



Rochester Fire Protection District

June 2009

How Can I Be of Service?

Randy Romadka, Deputy Chief

Let's agree right away that nothing gets swept under the rug, forgotten, or left behind. The Rochester Fire Protection District will not move on. We will move forward. As we move forward we will take with us everything that has happened, appreciate the magnitude of the problem, recognize the unsafe acts, and take action to make the situation safe. Nothing is overlooked. We continue to be responsible and accountable for our intentions and the consequences of our actions. Are you with me on this idea?

Now let us talk about crisis and change. Crisis inevitably causes change in how things are done. Crisis results in new ways of doing things successfully. The key is to respond to the crisis with careful thinking and consideration. We will be more efficient. We will rethink how our firefighters, EMTs and members are used. We will learn to become good stewards of our time. We will continue to be friendly, be caring for others, and must resist the urge to judge.

We will provide service to everyone. Every call for service will continue to be answered appropriately and in a timely manner. We will develop new ways to protect ourselves and provide emergency services to our community. While we provide service, we must also recognize that building personal, face-to-face relationships are the best method to develop trust. Nothing slows down an opportunity to provide service more than a lack of trust. Providing emergency services is a face-to-face response that requires heavy lifting, both figuratively and literally. We will sustain our effort to

provide emergency services.

Be prepared to change. It is impossible to move forward if you are not willing to change. Try new things, make new friends, and learn new skills. The change process is difficult work. The willingness to do the work makes coping with change a little less severe. Those of you about to embark on your paramedic education are about to change. The process is challenging academically, physically, and related to time management. But it is doable. I know you want to pass your licensing examination and be prepared to meet the challenges of your encounters in the prehospital arena. Remember, as William A. Foster once wrote, "Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skilled execution; it represent the wise choice of many alternatives."

Congratulations and good luck to the members starting their paramedicine training. Your intention is to become a paramedic. The consequences of your commitment to change will be measured in the continued high level of service offered in our district. In the Rochester Community, emergency services will continue to move forward because of your commitment to quality prehospital advanced life support. Thank you. Until next month...

How can I be of service?



June Birthdays

David Jostes—June 4

Mark Poffenberger—June 7

Terry Hensey—June 25

From The Training Officer

Mike Hamilton, Training Officer

As the summer rolls around, and weather is getting hotter. remember we all need to stay hydrated.

If you need a break from an assigned task, just let your command staff know and we will spell you. We need to take care of each other so we can take care of those in need. I am trying

something new for continued education hours. In this newsletter there is a crossword puzzle, complete it, sign it, and return to me for a half hour of continued education credit for EMS.

Remember your training only works if you use it on scene and around the firehouse. We train to give every-

one the skills to succeed and be safe. If you see an unsafe act or practice, let an officer know so we can remedy the problem thru training. I am always looking for new training ideas. If you have anything that would make training fun and beneficial just let me know.

*Wisdom is knowing what to do
Skill is knowing how to do it
Virtue is in doing it well*

Interview with Shaun Allen

Shaun Allen is a Probationary Firefighter with the RFPD. He has a 7 year old daughter named Clara and a german shepherd named Shelby.

Shaun grew up in Springfield and attended Southeast High School and Lincoln Land Community College. He currently lives in Rochester and works for America Ambulance.

He has been with the department a total of two years and maintains certifications as an Industrial Firefighter, Industrial Haz-Mat Technician; Communications Technician, EMT-B, SCBA Technician, and Combined Space Rescue.

Shaun chose to become a firefighter because his father was a firefighter/paramedic and police officer and he enjoys helping the community.

Safety First Alert

Randy Romadka, Deputy Chief

Thank you to the Salvation Army for providing the following list of Safety Rules for our daughters and sons.

1. Never Hitch-hike—Never!
2. Never accept toys, candy, rides, money, or medicine from strangers
3. Never enter a

- strangers house
4. If a stranger or bad person bothers you, report them to the police
5. Never tell callers that your are home alone
6. Never go with any stranger who asks you for directions
7. Always play or

- walk with friends
8. Never give your name, address, or phone number to a stranger
9. Never open the door to a person you don't know
10. Never let a stranger touch you or join in your play

You might be a firefighter if.....you have more pagers than money in your pocket.