

# Fire Prevention Week October 5 –11, 2008!

“ONE DEPARTMENT



FULLY INVOLVED!”

NEENAH-MENASHA FIRE RESCUE

## “The Fifth Alarm”

Each October fire departments all over the United States promote fire prevention week. Fire prevention week was established in 1925 by President Calvin Coolidge in observance of the Great Chicago fire that occurred on October 8, 1871 in which 2,000 acres of the city burned. President Coolidge claimed that by observing fire prevention week that every person make an effort to reform the conditions which continues to make vast destruction of public wealth.

The National Fire Protection Association continues today to make National Fire Prevention Week a priority and counts on the participation and efforts of tens of thousands of fire and safety professionals

and other individuals working to reduce the risk of fire and the toll fire takes on our society.

The theme for Fire Prevention Week is “Prevent Home Fires.” Your home should be a safe haven for your family and relatives. But do you regularly check your home for fire hazards? Fire departments responded to nearly 400,000 home fires in 2006 which is why there them is based on fire safety in the home.

Every year Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue takes our fire prevention theme to all schools within the Cities of Neenah and Menasha. The NMFR Public Education Team visits grades 1 through 3 to review fire safety and fire prevention. Children in

these grades take home a smoke detector checklist to review fire safety and preparation within their homes. Their parents/guardian then sign the checklist and the children return the checklist to school. If properly returned, 2 children from each school have the opportunity to spend the morning with the firefighters gaining hands on experience of what it is like to be a firefighter and best of all—lunch!



The theme for 2008’s Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11, 2008.

## Firefighters Save Menasha Man During Down Pour at Manderfield’s

During a heavy rain on July 16, 2008, at 1:54 pm, Station 35 firefighters Jeff Ellis, Anthony Dipiazza, and Joe Muthig were called to Manderfield’s Bakery for a 60 year old male who was found unconscious in his car.

Engine 35 had a very quick response and found the male patient was pulseless and non-breathing. Firefighters quickly pulled the man from his car and laid him in the parking lot during the heavy rain. The firefighters applied the new

Autopulse tool and began doing CPR.

Firefighters were then assisted by Gold Cross Ambulance and the patient was quickly transported to Theda Clark hospital where the patient survived and has made a full recovery.

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### Fire Department Statistics

- Firefighters have responded to 1,017 EMS calls in 2008.
- Firefighters have responded to 502 emergency fire calls in 2008.
- Neenah-Menasha Firefighters have conducted over 2,269 fire inspections and logged over 2,246 training hours in 2008.
- Firefighters have over 3,400 Adult and Child contacts through public education in 2008.

# Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue's Special Operation Team

Fifteen members of Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue have been participating in Wisconsin Task Force 3, as part of a State of Wisconsin asset to respond to any type of disasters involving collapsed buildings.

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue has been a member of the Task Force for the past 3 years. Wisconsin Task Force 3, as the team is referred to, is a joint collaboration between the Appleton, Green Bay, Neenah-Menasha, and Oshkosh Fire Departments.

All members are trained to the technician level of the National Fire Protection Association's Standard 1670, which are professional qualifications for any technical or special operations incidents. Team members have received a minimum 240 hours of training, covering technician level skills for ropes, confined space,



Members of Wisconsin Task Force 3 training on a trench collapse scenario in Neenah

trench, and collapse rescue incidents.

The members of this Task Force also receive annual training at the Regional Emergency All Climate Training Center, or REACT, at Volk Field, located at Camp Douglas Wisconsin. This is an addition to the in-house refresher training they receive.

The techniques learned from this training will allow all four fire departments to deal with very complex situations both in the cities involved and beyond. By conducting training together with all four fire departments, each member of the Task Force can work together even though they are from different fire departments.

## Protect Your Community — Adopt a Fire Hydrant!

The snowy winter months in the north can bring special concerns to Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue. Winter storms can often hide fire hydrants under a mountain of snow, making them impossible to find quickly. In the event of a fire, firefighters have to locate and waste precious time shoveling out the hydrant before hooking up to them. In some cases an extra 3 to 5 minutes can be lost in the clearing of the

hydrant. Please do not let the hydrant near your home, home of a relative, or your business remain "undercover."

We are asking that you help us by keeping the fire hydrant closest to your residence or business clear of snow. We need at least a 3 foot clearance on all

*"Winter storms can often hide fire hydrants under a mountain of snow, making them impossible to find quickly"*

sides. When shoveling snow, please be aware of vehicle traffic. Do not stand in the street and be careful not to slip and fall out into the roadway.

If you have any questions, please call us at (920) 886-6200.

## The Maltese Cross — The Firefighters Badge of Honor

The Maltese Cross is the firefighter's badge of honor and is nearly a thousand years old. When the Knights of St. John, a courageous band of crusaders, fought the Saracens for possession the Holy Land, they encountered fierce and heavy fighting.

As the Knights of St. John advanced on the walls of the city, they were struck with many weapons including the use of fire, from the Saracens.

As hundreds of Knights were injured or

killed, others risked their lives to save their brothers in arms. Their valiant efforts were recognized by fellow crusaders who awarded each hero a badge in the configuration of the cross which many firefighters wear today.

For nearly four centuries, the Knights of St. John lived on the Mediterranean island of Malta. Their crosses for heroism in those fiery battles, came to be known as the Maltese Cross.

The Maltese Cross, as worn by firefighters today, symbolizes their willingness to lay down their lives for their fellow man as the Crusaders did centuries ago.



An example of the firefighters badge of honor, the Maltese Cross.

# Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue Opens Doors to Fox Valley Technical College Intern Program

For over 20 years, Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue has opened their doors to the Fox Valley Technical College Fire Department "Intern Program."

The intern program will prepare students for a career in fire protection and prevention. Students will learn to apply fire fighting principles in solving fire related problems in the 21st Century. The intern program provides an opportunity for qualified students to work a 24 hour shift in a fire department for a semester or an entire school year and function as firefighters.

The practical work experience and training together with career firefighters provides students with a comprehensive understanding of firefighting and fire prevention principles. Typically each

semester, 4 to 6 students from FVTC come to intern with NMFR. Each shift will take up to 2 interns and treat them as they were a probationary firefighter. Each intern goes through an orientation, receives gear, and is assigned to a shift. Firefighters begin going through the ba-



sics with the interns and eventually they are deemed to begin actually live fire-fighting duties with guidance from NMFR officers.

Allowing interns to do live training and to participate in real fires allows the intern to experience conditions and situations they will encounter should they receive the opportunity to join a career department.

Since inception of the program, NMFR has hired over 25 past interns that have trained through FVTC at Neenah, Menasha, or NMFR. That is roughly 45% of current staffing.

## Neenah—Menasha Summer Training Topics

NMFR personnel have been busy over the summer working on a variety of training topics. In May, crews were presented with new information and techniques for combating vehicle fires. With the new technology in vehicles, safety was heavily stressed during these sessions.

In June, training consisted of a basic review of ground ladders. Personnel worked on raising 24' ladders with two personnel, and the 35' ladder with three

personnel. In addition, firefighters were also shown how to advance a ladder to the roof via the aerial ladder in order to conduct safe operations on the roof.

July and August's training was held in the new Church Street (Neenah) parking ramp. In case of a vehicle fire, crews practiced pumping into the standpipe and hiking high-rise packs to the different



levels of the structure. Crews also worked on evacuating a building in a quick manner by using ropes to rappel out of windows. These situations can occur suddenly and firefighters must be prepared to exit a building quickly and safely. Training is a task that firefighters continually do to learn new techniques and review skills learned in the past.

## Seat Belts and the Proper Use of Child Safety Seats

The selection of the proper infant and child safety seat is often confusing. Parents and caregivers must consider the weight and height of the child when selecting the proper seat. You must look at the weight and height recommendations made by the child's safety seat manufacturer.

### **BIRTH TO 1 YEAR and 20-22 lbs**

Infant only or rear facing seat in back of

vehicle, where the harness straps secured at or below shoulder level.

### **OVER 20 lbs to 40 lbs and OVER 1YEAR**

Use forward facing seat with harness straps at or above shoulders. All children under 12 should ride in the back seat.

### **OVER 40 lbs to 80 lbs or MORE**

Use belt positioned booster seat. Make

sure lap belts fits low and tight to avoid abdominal injuries.

For additional information or questions, contact Fox Valley Safe Kids at (920) 720-1274.



Picture of a child properly restrained in a booster seat in a vehicle.



## NEENAH-MENASHA FIRE RESCUE

Station 31 - 1080 Breezewood Lane, Neenah  
Station 32 - 125 E. Columbian Ave, Neenah  
Station 35 - 430 First Street, Menasha  
Station 36 - 901 Airport Road, Menasha

Phone (920) 886-6200  
Fax (920) 886-6208

***“One Department, Fully Involved”***

**Check us out Online**  
**[www.nmfire.org](http://www.nmfire.org)**

*Neenah—Menasha Fire Rescue was created on January 1, 2003 by the consolidation of the City of Neenah Fire Department and the City of Menasha Fire Department. Neenah—Menasha Fire Rescue currently has 68 career employees who are committed to preserving the lives and property within the Cities of Neenah and Menasha. The department carries out the commitment through fire prevention education programs supported by rapid, efficient response for fire, EMS, and rescue emergencies.*

*The communities are served from four fire stations located in strategic areas to provide efficient response to virtually any type of emergency situation, including fire suppression, auto extrication, and ice/water rescue. Neenah—Menasha Fire Rescue also has mutual aid agreements with the Cities of Appleton, Oshkosh and all departments within Winnebago County.*

*Please take the time to also visit our website at [www.nmfire.org](http://www.nmfire.org) and view information regarding upcoming events, public education, personnel, photographs, ordinances, fire commission reports, incident reports, and job openings. We hope you enjoy the creation of the Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue newsletter.*

## A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety - Holiday Fire Safety.

Yes, the Christmas season is still 3 months away, however, Christmas tends to sneak up on all of us very quickly. Each year, fires occurring during the holiday season claiming the lives of over 400 people, injure over 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple but important life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the guidelines listed in this article, individuals can reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

### PREVENTING CHRISTMAS TREE FIRES -

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. Trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the

tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame,



**During the busy holiday season, please take a few minutes to ensure a fire safe Christmas for you and your family.**

or sparks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times. Once the season is over, never discard the branches or needles in a fire place or wood burning stove.

### HOLIDAY LIGHTING -

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

When hanging lights, do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions make it safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke detectors installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help by calling 911 and remember to practice your home escape plan with children and relatives that may be staying in your home over the holiday season. Enjoy and have a safe holiday season.