

MFD HOT eNEWS



Happy Spring:

As we move into this blossoming season, the Milwaukee Fire Department reminds all residents to change the battery in their smoke alarm when they change their clock. Be fire safe and ensure that you have a working smoke alarm in your home at all times. It is an inexpensive device that has the potential to save something very valuable...your life.

It is also important that residents have carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. The department recommends that every home have at least one working carbon monoxide detector in the residence. The batteries to the detector should also be checked at the same time the batteries are checked in the smoke alarm. Carbon Monoxide detectors can prevent accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.

Another thing Milwaukee residents can do to ensure they are fire safe is create a fire escape plan for their home and practice it regularly with their family through conducting home safety drills. All of these simple yet powerful acts can double a family's chances of getting out of a home fire alive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Jones".

Acting Chief Michael L. Jones

Message From Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett

At the beginning of this year, I was happy to announce that for the second consecutive year fire fatalities have been at an all-time low. The steady decrease in the past two years is a testament to the great work the members of the Milwaukee Fire Department perform to ensure the safety of Milwaukee residents.



I would like to thank the men and women of the Milwaukee Fire Department for quickly responding to incidents and aggressively attacking fires. I would also like to commend them for their bravery and valiant search and rescue efforts when they arrive on the scene of a fire. In addition, numerous residents have benefited from the department's ambitious community outreach efforts.

I salute the Milwaukee Fire Department for its commitment to saving lives and keeping our residents safe..

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Barrett".

Mayor Tom Barrett

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The East Side Fourth Alarm Fire



On January 19, 2010, the MFD was called to a fire at 3:33 am on the block of Oakland and North Avenue. Three companies arrived on scene at 3:37 am—two engines and one truck. In less than 30 minutes the fire was raised to a 4th alarm. The flames engulfed the buildings that housed Pizza Man, CUSH Lounge, Grecian Delight, and the Black and White Café. The MFD had approximately 150 firefighting personnel and 35 apparatus on scene.

Due to the extent of the fire that exhausted a majority of the MFD resources a MABAS was placed in effect, allowing personnel from county fire departments to staff nine MFD firehouses in outlying areas of the city.

The collaborative effort between the MFD and county fire departments ensured the safety of all Milwaukee residents and thankfully there were no civilian injuries or loss of life during the massive incident.

After the greater alarm fire was extinguished an investigation, by the Milwaukee Fire Investigation Task Force, began immediately to determine the cause of the fire. That task force included the MFD, MPD, ATF and the State Fire Marshal. On January 23, the task force determined that the fire initiated in the Black and White Café at 1812 E. North Avenue. On January 28, the investigation concluded and the ATF announced that the cause of the fire was arson. Up to a \$5,000 award is being offered to anyone who has any tips leading to the arrest of the arsonist(s).



Mutual Aid Assistance During the Greater Alarm Incident

Acting Chief Michael L. Jones of the Milwaukee Fire Department was greatly appreciative of the prompt assistance county firefighting personnel provided the MFD during the intense greater alarm fire on Milwaukee's east side January 19.

The MFD is a strong proponent of mutual aid and sees it as a valuable tool that proved to be beneficial to the department during its time of need. The crews that were sent into area firehouses from county departments ensured that the City of Milwaukee was not without sufficient coverage. Collectively, all the departments involved helped protect the City of Milwaukee during this incident.

The MFD is cultivating a stronger relationship with county fire departments. The department, as well as surrounding fire departments, all understand there are some challenges mutual aid responses present that we are collectively working to address. We are in the process of setting up training dates and activities between the MFD and other departments that will include tabletop exercises and mock incidents.

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The Milwaukee Fire Department Graduates 49 out of 50 Recruits

The MFD graduated 49 out of 50 new recruits on February 4, 2010. The newly graduated firefighters made history as this was the highest graduation percentage in MFD's history. The 49 department members were placed in their respective fire-houses throughout the City on Sunday, February 7. The MFD has not held a recruitment class and/or graduation since 2007. The 2010 graduating class was comprised of individuals who were at the top of the eligibility list after completing the 2008-2009 MFD recruitment process. The 49 individuals underwent an intensive training that lasted for 14 weeks.



MFD's Fire Investigation Unit Gets Revamped



The Milwaukee Fire Department Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) now has one lieutenant who is assigned to a 40-hour work week, Monday-Friday, subject to recall as necessary. Lieutenant Michael J. Heinowski has the authority to investigate the origin, cause and circumstances of every fire, explosion, or hazardous materials emergency in which the fire department has a reasonable interest.

During Lt. Heinowski's regular workweek he responds to all fires in excess of \$10,000 in estimated damage; when there is a significant injury to a firefighter or civilian; and/or when a fire involved a fatality. Outside his regular work hours the lieutenant responds to all greater alarms; when there is a significant injury to a firefighter or civilian; and when a fire involved a fatality.

Lt. Michael Heinowski recently was successful in passing an accredited Fire Investigation Technician Program. He is the first to hold the title of Fire Investigation Technician in the MFD. The Fire Investigation Technician Program is designed to verify an applicant's fundamental knowledge as measured against core job performance requirements of established professional qualification standards for fire investigators defined in NFPA 1021, NFPA 1033, and NFPA 1037.



CONGRATULATIONS to the eight MFD members who were accepted into the paramedic program for the department. On Monday, March 15, all eight members began classes and will undergo extensive training for the next several months to become paramedics. Those members are David Polachowski, Aaron Kreil, Michael Gutoski, James Hegwood, Belinda Bradley, Nathaniel Green, Calvin Rivera and Ricardo Guerra.

Also, EMT basic training courses began on March 6 for the next MFD recruit class. The class will go until May 15.

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Two MFD Members Receive the 2010 Humanitarian of the Year Award

Two MFD members received the 2010 Humanitarian of the Year award at the 4th Annual “Building Homes, Rebuilding Lives” Gala hosted by Homes for Our Troops. Captains Dan Lipski and Brian McNulty received the award Saturday, March 6, in Boston, MA. They were chosen for the award based on their efforts to kick off and lead a successful fundraising campaign to support the nonprofit organization’s mission to build a home for SPC Jason Schultz. Lipski and McNulty were recognized and thanked for helping to raise nearly \$45,000.



The MFD captains helped spearhead two fundraisers that tremendously benefited Home for Our Troops. One was called “Running for the Troops,” a fundraiser in which a dozen MFD members participated in by doing a relay marathon on a treadmill for 24 hours. They raised \$9,903. The second fundraiser was called “Red Shirt Fridays.” This fundraiser allowed the department to sell MFD traditional t-shirts with an American flag on the sleeve to the members and public for \$10 each. Through this effort over \$35,000 was raised. The efforts combined paved the way for three other statewide fire departments to sell red t-shirts in support of Homes for Our Troops.

Rechlitz Brothers Receive More Accolades for a Good Deed



Photo credit John Nienhuis Photography

On January 19, 2010, John and Joel Rechlitz were honored for their heroic actions at a ceremony given by the Milwaukee Academy of Medicine. The two brothers received the 2010 Milwaukee Academy of Medicine’s Humanitarian of the Year award. They were nominated by a doctor who believed they showed great courage, tirelessness and compassion when rescuing 4-year-old DJ Harper out of a burning SUV the afternoon of July 19.

He writes in his nomination, “they have showed tirelessness for helping the Harper family. They did not walk away and leave the boy in others’ care, but they have stayed tangibly involved in the family’s life. They have demonstrated a compassion for strangers that goes beyond what anyone would expect by continuing to stay involved in this family’s life. In one news account, they are called DJ’s new “uncles.” They have improved the welfare of this community by making Milwaukee a place that we are proud to live and by inspiring all of us to be better citizens.”

The Rechlitz brothers will also be honored on Thursday, March 25, at the 2010 Red Cross Brave Hearts and Real Heroes Awards Dinner. They are receiving the Heroes of the Year award. That ceremony will take place at Potawatomi Bingo and Casino in the Woodland Dreams Ballroom at 6 p.m.

Again, the two were selected for the award based on the bravery, heroism, and valor they showed during that daring rescue in the summer of 2009.

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A Job Well Done

February 5, 2010

Acting Chief Michael Jones:

My wife and I would like to express our sincerest appreciation and thanks for the services provided to my wife in the early morning hours of February 5, 2010 at 923 E. Kilbourn Avenue. The crews of Engine 1 and MED 6 were professional and efficient, but more importantly delivered service in a compassionate and gentle manner. I think it sheds great credit on Fire Captain Erich Roden, Heavy Equipment Operator Douglas Pietz, Firefighters Philip Garcia and Benjamin Mueller, Lieutenant Sean Duffey, Fire Paramedic Scott Michaels, and the entire Milwaukee Fire Department.

I have been a Milwaukee Fire Department Physician for 33 years and have had plenty experience working with you people but when it's a loved one, I become a bystander and very dependent on and calmed by the presence of MFD members like the crew of Engine 1 and MED 6. When they arrived I became very relieved and assumed the role of worried, loving husband.

The Milwaukee Fire Department has much to be proud about as their actions are repeated so often every day without many taking notice except those being helped. I am so proud to be a small part of this department. My years with the Milwaukee Fire Department have been the most satisfying part of what is now a long professional career.

With warm regards,

Robert T. Adlam, M.D.

February 27, 2010

The night of February 27, at 11:31 p.m., the MFD was called to a structure fire at 3903 N. Sherman Boulevard. Three minutes later Battalion 2 and Truck 13 were the first to arrive on the scene. When they arrived they were told that an occupant was trapped inside. Battalion 2 Chief, Alonzo Chapman, quickly made a calculated decision to send Truck 13 inside under the direction of Captain Aaron Lipski to rescue the occupant without the protection of a hose line.

The crew of Truck 13 forced entry through the interior, first floor door and moved past the blazing fire. Again, the first hose line had not been laid because the first Engine company was still en route. Truck 13's crew located the unconscious patient in the rear bedroom and removed her from the home to be treated by the crew of Engine 34 until the MED unit arrived.

Due to the heroic actions Truck 13's crew performed that day a Milwaukee resident's life was saved. Each crew member placed their safety aside to ensure the safety of another. They arrived to the scene swiftly and made a quick decision, with no hesitation, to enter the home with no hose line to save someone's life. Their diligent search and rescue efforts are worthy of recognition and praise.

Congratulations to the following members for their great work:

- Battalion Chief Alonzo Chapman
- Captain Aaron Lipski
- Heavy Equipment Operator Paul Griffin
- Firefighter Michael Drover
- Firefighter Scott Stublely



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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
Or Twitter: <http://twitter.com/MilFireDept>

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.

Milwaukee Fire Department • 711 West Wells • Milwaukee • WI • 53233 • 414-286-8948 • (fax) 414-286-8996

**PRIOR TO THE
BUCKS GAME
BLUE AND RED
WILL GO
HEAD-TO-HEAD!**



VS.



**WHO WILL HAVE THE
BRAGGING RIGHTS
FOR 2010?**

**2009 GAME
BLUE 44 RED 40**



City of Milwaukee Fire & Police Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 10th

VS. BOSTON CELTICS @ 7:30PM

Featuring Ray Allen, Kevin Gamelt and Paul Pierce



UPPER LEVEL \$24 TICKETS FOR \$15!
UPPER LEVEL \$37 TICKETS FOR \$30!
LOWER LEVEL \$61 TICKETS FOR \$50!
LOWER LEVEL \$96 TICKETS FOR \$75!

Reigning champ, **MPD**, will challenge the **MFD** in the second annual Blue-Red game on the Bradley Center court prior to the Bucks game!

The MPD/MFD basketball game is scheduled to tip-off at 3:30pm.

You **MUST** have a ticket to the Bucks game that evening to enter the Bradley Center for the MPD/MFD basketball game!

ORDER TICKETS EARLY TO ENSURE SEATING!

For more information or to order tickets contact:
John Hummitzsch at 414-227-0594 or jhummitzsch@bucks.com

City of Milwaukee Fire & Police Day

Email

- ☐ Please send me the Bucks online newsletter, Fastbreak.
☐ Please send me special email offers from the Bucks.
☐ Please send me email offers from Bucks Partners.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Daytime Phone

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ Check, payable to: Milwaukee Bucks

Acct. # Exp. Date

Signature

April 10th vs. Boston

No. of Tickets	Price
@ \$15.00 =	\$
@ \$30.00 =	\$
@ \$50.00 =	\$
@ \$75.00 =	\$
total due =	\$

You may Fax Credit Card Orders
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