

MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER

produced by the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission

TRAILBLAZERS OF OUR MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT



MEET SIMON THAO

Simon started his career as a Fire Cadet, a two-year program designed for individuals aged 17 to 19, aspiring to become firefighters. After completing the program and becoming a fully qualified firefighter, he was promoted and is now serving the department as a Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO).

We spoke with HEO Thao to hear about his journey from civilian life to becoming the first Hmong HEO in Milwaukee.

“I am lucky enough to be put in the position to help”





“MY FAMILY WAS NERVOUS...”

...They thought I would be running into burning buildings every day, when it's a lot more EMS. I am very lucky to be put in the position to help others. It helps knowing what I do matters and makes a difference.”

**“WHAT
I DO
MATTERS”**

Firefighting is inherently a team effort, not a task that can be accomplished effectively by an individual alone. With this in mind, Simon acknowledged the significant support he received from numerous mentors throughout his journey—his initial crew, the academy staff, and even his family—each of whom played a crucial role in motivating and guiding him.

During moments of self-doubt, he found encouragement in knowing that others were supporting him and willing to invest the time and effort to ensure his success.

Reflecting on his journey years later, Simon recognizes that the dedication and perseverance he demonstrated were well worth the outcome.

COME SEE US!

Stop by one of our upcoming community events to meet members of Milwaukee Fire Department, ask questions, and learn more about the services that we provide throughout the city.

National Night Out Events

- **Wednesday, August 5th → 3p-7p**
Eastbrook Church (5353 N Green Bay Rd.)
- **Thursday, August 6th → 3p-7p**
Carver Park (2201 W Auer Ave.)
- **Friday, August 7th → 3p-7p**
Maryland Avenue Montessori School (2418 N Maryland Ave.)
- **Monday, August 10th → 3p-7p**
Lincoln Park (1301 W Hampton Ave)
- **Wednesday, August 12th → 3p-6p**
Pulaski Park (2677 S 16th St.)
- **Thursday, August 13th → 5p-8p**
Kinnickinnic Sports Center (3070 S. 20th St.)
- **Saturday, August 15th → 2p-6p**
Washington Park (4929 W Vliet St.)



Look for our Mobile Survive Alive House and Community Relations team for fire safety education.

www.city.milwaukee.gov/MFD
