

FIRECRIER

West Des Moines Fire Department **MARCH, 2008**

UPCOMING DATES

- ▶ Fire Dept. Instructors' Confer.
April 7-12, 2008 – Indianapolis
- ▶ Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs- Ames- April 14-17th, 2008

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Inspector Kurt Westhoff and Lt. Ryan Pietzsch recently completed the two-week Fire Investigators course at the Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau in Ames. Police Officer Don Ballard also attended from WDM.

Deputy Chief Greg Jones completed a 2-day Wildland F/F (Type 2) Course in Omaha.

F/F Greg Siembieda completed his Officer I certification.

NEW FIRE COUNCIL

The Fire Council met and welcomed new members Jeremy Nelson and Andre Lumadue. Ben Garza and Brandon Hufford were recognized and thanked for their years of service to the Council.

Current members are:

Don Cox
Chad Armstrong
John Carlson
Ryan Knowles
Andre Lumadue
Jeremy Nelson
Matt Sonnenburg
Yance Woody

ON-THE-SPOTS

Lt. Hufford and Lt. Garza for serving on the Fire Council.

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT and F/Fs' ASSOCIATION

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the tremendous turnout of support for the 2008 Easter Egg hunt. Many thanks to the guys and gals who braved the cold to help brighten the day for the kiddies of West Des Moines.

For those that missed it, T175 and T225 were on scene with their platforms raised high, E170 was there and so was the current and former Fire Marshal's. The Chief and Duty officer were both in attendance. The highlight of the day for the kids is when E180 rolled on scene with our special guest the Easter bunny (played by Katie Stifel). Nice and cozy inside of DMACC we held the under 3 hunt and outside we had areas for 4-6 and over 7. A good size crowd had gathered and was more than eager to get started (and we heard it over and over). The event went off without a hitch and we were wrapped up in 15 minutes. No one left empty handed.

This year we had solicited donations from Hy-Vee, Target and Wal-Mart and they certainly didn't disappoint, we had Easter baskets, chocolate bunnies and jelly beans to give out as prizes. Hy-Vee on Grand and Railroad donated a pallet of candy and stuffed animals (thanks Lt. Mike Clark); there was no way to give it all away so we saved some of the stuffed animals for next year.

Again, thanks to everyone that came out and help.

Ben Garza

EMS RESPONSE KITS IMPROVED AND EXPANDED

Thanks to everyone that helped move this project forward. All the EMS Response Bags are the SAME now and the inventory has been expanded to include additional patient assessment tools. It is even more critical that the inventories be kept current and not altered in anyway.

THREE FD TEAMS IN THE GET FIT
WDM PROGRAM:

The Big Show

Bradley Reineke- Captain

Scott McFarland

Corry Dolbeer

Ryan Gordon

Slump Busters

Ryan Hall -Captain

Brandon Hufford

Mike Staiert

Matt Sonnenburg

Kelly McConnell

Kris Ruskowski

Kent Efnor

Josh Schut

Vince Deboer

Bill McKibben

Jeremy Nelson

Tim Hostetter

Doug Rex

Todd Albrecht

Mangino

Michelle McKelvogue-Captain

Jerry Eslick

Cliff McFarland

Don Cox

Mike Whitsell

Kurt Westhoff

Sam Kranovich

VEHICLE PLACARDS IMPROVED

Thanks to Lt. Post and his crew, all the vehicle placards now have easy to remove knobs that generally do not require a wrench for transferring placards. This improvement should make the task quicker and less tedious. Thanks Again!

ANNUAL DISASTER DRILL

The fire department facilitated the city's annual disaster drill last week and Chief Cox, D.C. Benge, D.C. Eslick, Fire Marshal Whitsell and Michelle McKelvogue participated. The 3- hour drill covered many aspects of significant flooding including the closure of I35 and Highway 28. The 4-page after action report is available for anyone interested.

COLT DRIVE FIRE

March went out like a Iowa with a working Assignment on March 30, 2008. A great turnout, quick response time and effective knockdown resulted in another impressive fire scene. Good Job to everyone that helped, including move-ups into Station #21.

CIVIL SERVICE PROCESSES UNDERWAY

There is currently a promotional examination in the process for Career Fire Lieutenant as well as an application process for Career Fire Fighter.

Shortly thereafter, we will begin our paid-on-call recruitment drive as well as a testing process for paid-on-call officers.