



CITY OF LA CROSSE
FIRE DEPARTMENT

The La Crosse Fire Watch

Gregg A. Cleveland, Fire Chief

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016

A note from the editor....

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD

Encourage colleagues, friends, and family to subscribe to Fire Watch. It's easy:
-Log on to: cityoflacrosse.org
-Click on FIRE DEPT.
-Click on NEWSLETTER
-Click on SUBSCRIBE

We appreciate any comments that you may have on the newsletter. Please email questions or comments to: amannm@cityoflacrosse.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Firefighter of the Year** 2
- Training** 2
- Roll Call** 3
- Chiefs Perspective** 3
- Monthly Fire Safety Tip** 4

Editor-In-Chief:

Div. Chief Mark Amann

Contributing Writers:

Engineer Dave Duchrow
Engineer Bryon Stein
Firefighter Troy Glasel

Colton's Superhero Adventure

Colton is a young man who is battling rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) for the second time since he was three years old. Rhabdomyosarcoma is a cancerous tumor that develops in the body's soft tissue, usually the muscles. However, Colton does not let that stop him from showing off his super powers, super smile and super energy. The La Crosse Fire Department was proud to be able to help Colton save Christmas from the Joker on December 12th. Colton's superhero adventure was organized by UW-La Crosse Love Your Melon Campus Crew and began with superhero training at the Recreational Eagle Center. Colton then made his way to fire station number one where he got an up close view of the fire trucks, put out a "fire" with a real fire hose, and then rode in a fire truck to his next stop at the Dahl Automotive Car Museum. Firefighter Andy Formanek (pictured to the right) was one of the firefighters that made Colton's visit to the fire station a "super visit."



2015 LCFD Firefighter of the Year



Captain Tom Griffith and his wife Brigett

The La Crosse Fire Department is proud to announce that Tom Griffith has been named the La Crosse Fire Department 2015 Firefighter of the Year. Tom holds the rank of Captain with the La Crosse Fire Department and is nearly a 15 year veteran, starting on March 23, 2001. In 2015, Captain Griffith led the formation of the La Crosse Fire Department Dive Rescue Program. Captain Griffith scheduled specialized training, ordered specialized equipment, and overcame many logistical challenges while assisting in the creation of the Dive Rescue Team. The annual award of Firefighter of the Year is presented to a member of the department who represents the La Crosse Fire Department consistent with our core values. The award recognizes a firefighter that pursues opportunities to expand their knowledge of the emergency services, is committed to sharing their knowledge with other firefighters through training, and conducts their personal life in a manner that reflects positively on the fire department and embodies the mission of the La Crosse Fire Department.

LCFD Training at Go's Chapter II

Members of the La Crosse Fire Department recently conducted training at Go's Chapter II before the building was razed to make room for a new hotel parking lot. Firefighters practiced various rescue and firefighting techniques, such as conducting a search in a large area using a search rope. Firefighters also practiced performing a rapid search of a second floor room. They also rescued victims by lowering them safely and quickly down a ladder. Smoke machines were used to fill the building with smoke and crews were given assignments and performed tasks in a timely manner as if it were an actual emergency. Gaining access to buildings like this are wonderful opportunities for the LCFD. This training gave firefighters an opportunity to work through many different types of scenarios and improve their skills. The training scenario can be repeated so that firefighters can respond quicker and safer in the event of an actual emergency.



Left: Firefighters stage apparatus for firefighting evolutions on King Street.

Right: A firefighter reaches to receive a victim from a smoke filled room.



Roll Call: Profiling La Crosse's Firefighters

Name: David Snow

Age: 45

Rank: Captain C-Shift, station 1

Years of experience: 19 years on LCFD (past member of the extrication team, hazardous materials team, and current member of the water rescue team)

Education: Studied Fire Protection Technician at WTC

Personal interests: Spending time with family, friends, and working on his family farm

Favorite spot in La Crosse: Children's Museum in La Crosse to help my wife

Favorite place to grab a bite: Digger's Restaurant

Favorite place to travel to or vacation at: Any place warm, or Las Vegas any time of the year

Favorite part of career: I like the fact that every call is different. Also, doing something in a positive way for somebody in need is very rewarding



LCFD Implements New Radio System



The La Crosse Fire Department has enhanced its incident communications with the purchase and implementation of a new radio system. In November of 2015, each firefighter was issued a Motorola XE Series portable radio as well as a leather case and strap, which are now part of a firefighter's personal protective equipment. The new radio system, which went live in early January 2016, offers dual band capabilities that are paramount for communicating with neighboring agencies in the case of large scale incidents. Division Chief Thomas Wallerich led a radio committee and played the lead role in making this transition possible. The radio committee compared several different radio vendors and finally landed on Motorola. These radios were chosen for their favorable features. They are water proof, noise cancelling, and very durable. They also offer larger control knobs with friction drag which reduces accidental channel changes. Because each firefighter now has his/her own portable radio, the emergency dispatcher can identify each user in operation. This includes regular radio traffic as well as emergency button activation. The switch to the new system has also eliminated dead zones in the city that used to pose issues for radio traffic.



Chief's Perspective

One thing is constant at the La Crosse Fire Department, change. Portable radios are now part of our personal protective clothing for enhanced firefighter safety. LCFD has incorporated a whole new P25 complaint system into our daily operations. Midwest Fuels has graciously allowed us access to their foam trailer, designed and built by Midwest Fuels for all hazardous materials responses (see photo to the right). LCFD recently implemented a dive/rescue team to complement our water rescue core team. The most important thing LCFD does on a daily basis is touch people's lives, like Colton's, to provide them the quality of life we all deserve.



Electric Portable Space Heater Safety

When the weather turns cold, it can bring a chill into our homes. Portable space heaters have become a popular way to supplement central heating or heat one room. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters, make sure to follow these tips and recommendations:

HEATER CHECKLIST

- » Purchase a heater with the seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- » Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including people.
- » Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- » Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- » Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- » Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- » Keep children away from the space heater.
- » Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- » Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

Types of electric space heaters

Oil or water-filled radiator

Heated oil or water travels through the heater.

Fan-forced heater

A fan blows warm air over metal coils.

Ceramic heater

Air is warmed over a ceramic heating element.

Infrared heaters

Heat is created by infrared bulbs.

Fact

Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.



La Crosse Fire Department



Your Source for SAFETY Information
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

608-789-7260