thermoregulation, lack mobility, and often wear too much clothing.

Signs and Symptoms of exposure to heat:

• Muscle Cramps
• Weakness or Exhaustion
• Dizziness or Fainting
• Altered level of Consciousness
• Unresponsive
• Rapid Heart Rate
• Moist, Pale skin that is cool
• Hot, Dry skin

In all cases, you should move the patient from the hot environment. Ideally, the patient should be moved to air conditioned atmosphere. Loosen the clothing to help cool the patient. For patients with moist, pale skin, lay the patient down and elevate the patient’s legs. Fan the patient, and give water to drink if the patient is responsive and not vomiting.

For patients with hot dry skin, fan the patient aggressively and run the air conditioner on high. Apply cool packs to the neck, groin, and armpits. Apply water with a towel to keep the patient’s body wet. Provide immediate transport, as this is a life-threatening Emergency.

Upcoming Classes

• PHTLS Recert - Blackhawk Farms Raceway- July 28th - 0900 HRS
• CPR Recert - Harlem-Roscoe Training Night - ACES Recert- Harlem-Roscoe September 30th - 0900 HRS
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Please contact me for sign-up to the classes.

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Congratulations

Administrative Assistant Colleen Bloyer’s daughter Stephanie and her husband Drew on the birth of their new son. Caden Jackson Brown was born July 28 measuring it at 7lbs. 3ozs. and 19” long. New grandma says baby and mom are doing great and she can’t wait to get down to Texas to see him. She said Stephanie was also recently promoted to Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy Reserves. Congrats again, he is adorable!

Campus Fire Safety

Each year college and university students, on and off-campus, experience hundreds of fire-related emergencies nationwide. There are several specific causes for fires on college campuses: cooking, intentionally set fires, and open flame. Overall, most college-related fires are due to a general lack of knowledge about fire safety and prevention. The great majority of student fire deaths occur in off-campus housing that lacks insufficient exits, missing or inoperative smoke alarms, and automatic fire sprinklers. Also, use of candles, careless smoking habits, and the misuse of alcohol – which impairs judgment and hampers evacuation efforts – contribute to off-campus housing fire deaths.

As the Fall semester approaches, colleges and universities are busy preparing for the arrival of new residents to their campus communities. Some will be first year students moving into the residence halls. Other arriving students will be moving off-campus and living on their own, some for the first time. For most of these students, the last fire safety training they received was in grade school; but with new independence comes new responsibilities.

It is important that both off-campus and on-campus students understand fire risks and know the preventative measures that could save their lives. Practice campus fire safety and be fire-wise.

Get Out and Stay Alive is a program designed to help save your life in case you find yourself in a fire situation. This program focuses on three main topics: Getting Out, Prevention, and Protection.

GETTING OUT

If you get caught in a fire situation, survival is your top priority. You should:

FEEL THE DOOR HANDLE
• If the door handle is hot, don’t open it
• Go to a window and call for help

8-11 August 6, IL Representative Ron Wait presented a $20,000 IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant to Chief Don Shoemiel and Retired Chief Oscar Pelayo. Chief Shoemiel says, “Representative Wait has always supported the success and advancement of the Harlem Roscoe Fire Department, and we are grateful to be recipients of this grant - it will be used for purchasing new prefire operations.”

EMS Corner

By Captain John Bergeron
Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters are trained in water rescue and recovery. The Water Rescue Division also trains monthly with local fire departments and the Stateline Dive Team. We practice working the boats with the divers and coordinating a quick rescue operation. We also train with the boats and divers for recovery operations.

When South Beloit dispatched for a MABAS Box for boats and divers on July 23 for a missing swimmer in a local quarry, all that training came together.

The alarm brought boats from several fire departments as well as the Stateline Area Dive Team. It also brought different technologies and resources together such as: Beloit Fire’s hi-tech Command Vehicle, ambulance crews, React Helicopter, a side scan sonar was put on our boat and a search dog on North Park Fire’s boat. The divers used underwater cameras and v-line searches.

Divers located the victim after 8pm and the Coroner transported the victim from the scene.
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**Birthday**

August

Birthday

August 7th...  
Tom Lake  
August 8th...  
Kirk Wilson  
August 9th...  
Jeff Morris  
August 11th...  
Rico VanHelden  
August 14th...  
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August 18th...  
Gerard Pena  
August 22nd...  
Brad Knipp  
August 25th...  
Dona Zopp  
August 27th...  
Mike Sherbon  
August 28th...  
Keith Lincoln  
August 29th...  
Tom Penson  

**Total Calls Through 7/31**

1443

**The Firehouse Scene is a monthly newsletter produced by the Harlem-Roscoe F.P.D.**

**Editor-in-Chief - Chief Don Shoevlin**

**Layout, Write, Photo - Sheryl Drost**

The Firehouse Scene is available at Station One - 10544 Main Street in Roscoe and on the department’s website after the second Sunday each month.

**Email submissions to: Firefoto4@aol.com**
Can You Take the Heat?
By Deputy Chief Kirk Wilson

With the “dog days” of summer here, it’s not hard to figure out that it’s hot outside. With the heat, comes heat related problems. As firefighters, we always find ourselves in “hot and sticky” situations. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke can quickly become a dangerous reality when dealing with fire suppression. It is very important for us to recognize the signs and symptoms of Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke.

Heat related emergencies are very serious and require prompt attention. With the summer months upon us, try and keep yourself well hydrated through out the day. Prepare yourself to respond to that structure fire or long auto accident involving extrication. Recognizing the signs and symptoms early may reduce further complications or even death. I know all of us as firefighters want to portray an image of being invincible, but let’s look at the truth, we are only human. Take care of your body and stay safe.

Heat Exhaustion
This usually occurs when the body is exposed to heavy working or exercise while in a very hot environment. Heat exhaustion is caused by the body depleting itself of fluid and electrolytes. Profuse sweating occurs causing the body to try and cool itself. This is a very dangerous situation for firefighters exposed to extreme heat.

Symptoms include: Profuse sweating, cold clammy skin, pale or gray in color, extreme thirst, and dry mouth or tongue. The firefighter may be dizzy, weak or fainting. These symptoms are signs that need swift attention.

Treatment for Heat Exhaustion: Remove the firefighter from the warm environment and place him/her in a cool place. (If possible) Remove any excessive clothing including all turnout gear. Encourage the firefighter to lie down. If fully conscious, have him/her start to take in fluids. Water and/or an electrolyte fluid replacement should be given. Do not try to re-hydrate with soda pop or other carbonated products. If symptoms do not resolve within 20-30 minutes, a more aggressive action may follow such as IV therapy and transport to the hospital.

Heat Stroke
Heat Stroke occurs when the body is overwhelmed by excessive heat - such as firefighting. The body’s cooling mechanism has been overwhelmed and unable to get rid of the excessive heat. This is a very dangerous condition and needs prompt attention.

Symptoms include: A change in behavior or mental status. The firefighter may become confused. The firefighter may become unresponsive. Skin will be very hot and dry to touch. (Fever) Color may be very flushed or red. Again, this is a very serious condition that may lead to death is not treated aggressively.

Treatment for Heat Stroke: Remove the firefighter from the environment. Remove excess clothing or turnout gear. Start the firefighter on oxygen at 12-15 liters per minute. Apply cold pack to the neck, under armpits and in the groin. Cover the patient with cool towels keeping a close eye on the body temperature. Paramedics start IV therapy and rapidly transport to a medical facility.

Boat & Water Rescue Upcoming Trainings
These trainings are open for all firefighters!
Wear shorts and old tennies. This will be hands-on training.

August 20 – Wed - Winnebago County Dive Team Training.
Meet at Station One @ 6pm.
August 24 – Sun - Boat Operations - Meet at Station One at 8am.
September 13 & 14th – Sat & Sun – Boat Operations skills - Multi department training - tentative
September 21 – Sun - Boat Operations and skills - Multi department - tentative

Training Night Snapshots . . .

07/22/08 Patient Packaging
07/22/08 Aerial Operations
08/05/08 Water Rescue Training

Firefighters Respond Mutual Aid to Industrial Fire
Story & photos by Sheryl Drost
Harlem-Roscoe Fire responded to a MABAS Alarm from Loves Park Fire for an industrial fire on Charmar Drive on July 29. The Box Alarm called for Harlem-Roscoe to send aChief and an engine. Chief Don Shoevlin responded as well as Engine 702 out of Station Two. The crew included Lt. Ramona Baldoni-Lake, Tim Schrader, Gina McCauley and Andrew Yastrab.

The Chief could see the column of smoke from the fire as he left Roscoe. The crew on Engine 702 and Chief Shoevlin would see a lot of fire and would spend over five hours on the scene.

Chief Shoevlin had command of two sectors and directs Lt. Baldoni-Lake where he wants her crew to go.

With thousands of gallons of oil and other fuels feeding the fire, the ground crews were pulled back as aerials continued to hit the fire.

Lt. Baldoni-Lake, Gina, and Andrew had one window. Loves Park firefighters another window, and on the right, Chief Shoevlin in command of this sector.

Gina and Lt. Baldoni-Lake head to rehab after a stretch working the fire.
Harlem-Roscoe Firefighters responded to a report of a grain dust explosion at a local grain facility on Prairie Hill Road on July 28. It seems a small grain dust explosion had sent a fire ball at a worker in a room under the area where the trucks unload corn. The worker was not injured and got out of the confined space on his own. A small amount of smoke was all that was left when firefighters, in full gear and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs), entered the underground room to check for fire. They also used meters to check for various harmful gases. A fan was then used to clear the room of smoke. Two firefighters also climbed up to the top of the silos with a company worker to check to see if the fire had traveled to any of the silos. The silos were fine, and they did see where the fire ball had luckily exited one of the pipes before reaching the silos of corn.

It seems a mistaken dispatch for a call on Danica Dr. on July 29 said that a lady had reported her husband was on fire! Firefighters on the first-in fire truck reported back that indeed there was a fire, but it was the home, not the husband that was on fire. When firefighters arrived at the scene they found the kitchen stove area was on fire, the home was full of smoke, and everyone was out. The first-in crew made a great knock-down of the fire and then fans were used to rid the home of smoke. A family cat was also found in the home by firefighters and delivered to the residents waiting outside. The fire was found to have started in the stove area.

With the district’s influx of new construction, both commercial and residential, there is a high potential for a trench incident. Fortunately we were able to attend an IFSI Trench Operations class last month to be better prepared to respond to such an emergency.

Have you ever noticed on a new construction site where a basement is located, there is an area that goes the perimeter of the foundation where the dirt is away from the concrete poured walls? If this area is deeper than five feet, per OSHA, it is a trench and should be treated with caution. Yet the potential danger of collapse and entrapment tends to get overlooked because we become lax. So many times we see these situations without any shoring or protection. It happens all the time.

Unfortunately this danger was learned first hand in a video we saw where a contractor had pulled the dirt away from the foundation of a house to waterproof a leaky basement. It was deeper than five feet, which qualified it as a trench. The contractor did not treat it as a trench with proper shoring and safety measures put in place. A laborer was down in the hole when the trench caved in and trapped him from the waist down. The local fire department was called and the technical rescue team was deployed. The rescuers faced hazards such as utilities, time, weather, and secondary collapse. The victim faced the possibility of injuries such as broken limbs, crushing injuries and compartment syndrome. The extrication took several hours, but was successful.

So what happens if we find ourselves in a similar situation in our growing district? Thanks to a progressive minded, “be prepared”, department, we can be ready.

Thanks to this recent class we are both now more prepared.
Station Gossip

- There will be a group picture taken Sunday, Sept 7, before the Fall Festival Parade, promptly at 9am. Dress Blues will be the attire. New firefighters that don’t have them can wear dark blue or black dress pants with white shirt and dark tie. See Chief if you don’t have anything that will work. We would appreciate everyone trying to be there for this picture.
- A young neighbor of one of our firefighters was playing with a lighter and thought it would be neat to burn off the fringe on his shorts. Luckily his friend was able to put the fire out. The boy received a severe burn on his leg.
- Note to new guys - If you rescue an animal, it would be nice to get a picture. :)  
- Who are well known for saying the following at the Station?
  - Seriously?
  - Huh?
  - Do you need a hug?
  - Why are you so angry?
  - Did you consider?

The Zen of Firefighting

- There is no substitute for training.
- In an emergency situation, you don’t rise to the occasion; you fall back to your level of training.
- To the public you’re not just a firefighter, you’re the fire department.
- When they say “somebody do something”, you’re the somebody they’re talking about.
- Hit it hard, hit it fast, do it right.
- Learn all the jobs, at some point you’ll have to do them.
- Look around, often.
- If you must run away, do so quietly, scrambling looks bad on the news.
- A hero is nothing but a sandwich.
- Learn the job, know the job, do the job.
- Being popular can get in the way of being an effective leader.
- Nothing will save your butt as often as the basics.
- Know where the splash zone is before it hits the fan.
- If you aren’t dressed to play, stay in the bleachers and off the field.
- Predictable is preventable.
- A rapidly escalating fire has the right of way.
- If the fire is in range, so are you.
- If the red lights on your truck are melting, you parked too close.
- Courage is fear holding on a minute longer.
- Very little on a fire rolls uphill.
- No piece of ground is worth a person’s life.
- Leadership secrets of Attila the Hun, “Chieftains must teach their Huns well that which is expected of them. Otherwise, Huns will probably do something not expected of them.”
- Fires give the test just ahead of the lesson.
- Remember, it’s a very short distance between ‘ok’ and ‘oh h#%$$’

Extrication Team at Nationals

By Mike Huffman

Harlem-Roscoe Fire’s Extrication Team traveled to Chili NY for the 5TH ANNUAL NATIONAL EXTRICATION CHALLENGE on June 24-29. Harlem Roscoe showed a strong showing in the Limited Pit as well as the Unlimited Pit. In both pits we used advanced stabilization as well as awesome vehicle stabilization, patient safety and Greta tool knowledge. All of the team members did an excellent job. We even had a new medic without a lot of prior training. We placed 5th in the Limited Pit, 8th in the Unlimited Pit, and 3rd Overall. We were consistent in both pits to rank 3rd Overall.

Grain Dust Explosion

A worker at a local grain facility was lucky when a fire ball from a small grain dust explosion only singed his eyebrows.

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Riverside Park After the Flooding . . .