

MFD HOT eNEWS



Hello, all:

The Milwaukee Fire Department experienced a busy summer. Our personnel responded to a number of fires and medical emergencies, including six greater alarms. Unfortunately, our crews also responded to a fire in which there was a fatality. We send our condolences to the family and friends of the victim. The person responsible for setting that particular fire was arrested—thanks to the help of the newly-formed Fire Investigation Task Force—and that makes for one less arsonist on the streets of Milwaukee.

Along with the number of tragedies we witnessed this summer also came some triumphs. I would like to personally thank the crews who responded to the scene where two Milwaukee police officers were shot. Thank you for the outstanding job each of you performed that day. You all expeditiously arrived to the incident to diligently work on saving both officers' lives. I would also like to thank the crew of Engine 30 for rescuing a man from a burning apartment unit and bringing him to safety on September 10. He is alive today because of their efforts and determination.

To all the MFD personnel, keep up the hard work, and I would like to assure the residents of Milwaukee that our department will continue to deliver world-class service.

Sincerely,



Chief Douglas A. Holton

The MFD Raises \$82,232.42 for the MFD/MDA "Fill the Boot" Charity

From August 27-29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., firefighting personnel from all 36 firehouses hit the streets to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). The 2009 "Fill the Boot" fundraising goal was \$100,000 and although we fell short of that goal, we did raise an impressive \$82,232.42. Last year we raised \$28,000.



The Milwaukee Fire Department would like to thank all the residents of Milwaukee who donated funds and helped "Fill the Boot" for the MDA.

All the proceeds are given to the MDA and will stay in Southeastern Wisconsin to help patients, right here, who suffer with neuromuscular diseases. The funds are used to offer vital services and support to the people the MDA serve.

This year's MFD/MDA "Fill the Boot" Ambassador was Alexzandrea (Alex) Fields. Alex was diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis at age three. Myasthenia Gravis is one of 43 different neuromuscular diseases supported by the MDA.

The firehouses that raised the most funds for the campaign, per shift, received a steak dinner compliments of the MDA. Those firehouses were:

- Engine 39, 8025 W. Bradley (\$1,089.19)
 - Engine 31, 2400 S. 8th (\$3,125.47)
 - Engine 23, 2130 W. Oklahoma (\$4,746.40)
-

MFD Donates Fire Engine to Sister City Morogoro, Tanzania

The Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) donated a 1992, Ford Darley fire engine to Morogoro, Tanzania, in an acceptance ceremony that took place at the Fire and Police Academy in late June. The fire engine, which was in service with the MFD until last year, will be the second fire apparatus in the Morogoro Fire Department's fleet, and was accepted by Tanzanian Ambassador to the U.S.,

Ombeni Sefue. In August 2007, Morogoro became a sister city to Milwaukee, a relationship that was initially built through an organization called the Hope in Tanzania Foundation. Since then Mayor Tom Barrett, 2nd District Alderman Joe Davis, and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Marketing, Tanzanian Embassy, Audifax Choma, have helped foster the Milwaukee and Morogoro sister city relationship. During the sister city ceremony in 2007, Fire Chief Douglas Holton made a goodwill gesture to donate a fire engine to Morogoro, which has a population of 300,000 people, and averages 50 fire fatalities per year. Dan Meehan, a local businessman who is the founder of the Meehan Foundation, covered the cost for the fire engine to be shipped from the Port of New York to Tanzania.

Prior to the acceptance ceremony, two firefighters from the Morogoro Fire Department trained with the MFD for three days on how to use and maintain the fire engine they were soon to receive in their hometown. The two firefighters underwent intensive training in pump and hose operations, apparatus maintenance procedures, and driving techniques. During their stay, they lived among Milwaukee firefighters and had the opportunity to go on fire runs with them.

The MFD and Harley-Davidson Museum® Team Up to Host Fire Boat Dedication

The Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) and the Harley-Davidson Museum® teamed up to host a dedication ceremony for the MFD's new boat, the Trident. The dedication took place during the museum's weekly bike night. At the dedication, Harley-Davidson Museum Director, Stacey Watson, smashed a bottle on the rail of the Trident to officially christen it. The ceremony concluded with a tinted water display put on by the MFD boat pilots.



The Trident provides fire protection to waterfront properties and marine vessels along Lake Michigan and its tributaries. The 39-foot, welded-aluminum hull vessel provides immediate, on-water emergency medical services, both basic and advanced, to the boating and marine public. The Trident also assists the MFD Dive Rescue Team at incidents where a diving platform for underwater operations is needed.

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The Milwaukee Fire Department Joins the Nationwide Movement "Red Shirt Fridays"

The Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) joined the nationwide movement "Red Shirt Fridays" in an effort to show solidarity in support of our U.S. soldiers. Every Friday members of the MFD have the option to wear a traditional MFD t-shirt, with the department's logo on the front and "Fire & Rescue" on the back, in red. The shirts are worn every Friday indefinitely and until all the U.S. troops return home.



The shirts are currently sold to the public for \$10 each at select engine houses. All net proceeds go to the Home for Our Troops nonprofit organization and are used to build a handicapped-accessible home for local veteran Jason M. Schulz. In 2007, Schulz lost both of his legs in Iraq upon return from a vehicle recovery mission. Later this year he will be discharged from the Army and will need a specially adapted home that will accommodate his needs and enable him to concentrate on his recovery.

The red t-shirts come in sizes S-XXL and cash or checks are accepted. The t-shirts are available at:

- Engine 2, 755 N. 7th Street
- Engine 30, 2903 N. Teutonia Avenue
- Engine 28, 424 N. 30th Street
- Engine 12, 1400 S. 9th Street
- Engine 8, 5585 N. 69th Street
- Local 215 Union Office, 5625 W. Wisconsin Avenue

PICK YOURS UP TODAY!



Deputy Chief Payne was one of 18 people who were promoted that day—one of the MFD's biggest promotional ceremonies in years. Others promoted that day include:

Assistant Chief Michael Jones~Battalion Chief Daniel Berendt~Battalion Chief James Ley~Battalion Chief Richard Kaiser~Capt. Brian McNulty~Capt. Erich Roden~Capt. Ronald Firnrohr~Capt. Brian O'Connor~Lt. Kevin Hart~Lt. David Seager~Lt. Bernard Hatch~Lt. Kevin Kabelowsky~Lt. Matthew Bryant~HEO John Dickinson~HEO John Kowalski~HEO Jacob Nawrocki~HEO Jacob Hoffer.

MFD Captain Jeffrey Venus sends his congratulations to Deputy Chief Michael Payne, all the way from Baghdad, Iraq, where he is currently deployed. Deputy Chief Payne was promoted on August 9, 2009.



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Two Off-Duty Milwaukee Fire Department Firefighters Come to the Rescue

On a sunny afternoon, July 19 at approximately 4:50 p.m., John and Joel Rechlitz, two brothers and Milwaukee firefighters, gathered together with their families at John's home for his 17-year-old daughter's birthday. The teenager requested an ice cream cake to help celebrate, and the wives of John and Joel hopped in the car to drive to Dairy Queen and buy one. On their way, the two witnessed a tragic auto accident. A 1992 Chevrolet Blazer had hit the curb, traveled on its side for approximately 100 feet, and ignited in flames. The entire back half of the SUV was on fire and black smoke filled the air.



John's wife first reaction was to call her husband. John immediately rushed to the scene after he received that call with his brother Joel by his side. John says his first thoughts when he arrived on the scene were, "Oh My God!" "I hope nobody is inside that vehicle."

Unfortunately, there was a four-year-old boy, David Harper (DJ), inside that burning SUV and trapped in the back seat in the midst of the burning flames. He was securely fastened in his booster seat. The situation got more intense as the two brothers arrived on scene and heard the boy's mother scream, "My child is still in there...my baby is inside."

The two worked quickly to remove DJ from the burning SUV. They first took turns at making multiple attempts to grab the boy out his car seat through the windshield. They searched for the seatbelt release button that was securing the four year old but were unsuccessful. They then both realized they would need a knife to cut the belt and remove the child from the SUV. As Joel screamed for a knife, a bystander, who fortunately had a pocketknife, handed it to the off-duty firefighter who reentered the burning SUV through the broken windshield and cut the seatbelt that freed little DJ. This time the attempt was successful and the young boy was rescued.

A neighbor pulled a water hose to the scene and John and Joel carried DJ to a nearby island where they hosed him down to prevent the burns from becoming worse. Although the little boy suffered burns over 30 percent of his body, the outcome could have been far worse or even fatal without the quick and diligent rescue efforts of the two brothers/off-duty firefighters.

John and Joel Rechlitz have been recognized internationally as heroes. They are grateful, as well as everyone at the Milwaukee Fire Department, for the countless e-mails and support that have been pouring out across the world.



On July 31, 2009, an executive from Dairy Queen delivered two ice cream cakes to the Rechlitz's home. One cake was for John Rechlitz, and the other was for his daughter who didn't receive one on her birthday due to the heroic actions of her parents.

Thanks Dairy Queen!

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A Job Well Done

On Tuesday, June 9, the Milwaukee Fire Department was called to an incident that touched home. Two Milwaukee Police Officers had been shot multiple times on South 2nd Street, and it was now up to fire department personnel to provide them with care. The call came in at 3:33 p.m., and first responders were on the scene in one minute. The first arriving company, Engine 3, quickly began advance life support services to prepare the two patients for transport by the paramedics who were soon to arrive on scene. The first MED unit on scene, MED 3, rushed to treat and transport the first officer to Froedtert Hospital with the assistance of Engine 26. The second MED unit on scene, MED 15, also rushed to treat and transport the second officer to Froedtert Hospital with the assistance of Engine 12.

Due to the quick actions taken by all the MFD personnel who were on the scene of this tragic incident, both police officers survived the shootings. The collaborative work of all assisted in the timely treatment and transport of the patients. It is because of the quality of service the Milwaukee Fire Department first responders, paramedics, and firefighters provided to the two officers on that day that they are alive today.

Those on the scene June 9 include:

Engine 3

- **Capt William Nowak**
- **HEO Paul Consigny**
- **FF John Zaworski**
- **FF Dennis Gross**
- **FF Michael Schwade**

MED 3

- **Paramedic Lt Andrew Vossekuil**
- **Paramedic Mark Tesch**

MED 15

- **Paramedic Lt Julian Gladney**
- **Paramedic Sean Hinsenkamp**

Engine 26

- **Lt Allen Jansen**
- **HEO Israel Gonzalez**
- **FF Thomas Herpel**
- **FF Craig Kryscio**

Engine 12

- **Lt Troy Klemstein**
- **HEO Ryan Venne**
- **FF Peter Nycz**
- **Paramedic Andrew Hargarten**



5050 S. Lake Drive
PO BOX 100510
Cudahy, WI 53110

Milwaukee Fire Dept.
711 West Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233

July 27, 2009

To all Firefighters and Staff:

We are profoundly appreciative and proud of your help during the fire at the Patrick Cudahy plant earlier this month.

Without the tremendous response we received from emergency and medical personnel, volunteer organizations, businesses and citizens the outcome could have been much more devastating.

The assistance of your fire department helped prevent the destruction of one of Cudahy's cornerstones and protect our citizens.

The City of Cudahy's motto is "Generations of Pride." Never has that slogan been more appropriate. Without a doubt, past generations of Cudahy citizens and Patrick Cudahy workers are looking down at your professionalism and spirit of cooperation and friendship with pride.

Your compassion and call to action touched everyone affected by this crisis and will not be forgotten. On behalf of the entire City of Cudahy, thank you!

Sincerely,

Ryan McCue,
Mayor

Dan Mayer,
Fire Chief

Tom Poellot,
Police Chief

Carol Wantuch,
Emergency Management
Coordinator



Congratulations to Lieutenant Michael Ambroch, HEO Jesse Mrotek, and Firefighters Edwin Roman and Christopher Gauthier who all

won their choice of steaks from Whole Foods Market in Milwaukee for installing the most smoke detectors, taking the most blood pressures from people in the community, and putting up the most garage addresses during Spring FOCUS (Firefighters Out Creating Urban Safety).

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Courage • Integrity • Honor

The Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD) is the primary fire suppression, prevention, rescue and emergency medical service for the City of Milwaukee. The department's motto is "Courage, Integrity and Honor." MFD consists of approximately 1000 firefighters, many of which serve simultaneously as paramedics providing emergency medical services. MFD is known as one of the best fire departments nationwide for its response times and quality services.

Check us out on the Web!
www.milwaukee.gov/mfd

SUBMISSIONS

We welcome submissions to MFD Hot eNews on upcoming events, unique runs, stories pertaining to saving someone's life or property, our MFD heroes and heroines, and/or anything worthy of recognition.

MFD Hot eNews is produced quarterly and a means to broadcast the excellent work done by the Milwaukee Fire Department. If you have a story idea, please e-mail the Public Relations Manager, Tiffany Wynn, at ttwynn@milwaukee.gov. Thank you.

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*****Don't Forget the 2009 Milwaukee Fire Department Meritorious Service Awards Banquet. This year it takes place on Tuesday, November 10, at The Renaissance Place, 1451 N. Prospect Avenue. The event includes a cocktail hour, live music, and dinner. Please attend and support the members of the MFD who will receive an award. To buy your ticket contact Amber Lawson at 414-286-8979.**

A MESSAGE FROM AUTHOR WAYNE MUTZA

Author Wayne Mutza has released a book called *American Fire Apparatus; Volume One-Pumpers*, that includes an MFD pumper apparatus and artwork of an MFD rig adorns the cover. He says that the book complements the other two books he previously released that were devoted entirely to the Milwaukee Fire Department. You can purchase the book at www.squadron.com.



Description: Organized companies of firefighters first appeared in Colonial America and were mobilized, like local militias, on a volunteer basis. Like military equipment, firefighting apparatus evolved in tandem with technological advances. This volume traces the development of the chief and best-known fire-fighting apparatus 'the pumper or fire engine' from hand-drawn pumps, through horse-drawn vehicles in the 19th Century to the advanced fire trucks of the 21st Century. Chapters introduce the early years of the pumper, follow its motorization, and then, decade-by-decade, meticulously review the evolution of the fire truck from the 1930s until today. The book's dedication to the firefighters who gave their lives on 9-11 serves as a reminder that the nation's First Responders stand guard together with the armed forces on the front lines of our defense. Illustrated with over 300 photographs. Mutza; 96 pages.