

The ^{24th Anniversary} Windom News

JANUARY 2020



VOLUME 24, NO 1

2020 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President - Bob Baun

Vice Pres. - Dave Roessler

Recording Sec. Marylyn Weichmann

Corresponding Sec. Tom Held

Treasurer - Donna Breitwieser

Sgt. At Arm - Chet Covers

Parade Marshall - Rene Carrow

Southwestern Del. - Guy Carey

- Shawn Wheaton

Erie County Del. - Bob Baun

- Dave Roessler

FASNY Del. - Shari Hanrahan

- Bill Hanrahan

Trustee - Sam Rotino

LINE OFFICERS

Chief - Aaron Jarka

9-1 - Nick Lobur

9-2 - Mike Carey

9-3 - Jacob Leckel

9-4 David Eiskant

Rescue Captain - Amy Jarka

Lt #1 - Brian McCarthy

Lt. #2 - Jacob Huff

Lt. #7 - Shawn Wheaton

Lt. #822 & #882 - Jason P. Knavel

- Kim Gretka

District Chief - Guy Carey

Installation

2020th

February 8th



February 8, 2020 is the Installation Dinner Dance.

You should have returned your reply card by now. If not call Donna at 716-432-3197 today as the committee needs to have an accurate count for ordering the meal.

Your prompt response is appreciated.

Please come and enjoy the festivities.

*We hope all our
members have a
Great New Year.*

**IT IS COLD OUT THERE
SO PLEASE PLAY AND
WORK SAFELY!**

Installation 2020 is February 8th , at the J. White Elephant.



FROM THE CHIEF ...

Happy New Year, I'd like to take a moment and say Thank-you to Jason Knavel for his unselfish, dedicated, relentless and countless hours performed over the past 3 years as fire chief of the Windom Fire Dept.. As I've been following in your footsteps I greatly appreciate your mentorship, friendship and overall dedication you've shown. I realize I have some huge footsteps to fill and can only hope to continue on the path you've taken the dept.. With this being said I'm looking forward to working with everyone and making 2020 a great year for Windom Fire Dept.

Congratulations to the newly elected or returning line officers for the year 2020, please remember some officers are stepping into larger roles / responsibilities, please offer your support, guidance and patience as they adjust in their positions.

Brief summary of the firematic report from January -)

Drills for January have been posted and as usual start at 19:00 unless stated otherwise, January 10th begins the first of many firematic drills which topic includes S.O.P. / S.O.G. review and gear inspection. Please bring your dept. Binders, Gear and or any Fire Police issued Equipment. Saturday the 18th will also be a drill including this topic starting at 09:00. On a side note, this would be a good time to try on your class A's / parade uniforms and gather what you may need for the upcoming year, I've been advised it takes a loooooong time for uniforms to complete / arrive once ordered etc.

Going on the last sentence the line officers will be attempting to hold at least 1 (one) Saturday drill a month, depending on work schedules etc.

District Drill for January (20th) will be held at the new District Training Facility 4222 Taylor Rd, starting at 18:30, PLEASE NOTE THE START TIME!!!. Trucks will depart approximately around 18:00, topic is leadership / accountability / culture & knowledge, this is a state class if you would like state credit and a certificate please register at [erie.gov/fire/course# Lack20002](http://erie.gov/fire/course#Lack20002).

District drill for March will also be offered as a state class at 4222 Taylor Rd, Dist Facility, topic Courage To Be Safe, if you would like a certificate / state credit please also register at [erie.gov/fire/course# 7k20001](http://erie.gov/fire/course#7k20001), the class also will start at 18:30 hours.

While were talking about classes Windom is hosting the Incident Safety Officer Class Starting February 12th at the Dist. Training Facility, unfortunately this is not a drill and consists of 5 Wednesdays, if interested (officers) hint hint, please register ASAP [erie.gov/fire/course# 1C20002](http://erie.gov/fire/course#1C20002). FOR THOSE WHO HAVE REGISTERED NOTE THE DATE CHANGE, CLASS IS STARTING A WEEK LATER THAN ORIGINALLY POSTED..

WINDOM WILL BE COVERING THE ORCHARD PARK FIRE DEPT., SATURDAY THE 18TH FROM 16:00 - 08:00 AS THEY ENJOY THEIR INSTALLATION DINNER. WINDOM WILL COVER ALL CALLS NORTH OF ROUTE 20A..... HILLCREST FIRE DEPT., WILL COVER THE SOUTH PORTIONS FROM ROUTE 20A.

With the start of the new year state introduced the Criminal Discovery Law, thus meaning a defendant has the right via legal avenues to subpoena your information ie name, address, phone number, email address and or any other potentially criminally related information from you ie phone (pictures, texts etc) related to a criminal offense which you may have responded too, ie vehicle accident, homicide, assault etc etc. With this being said I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO REFRAIN FROM POSTING, PICTURING, SOCIAL MEDIA ETC ETC ANY INCIDENTS. REVIEW DISTRICT POLICY / PROCEDURES. IF YOU GET QUESTIONED / SUBPOENAED PROVIDE YOUR NAME, BUT WINDOM FIRE DEPT / ORCHARD PARK FIRE DISTRICT IS YOUR EMPLOYER, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL ADDRESS. I HAVE QUESTIONS IN THE EARS OF THE COMM. BOARD AND MR. CHELOIS IN REGARDS TO THIS LAW FOR SOME CLARIFICATIONS AND ANSWERS, DIRECTIONS ETC. PLEASE BE PATIENT, YOU CAN FIND THE LAW AND RELATED INFORMATION ON VARIOUS WEBSITES VIA SEARCHES.

Anyone interested in attending the following classes please advise the chief or training officer ASAP ...C.O.L.T. March 13, 14 central / op

F.D.I.C. April 20-25th

G.R.I.T (Fast Team Orientated) Getzville / Amherst April 4,5th

T.I.M.S. Taylor Rd / Dist, Facility March 25th

2019 seen a lot of preventable accidents, please utilize a backer if man power supports such, BEFORE BACKING CHECK SURROUNDINGS, SOUND HORN / SIREN, TURN ON EMERGENCY LIGHTS, BACK SLOWLY CHECKING MIRRORS OFTEN, PAY ATTENTION TO THE BACKER, DON'T HOT SHOT IT.....

On February 8th tentatively work will begin on the new maze at the Dist. Training Facility, OP-10-2 is looking for manpower to help build, organize and setup materials, any and all help is appreciated, and yes food / beverage provided not sure about drill credit yet. If interested please let the chief know ASAP.

Please remember, don't be afraid to request mutual aid if manpower is short, we have a duty to respond to all calls when requested even if police were on scene advising of a false alarm etc. As a fire dept we have a duty to act and the agencies / community we serve expects to see big red trucks when called upon. Any questions feel free to see the chief.

Please remember to wash the trucks after calls weather permitting, on the ems side please remember to sweep or gently mop the patient compartments on 884 / 840 after calls, especially 884 as salt / dirt gets into the stretcher sliding track rotting valuable electrical components to the power lift system. Any questions feel free to see 7-1 (Amy)

If you need to get ahold of myself / chief Aaron Jarka aka AJ plus other numerous nicknames please use one of the following or all if need be.....

Cell -) 716-903-2647

Email -) ajarka@opfiredistrict.org

AJ Chief of Windom Volunteer Fire Company

RESCUE NOTES



Dear Windom Family,

Thank you for the amazing opportunity to be your Recuse Captain for another year. I can't thank you enough for your continued participation in drills & training or your dedication in making sure the ambulances get out, are cleaned, fueled & restocked for the next call. Your continued dedication is greatly appreciated & valued.

Some Important dates for the upcoming months, please sign up if you need or are interested in the drills/training:

January 2020

Bloodborne Pathogens needs to be completed by Jan 31st 2020 & signed off, please complete & see me as soon as possible (Target Solutions)

Jan drill- will be going over PCR writing, CME requirements & Target Solutions

February 2020

District CPR - Mon 2/10 18:00 to 22:00 at Taylor Rd Training Center - sign up sheet is down stairs

Feb District drill - Mon 2/17 18:30-22:30 @ one of the OP schools (TBA) if interested please sign up down stairs

TBA - Disarming Injured Officer

If interested sign up sheet is down stairs, the more people signed up hopefully the faster I can get this training scheduled

We are planning drills, so if there's a drill idea or a related EMS topic please let me or any of the other line officers & we'll try to make it happen. Each ambulance has an updated EMT's & Hospital codes list to make things easier for EMT's filling out PCR's. Please keep up the good work, it is greatly appreciated & let's make this another great, safe, fun year!!!

Thanks Amy Jarka W7-1



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

AARON JARKA 20

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

HARVEY GRACE 10

JOHN LOCKWOOD 16

JERRY KNAVEL 29

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

GUY CAREY 03

BILL SZEWC JR. 10

KYLE HOLSCHER 11

PATRICK FINN 17

BILL HANRAHAN 26

Tips for Wintertime Firefighting Operations

Jeffrey Pindelski shares safety and operational tips for firefighters operating during extreme cold temperature and snow conditions

As water is applied to a burning structure, ice will cause additional weight and add stress on structural members increasing collapse potential.

Peter Matthews/Firehouse

With winter conditions soon approaching, the fire service is left to contend with additional demands due to heavy snowfall and extreme temperature conditions. The hazards and complications of winter firefighting can be overcome by firefighters developing a basic understanding of those hazards and conditions and properly preparing for them beforehand.

Response Safety

Year after year, responding to and from emergency calls is one of the leading activities being performed in studies of firefighter fatalities. Cold weather, contributing to extreme road conditions, will only increase the amount of risk that we are exposed to.

Preparing for winter response starts with making certain that our apparatus is ready and in top operating condition (as it should be at all times). In particular, driver/operators should make certain that they are familiar with the operations of window defrosters, heat vents and brake retarders on their particular apparatus as well as their department's guidelines for operating a "dry" versus "wet" pump during winter months.

Coating the threads of any fittings or port caps with straight antifreeze will help prevent them from freezing without damaging any gaskets and should be performed as needed in daily vehicle checks. A spray bottle can be filled with antifreeze and kept on the rig for this purpose. Increased stopping distances, decreased visibility and unpredictable actions of civilian motorists can all be expected in extreme weather and will have a negative impact on response. Routes of travel to alarms will need to take snow/ice removal and accessibility to the incident into consideration.

Is there a plan in place to have the public works department assist the fire department with snow removal resources in the event of an extreme winter storm? Discussing this and having a plan in place prior to needing it will definitely be advantageous.

Taking the proper precautions necessary in extreme weather is going to cause extended response times. How will this influence the actions of the first due companies? The important point to remember - the fire department is of no value unless it is able to arrive on scene safely.

Fireground Concerns

Once having arrived on scene, the company officer will have to make critical decisions on the commitment of apparatus. Questions that need to be considered: are tactical positions attainable or are they blocked by snow banks? Are additional lengths of hose needed to be added to pre-connected lines to make it to the building? Can personnel access all sides of the building and are there any hazards or obstacles present that are not visible due to snow or ice such as stairs, drop offs or in ground swimming pools?

Are fire hydrants visible and accessible - both prior to and after streets are plowed? Firefighters should ensure hydrants are accessible after severe storms before they freeze by routinely checking on them and clearing snow from them. Attaching flags or a marking device that sticks up a ways in the air can also make it easier to spot a hydrant covered by snow.

Another solution that has been successful is a program called "Pluggie's Pals" where school children and their parents work with the fire department to make certain that a fire hydrant near their property is distinguished with a marker pole prior to a winter storm and are also given the responsibility of clearing their assigned fire hydrant of snow after a storm- in return, a picnic is often held for the children and attended by firefighters in the spring to say thank you to the kids.

Once finding the hydrant, is it usable or frozen? Small hand held propane torches can be of great use to free frozen hydrant caps or hose couplings during cold weather and should be placed on the rig for winter months.

Once committed and flowing water, engine companies will need to keep water moving in some manner to keep hoselines, ladder pipes, valves and pumps from freezing solid. Static water will freeze readily as we already know at 32 degrees Fahrenheit but if enough movement is provided, water will not freeze spontaneously until the ambient temperature reaches -40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Water as we are aware exists in the states of a solid (ice), liquid, and a gas (steam). The major factor that differentiates these three states is the motion of the molecules that comprise water. When heat (as in the form of friction caused by movement) is added, its molecules will move faster and freely interact. As water freezes, the movement of molecules slow down and begin to align in a crystal like structure resulting in ice. As water freezes, its density (or mass per unit volume) will also increase until it reaches a solid crystallized state.

Continued on page 7



Tips for Wintertime Firefighting Operations ... *Continued from page 4f*

If water is constricted as in a hoseline or piping when this expansion of mass takes place, the pressure exerted can cause costly damage. For this reason, keep nozzles, deck guns, ladder pipes etc. partially open with water flowing until ready to shut down and pack up. Hoselines and ladderpipes should be drained and picked up immediately when they stop flowing water and are no longer needed.

Injuries & Rehab

Slips and falls are another prevalent hazard during cold weather operations. The soles of many firefighting boots worn will become harder in colder temperatures preventing them from "gripping" the ground. Removable cleats or spikes that slip over boot soles can be advantageous in this situation.

Water on the ground from cold weather operations will also create an increased potential for slips and falls. Sodium Chloride or road salt is commonly carried on fire apparatus due to its ability to impede ice formation. Road salt is often applied to the ice once it is already formed. Unfortunately, the salt must first be dissolved before it can work effectively. Salt works by breaking chemical bonds and preventing water molecules from aligning in the crystal state that we talked about. If salt is applied before water freezes, it will be readily dissolved and will effectively lower the freezing point of the water. Sand can also be thrown onto the ground to improve traction.

Rehabilitation resources and additional alarms should be requested as soon as possible. The rehab location should get firefighters out of the elements, be located away from vehicle exhaust and concentrate on providing hydration through warm fluids.

One of the most overlooked ways of protecting ourselves from cold stress is through proper hydration. This needs to take place prior to responding to an incident to make certain that our body's systems are working at their best. Vital functions of our body will shut down when not properly hydrated. During work cycles it is recommended that a firefighter drink at least a quart of water per hour.

Firefighters will only be able to battle the elements for short periods of time in extreme weather due to stress and shorter work cycles should be adhered to. Turnout gear does not allow for effective heat dissipation and sweating from performing fireground activity can lead to shivering and lowering of the body core temperature. Body core temperatures falling below accepted levels can cause severe injury to firefighters without them even realizing what is happening to them. Stress from the cold decreases cognitive reasoning as well as focus.

Frost bite is caused by parts of the body being exposed to extreme cold. It can result from a very short time of exposure if cold enough. Fluids contained within exposed body part freeze causing blood vessel damage and necrosis or death of tissue in the affected area. Several factors contribute to the severity of frostbite

the temperature to which the exposed part is exposed

the length of time which the body part is exposed

the condition of clothing covering the exposed area (is it wet or dry?)

Most often the hands, feet, ears and face of a firefighter are most prone to frostbite. Frostbite will appear as changes in skin appearance as discoloration (white or gray) and will be accompanied by numbness and stiffness to the affected area. Often times a patient experiencing frostbite will not even realize it due to accompanying numbness. The best way to prevent frostbite is to protect skin from direct exposure to cold air. Firefighters should dress in layers of loose fitting clothes beneath their turnout gear. Materials of these clothes should allow evaporation of perspiration and not be restrictive as to compromise the body's circulation in helping to keep the body warm. Two pairs of socks and properly fitted footwear are also recommended.

Hypothermia results when the body core temperature falls below normal. Firefighters suffering from hypothermia will exhibit shivering, confusion, extreme fatigue and drowsiness.

The best way to prevent hypothermia is also to dress in layers beneath turnout gear and to keep moving when working on the fireground to maintain a good level of circulation. Firefighters should make certain to keep their heads covered with a hat or hood when working in cold weather. As much as 50 percent of the body's heat can be lost through the head and wearing a hat will help to minimize that loss.

Firefighters should also replace any wet clothing immediately as wet clothes will cool down the body's core temperature much quicker than air alone. Keeping a bag with a dry change of clothes, extra gloves, socks and hats on the apparatus is a good idea during winter months.

Structural Concerns & Equipment

In addition to the obvious fall hazards, ice will present other hazards and problems on the fireground.

As water is applied to a burning structure it will freeze and not run off. As more and more water is applied, ice will cause additional weight and stress on structural members increasing collapse potential.

Locks and halyards on ladders can become frozen making them inoperable or difficult to move. Aerial ladders can become caked with ice increasing weight loads on them resulting in failure or twisting of the ladder.

Cold weather can definitely take a toll on firefighters and the equipment that they use. With proper pre incident planning, training and awareness, the hazards of extreme winter weather firefighting can be reduced to allow safe operations on the fireground.

JEFFREY PINDELSKI, a Firehouse.com Contributing Editor, is a 20-year veteran and student of the fire service and is the deputy chief of operations with the Downers Grove, IL, Fire Department. Jeff is a staff instructor at the College of Du Page and has been involved with the design of several training programs dedicated to firefighter safety and survival. Jeff is the co-author of the text R.I.C.O., Rapid Intervention Company Operations. Jeff was host of the recent Preparing for Tomorrow's RIT Deployment Today podcast was a guest on the inaugural edition of the Training & Tactics Talk. View all of Jeff's articles and podcasts here. You can reach Jeff by e-mail at firelt226@aol.com.



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NEWSLETTER
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Let it snow!

BLIZZARD
COAT
COLD
DECEMBER
EARMUFFS
FEBRUARY
FIREPLACE
FLURRIES
FROZEN
GLOVES
HOT CHOCOLATE
ICE
ICE SKATES
ICICLE
JANUARY
MITTENS
SCARF
SHOVEL
SLED
SLUSH
SNOWBALL
SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN
SWEATER
WINTER

