



the

DISPATCHER



THE ONLY MONTHLY PUBLICATION COVERING WISCONSIN'S FIRE, RESCUE AND EMS NEWS

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Fire may be last straw for Bartel farm

Town chairman says blaze that destroyed his barn, feed, equipment may be the sad end to the days of cattle on his rural Grafton land

By KRISTYN HALBIG ZIEHM, Ozaukee Press staff

Lester Bartel sounded almost philosophical Monday as he pondered the burned out ruins of a barn on his Town of Grafton farm.

“Maybe it’s God’s way of telling me it’s time for a

change,” Bartel said.

Bartel, who has farmed on his property at 1833 E. River Rd. for decades, said that at age 67, he won’t be rebuilding the pole barn or replacing the machinery inside.

“It’s a sad day in our lives,” he said. “This might be the end of cows at Lester’s farm. It might be time for another major change in our lives.”

Bartel, who is also chairman of the Town of Grafton, was

at home with his wife Bonnie Sunday when they heard a knock at the door a little after 7 p.m.

Someone who was driving by stopped to tell him they saw a fire in the pole barn, he said.

“In our house, we can’t see that barn,” he said, noting it isn’t the main barn where his cows are kept. “I told Bonnie to call 911 and they said we already did.”

Bartel said he grabbed his jacket and “made a beeline” to the barn.

“I got back there and I’m thinking maybe I’ll be able to get a tractor out,” he said. “When I opened the door, the roof was already coming down. It was too hot to even try to go in.”

Bartel said his cows were in the pasture next to the barn, so he rounded them up and ushered them to the main barn so they wouldn’t be harmed.

Grafton Fire Chief Bill Rice said the department was called



BURNED OUT TRACTORS and debris (above) are all that’s left of a barn on Lester Bartel’s Town of Grafton farm after a fire Sunday night.

Continued on page 2, **BARN FIRE**

— PHOTO BY SAM ARENDT

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BARN FIRE, continued from page 1



Flames from a burning barn on Grafton Town Chairman Lester Bartel's barn in the Town of Grafton shot into the night sky.

— PHOTO BY STUART HALSTEAD

out about 7:20 p.m.

"I noticed from quite a distance away I could see a glow," he said, so he called other departments in to help.

By the time firefighters arrived on the scene, Rice said, the barn "was fully involved."

"There was no saving the barn due to the extent of the fire," he said. "Our main concern at that point was that it not spread to the main barn."

It was fortunate that the passersby saw the fire and called for the department immediately, Rice said.

"If it wasn't noticed when it was, it could have spread to the main barn," he said.

Since the farm is in the township, departments had to bring water to the scene, Rice noted.

"It was a little difficult to get to," he said of the barn, noting it was about 1,000 feet from the road.

Nine departments responded to the call, he said, and firefighters were on the scene about four hours. No one was hurt fighting the blaze.

By that time, he said, "there wasn't much left of the barn."

The barn had a significant amount of straw in it, feed for his five beef cows and four calves, Bartel said.

"It goes fast when straw goes up," he said.

In addition to the feed, Bartel said, there were five tractors and one skid loader, all of which were destroyed in the blaze.

"The only tractor I have left is a 1937 John Deere I got from my dad," Bartel said. "I use it a couple times a year to run around the yard."

Also destroyed in the blaze was an aluminum boat that was being stored in the barn, Bartel said.

"It melted the boat on the

other end of the barn," he said.

Bartel said he believes the fire began due to a short in the skid loader, noting that was the only piece of machinery he used over the weekend.

"We're pretty sure that was the cause," he said.

Bartel said he enjoyed having the cows on his farm, but "now there's a pretty good chance we might get rid of them."

At his age, starting over isn't necessarily in the cards, he said.

Bartel said he still farms 36 acres of his land, noting he sold his herd of milk cows in February 1996.

"I've been out of dairy longer now than I was in it," he said. "But we always had some livestock here. I liked having the cows around."

~ PORT WASHINGTON,
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BADGER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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Well Mother Nature is definitely messing with us this year, AGAIN! One day it is nice spring day with the temperatures in the upper 40's and the next morning we have snow, wind and temperatures in the 20's. If someone has connections with Mother Nature, please talk to her. Ron Naab has a theory that once we have filed our income taxes on April 15, winter is over.

Turnout for the Basic Rapid Intervention Team training at the Slinger Fire Station on March 3rd and 4th with 58 participants and 32 instructors. There were 8 hands-on stations to learn new skills and to enhance those we already had. Again, we train to be better than we were and hope that we never have to use this training in a real-life situation.

Plans for the Badger Firefighters Association Firefighter Challenge which will be held on July 15, 2023 in conjunction with the St. Lawrence Fire Company Picnic are progressing along. Teams will consist of 5 members with at least one member over 40 years of age. Team members must be active members in good standing with at least 1 year of membership. Departments can combine with one other department to form a team.

The competitive events will include:

1. Water Movement- Team participation
2. Hose throw- Individual participation
3. Hose coupling throw- Team participation
4. Charged hose pull- Individual participation
5. Fireman's carry- Team participation
6. Monkey bars- Team participation

Reminder to get your registrations in for the Agriculture Rescue Program on April 7 & 8 in Allenton is in the planning stages. The event will include lectures on Friday evening and hands-on training involving Grain Bin Rescues, high level rope work, tractor roll over and much more. The committee is looking for agriculture equipment that can be disassembled as part of the class. Primarily we are looking for farm equipment that we can use for scenarios, please look around in your area for this equipment so we can make arrangements to move it to Allenton. The cost for this program will be \$75.00 per participants for member departments.

It is important that your department does not wait until the last day to register. There is a lot of planning takes place along with work to get equipment to rescue from, rescue tools, etc. to work with along with instructors from around the state to participate. Waiting until the last day put these programs in jeopardy, there minimum numbers to be able to hold the event. Register now and register often with more people.

REMINDER that our Spring Meeting and Awards Banquet will be held on April 30th at the Cascade Fire Station. Information will be presented to your department shortly. This event recognizes our brothers and sisters that passed away in the past 12 months with a very meaningful Memorial Service.

We will be recognizing those individuals from our member departments that have made significant contributions to their department and/or emergency services as a whole. Don't forget to submit your nominations for EMS of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, and Heroism Awards nominees. We need these nominations in by no later than March 31 due to our producer of plaques will be out of town. These need to be sent badgerf.a.secretary@gmail.com or mailed to Badger Firefighters Association; P.O. B0x 362; Allenton, WI 53002.

“Sometimes you save the buildings. Sometimes you make parking lots, and there is nothing you can do about it.” — Leo Stapleton, former Boston Fire Commissioner (passed away on April 26, 2021)

Respectfully,

The Officers of the Badger Firefighters Association
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Ron Naab, Secretary



Firefighter Challenge

July 15th at St. Lawrence Fire Station
(4955 Hwy 175 Hartford, WI 53027)

Sign in at 7 AM with a shotgun start at 8 AM.

Team and Individual Events

- Obstacle Course
- Team Water Movement – Team
- Hose Coupling Throw – Team
- Monkey Bars – Team
- Fireman's Carry – Team
- Hose Throw – Individual
- Charged Hose Pull – Individual

Teams will consist of 5 members with at least one member over 40 years of age. Team members must be active members in good standing with at least 1 year of membership. Departments can combine with one other department to form a team.

All participants will receive a challenge coin. The top 3 teams will receive a helmet shield.

Pre-Registration is required. **Entry Fee is \$175.** Deadline for registrations is **July 1, 2023.**

Contact Pete Manning for more information.

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2023 AMERICAN TRIBUTE RIDE PLANS TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF RIDES

This American Tribute Ride committee is working together to put on another fun event that has supported Wisconsin Fire and EMS Memorial, Honor Flights, PFFW-Charitable Foundation, Fischer House-Wisconsin, Concerns of Police Survivors-Wisconsin, and Captain John B. Mason Veteran Peer Support Program. Originally the ride involved only motorcycles as our group of supporters has matured we have noted an increase in 3-wheelers and 4-wheelers although the purpose of the ride has NOT changed to support those that have served and those that are serving.

We have for every year of 20 years contributed to the Wisconsin Fire & EMS Memorial. It is the committee's goal to raise a significant amount to put towards the new marble panels to be placed on the Wall of Honor. We will have an autographed helmet that was transported to each fire station of the first ride in 2004 up for auction. The money raised from this auction will be donated directly to help purchase the new marble plates for the recently increased Wall of Honor for those that made the Ultimate Sacrifice serving their communities.

This year's ride will start at the Wisconsin Fire & EMS Memorial in Wisconsin Rapids. We suggest that those that wish to get room for either or both nights [July 21 & July 22] get those done soon. There are rooms at the following motels/hotels in the area around Hancock—Boarders Inn and Suites, Wautoma Inn, Econo Lodge-Waupaca, Inn of the Pines [Adams], and Pioneer Inn in Westfield.

There will be an opening ceremony at 10:30 am and on-the-roll at 11:00 am. After we start the ride we will be stopping at Rudolph Fire Department for lunch. Then we go east to Amherst, where we will be having ice cream from King Cone. Then we travel further east to Wild Rose and then back west and south to Hancock. It will be a very picturesque ride that 2, 3 and 4 wheelers can participate in.



Chair Ron Naab introduced recently 1-5/8" challenge coin to commemorate the 20th year. "These unique coins were donated by a very generous donor for which we are very appreciative," said Ron Naab. The challenge coins will be sold for \$5.00 each.

Three unique items that will be auctioned were featured one of the items is an American Flag constructed of 1-3/4" hose mounted on a plywood framed.

Another item that will be auctioned is this beautiful, multi-colored and shaped wooden mosaic.

Pre-registration forms will be on the website: americantributeride.com or by contacting atrchair@gmail.com. Due to rising costs of the portable toilets the registration fee was adjusted up \$5.00 per participants. Single rider is \$30.00 and two-up will be \$40.00 for those that pre-register.



One of the auction items - an American Flag constructed of 1-3/4" hose mounted on a plywood framed.

SEND US YOUR FIRE AND EMS STORIES AND PHOTOS.



Monona Fire Dept. responded to smoke and then flames coming from the roof of the Monona Hills Apartment building at 353 Owen Rd. At 3:40AM on March 18, 2023. A third level MABAS alarm was called, knock down was achieved and a person was found deceased. No cause as still being investigated, all occupants are being served by the Red Cross. 18 departments were involved according to scene command, asst. chief Dan Eklof.

~PHOTOS & STORY BY ROGER HAMILTON

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Person hospitalized following house fire in town of Newton

Officials say one person is in the hospital following an explosion and fire in the town of Newton. Fire officials say they were called to the scene at about 5:15 a.m. to the 9400 block of Newton Road. Officials say the home caught fire and they called for backup from multiple departments. While crews are still working to contain a fire in the home's basement, they say the fire did not spread to

other buildings. Officials say the home is a total loss. The state fire marshal has been called to the scene. The Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office is expected to provide more details sometime later today.

~WBAY-TV ABC 2 GREEN BAY – compliments of Great Lakes Division of the IAFC

8 displaced following cooking fire at apartment building

Eight residents of a Madison apartment building were displaced following a cooking fire Wednesday evening, the Madison Fire Department said. The fire was reported just before 5:55 p.m. at an apartment building in the 1300 block of East Washington Avenue. In an incident report, the city's fire department said firefighters got to the scene and found the building's sprinkler

system had extinguished the fire. A total of three units were affected by the sprinklers going off. No one was hurt in the fire, officials said. The American Red Cross is helping those who were displaced.

~WISC-TV CBS 3 MADISON – compliments of Great Lakes Division of the IAFC



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I guess it's that time of year again. April showers should wake up the May flowers. The way the weather has been, who knows what's next!

As promised, we will be bringing you the information that was just too much to share in a single article last month relating to the excitement generated by the visit of the Gear Up team in Ecuador including the additional training that took place in El Carmen fulfilling acceptance of the invitation of Mayor Rodrigo Mena. Followed by a conference that members of Gear Up Foundation held at the Catholic Polytechnic University Salesian UPS in Guayaquil covering The Toxic Twins Gases (carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrogen cyanide (HCN)) and Hazmat Awareness presented by Chief Paul Nelson. The use of a wonderful auditorium was provided by Andres Bayolo, President of the College. Firefighters from all over Ecuador arrived for a conference unlike any that they had ever attended. Information on two key areas was delivered brilliantly by Chief Nelson along with fulfilling the foundation's pledge to honor GOD in all we do. The benediction was delivered by Pastor Hector Montiel. He and his wife along with other honored guests were present and sat on stage during the event. Partners of the foundation Rescue Jim Academy Maiko Bautista and Frank



Gear Up Team Members Xavier Bustamante, Frank Maikool Bautista, Vincent Forras, Paul Nelson, World Peace Army Chaplains organization founder, Jorge Acuña and son George Acuña, at the end, Gear Up member again, Jose Lucas.

Maikool Junior Bautista, both instructors for Gear Up, set up a static display of a high angle rescue on stage as a prop for the attendees. Simultaneous English to Spanish translation was provided expertly and caringly by SGI Eventos. GEDEON International group provided the new testament to every participant in keeping Gear Up's commitment to honor and deliver the word of GOD at all of their events. Special Thanks to Priscila Barquet who arranged for "Cielo" water company to provide water bottles for the conference.

Additionally, members of the foundation held an important set of meetings with Civil Engineers of Guayaquil led by Engineer Guillermo Pacheco and joined by Chief Paul Nelson, Monica Carrera and Vincent Forras and signed a "mutual cooperation" agreement prompted by the prediction of Vincent Forras that included dire warnings of an

upcoming earthquake to add to the terrible monsoon rains that have been occurring causing biblical flooding. In addition to this meeting a future meeting between these parties will happen with the trucking union that moves product throughout the country, thus coming up with a solid game plan of best routes along with alternate routes in case of a natural disaster in country.

Well, this is a lot to cover so let's get into some of the details and more. EARTHQUAKE! First, let us understand that a strong earthquake did indeed occur March 16th. A magnitude 6.9 quake hit a region that the foundation has supported in the past near the town of El Oro. (Foundation donated 4 firetrucks some years ago). Damage was quite bad; however, the loss of life was limited to 13 so far. Some roads were made impassable, and some shoreline flooding did occur due to the quake and tidal surge. Gear Up Foundation members Vincent Forras and Monica Carrera made it their business to attend the Natural Disaster Expo that took place in Miami in early March to evaluate potential partners to support their mission in Ecuador and throughout Latin and South America. More info on this to follow.

The container that was packed and sent by Ron Naab, his wife Ann and their team in Wisconsin that arrived over a month ago in Ecuador was

continued on next page ...

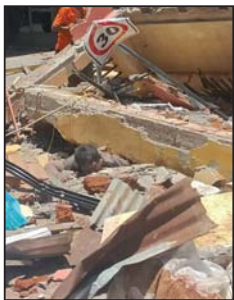


GEAR UP TEAM IN ECUADOR AT THE CONFERENCE.



Special Thanks to Priscila Barquet who arranged for "Cielo" water company to provide water bottles for the conference.

GEAR UP *continued*



Firefighters in Vehicle Extrication exercises.



Gear Up Instructor Frank M. Bautista, Firefighter Jose Molina El Carmen, Chief John Arriaga El Carmen Fire Department, Gear Up Donations Director Mayor Santiago Landazury, Gear Up Instructors Christian Petersen and Andres Troya, coordinating the container reception.



El Carmen firefighters minutes before starting their search for a victim at the river.



Frank Maikool Bautista Instructor and founder of Rescue Jim Academy, in Peru

finally delivered to El Carmen towards the end of March. This delay was very costly to the foundation as each day of delay costs one hundred dollars! Several thousand extra dollars were “wasted” in this process, however as luck would have it, it allowed the specialty instructors that remained in country and locally to participate in new training of firefighters in river rescue and other special procedures. The Gear Up team was responsible for not only helping in body recovery of loved ones but also in saving lives of folks swept up in the terrible flooding. “I am extremely proud of our team and thank GOD for allowing them to remain in spite of the extra costs,” said Vincent Forras. Items from this container are already deploying to those who need them and making a difference in their community. Mayor Rodrigo Mena was of course present to receive this donation that he personally has worked so diligently on for his community. Various classes were presented once again to the firefighters of El Carmen by Frank Maikool Bautista, exercises in vehicle extrication and water rescue specially.

The ladder truck which has been in process for over a year now has made it to Ecuador and should be delivered by the time this article is published. Chief Paul Nelson is currently slated to return to Ecuador the third week of March to train a special group of firefighters selected to operate and drive this special truck. “It is of the utmost importance that anyone who touches this truck is well trained,” said Vincent Forras. Mayor Rodrigo Mena will of course be present for a special ceremony once the rig arrives and is put into service. “All of us at Gear Up Foundation would like to thank Chief Nelson for taking the time out of his personal schedule once again as a volunteer to ensure that the ladder truck is handled properly and those involved with it know what they are doing,” said Monica Carrera, co-founder of Gear Up.

While this is happening two other trucks are on route to Ecuador as requested by the city of El Carmen and Mayor Mena. Because of the excellent and trustworthy performance of the foundation on the three trucks and equipment donated, a request for a Trash Truck and a Vacuum Combo Sewer Truck was made and fulfilled. While all this is going on Ron Naab continues to collect and process donations thanks to so many of you who continue to support the noble mission of the foundation. For more than two decades it is the wonderful and blessed people of the Wisconsin area who have led the way. That dedication continues to this day as Ron receives several strong donations from the Wisconsin Department of Corrections Prison System which is in the process of replacing their SCBA equipment. We are grateful to the Lomira Fire Department for their recent donation of obsolete turnout gear and other personal protective items to be used by departments.



Additionally, Ron continues to receive all sorts of life saving gear and equipment, so much so that he is starting to run out of storage space. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND GOOD AND AFFORDABLE, IF NOT DONATED STORAGE SPACE TO HOLD THE DONATIONS WHILE THEY ARE BEING COORDINATED FOR SHIPMENT TO OUR FELLOW FIREFIGHTERS IN NEED. PLEASE STEP UP AND HELP US TO HELP THEM!

Gear Up Foundation continues to fulfill its promise to unite our world in response to the attacks on September 11th while never forgetting the sacrifice of our brothers and sisters that day and every day since. “Although my health continues to be challenged, I am invigorated by the incredible dedication and service of all those around me in the foundation.

I know that I am here for a reason, that being to serve GOD until my very last breath. I am counting on all of you to ensure that this pledge and mission continues to blossom just as the showers will bring May flowers. GOD Bless each and every one of you for your support and prayers,” Vincent Forras.



Vincent Forras at Conference, UPS University.



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Home Fire Sprinklers: A Data Based Decision

By Ed Ruckriegel, State Coordinator, National Fire Sprinkler Association – Wisconsin Chapter

Looking back at the history of the fire service, one will see successful projects, initiatives, and programs that have reduced fire losses and saved lives. Some simple things like pre-school group visits to fire stations have changed behaviors and prevented fires. Other more complex and systematic programs such as Community Risk Reduction continue to mitigate hazards and save lives. We all know smoke alarm installation initiatives have an immediate and lasting impact. Fire departments across the U.S. continue to work hard and commit resources to saving lives, property, and the environment.

For four decades, the fire service worked to reduce the number of fire fatalities. The 1973 report, *America Burning America Burning (fema.gov)*, provided the foundation and direction for fire personnel to address the fire problem in the United States. According to NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), “The fire death rate per million population fell 70% from 34.4 in 1977 to 10.2 in 2015.” Looking further at the NFIRS data compiled by the NFPA, you will see the number of residential structure fires trending downward. Because of these statistics, we should celebrate our successes and recognize a job well done. However, there is still much work to be done.

Let’s look at the data supporting home fire sprinklers. The number of residential structure fire fatalities continues to follow an upward trend since 2006. Over the last 25 years, the average number of home fire fatalities rose. Our fire prevention and risk reduction programs continue, but the number of fatal fires is increasing. It is time to add a different tool to our fire safety toolbox.

Home fire sprinklers need to become the foundation of every fire prevention project, curriculum, funding request, open house, core values, mission statements and so on. Home fire sprinklers

save lives, property, the environment, money, and help to prevent cancers in firefighters, as well as saving firefighters’ lives.

Fire in today’s homes grows much faster than in the past. With so much synthetic material in our homes, home furnishings and things that make a home comfortable and functional, the time to flashover has dropped to three minutes or less. A fire involving the plastic veneers and plastic components of the things found in a home produces more toxic smoke than traditional home furnishing made of wood and cotton. That fact drives the need for home fire sprinklers. There is simply no other more affordable, reasonable, or effective means to reduce the number of fatal fires in residential structures.

The fire service needs to maintain its focus on fire prevention and risk reduction. We know it works. But we also know it needs to embrace the realities (and data) of home fires by adding home fire sprinklers to the fire prevention toolbox.

In a future Dispatcher article, we will explore ways the fire service, communities, code officials and elected officials can incentivize home fire sprinklers. We can make it less expensive to build a home with fire sprinklers than one without sprinklers.

Fire Sprinklers save lives, property, water, money, jobs, the environment, and more. For more information on how fire sprinklers save lives and property, please visit our website www.firesprinklersbuylife.com or contact Ed Ruckriegel at ruckriegel@nfsa.org. Visit the National Fire Sprinkler Association at www.nfsa.org or their website on fire sprinklers at www.firesprinklersbuylife.com and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition at www.homefiresprinkler.org.

Firefighters Respond To Flames At Columbus Health And Rehab

The residents of Columbus Health and Rehab were safely evacuated Wednesday afternoon following a fire. Crews responded at 1:07pm to 825 Western Avenue following a fire alarm and reports from staff at the facility of a light smoke haze. Upon arrival, small flames were seen coming out

of the roof near a vent above the generator room. Heat and heavy smoke were then found in the generator room. No injuries were reported. Damage was confined to the generator room and a portion of the roof. Columbus Deputy Fire Chief and Public Information Officer Jerrod Fox says while the

cause of the fire was narrowed to the generator room, how exactly the fire started is under investigation. The scene was cleared around 4:15pm. Displaced residents remained at Zion School but are expected to return to the facility Wednesday evening. Columbus was assisted at the scene by the Fall River

and Waterloo fire departments and Lifestar Ambulance while Sun Prairie Fire staffed the station.

~ WBEV-FM 95.3 BEAVER DAM – compliments of Great Lakes Division of the IAFC

WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTORS

P.O. Box 764 • Oshkosh, WI 54903 • Phone: (920) 235-5494
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Reprints of any of the Wisconsin Society of Emergency Services Instructors articles are available as PDF documents for classroom use. Please email your request to Kevin Gerarden at kgerarden@wsesi.org

F D I C – TELL US: What've you seen?

The world's largest fire- and emergency-services event, **FDIC International**, will be held at the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN April 24-29, 2023. Attendance is expected to top **30,000** – and it is no secret that many of its attendees are members of Wisconsin's emergency response community, certainly including members of **WSESI**.

The sheer variety of activities and programs accessible throughout this one event presents a challenge – a challenge I'd like for any of you attending to help tackle.

If you plan to attend, we'd like to hear about some of the workshops, Hands-On-Training (H.O.T.), and innovations you will have seen, either as an on-the-scene report, or as a review upon your return. More importantly, our **Training and Programs Committee** will be sifting through ideas to incorporate in the activities our Society will be offering in the coming year, and the quality we bring to our content will depend on finding the best, most relevant methods and techniques that our members can use to sharpen their skills as instructors.

Please shoot us an email, especially if you would like to act in the capacity of 'roving reporter' for WSESI from the exhibit hall, the general session, or any of the many workshop sessions in the conference center.

President **Jim Austad:**
jaustad@wsesi.org

Training & Programs
Chair **Dave Yakowenko:**
dyakowenko@wsesi.org

Exec. Sec. **Kevin Gerarden:**
kgerarden@wsesi.org

Thanks!



continued on next page ...

WSESI NEWS BRIEFS

- **63rd ANNUAL INSTRUCTORS CONFERENCE** – coming to Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville **February 16-18, 2024!**

Our Conference Webpage will remain available for feedback, developments, and inquiries into the program for next year: www.wsesi.org/annual-conference

- **NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY (NFA) COURSES FOR 2023-24** – Just a few more days to visit our Events page to view and select your preference for NFA courses delivered in-state for the coming fiscal year, including next year's Annual Conference! The NFA Course Call period is **March 1-31, 2023.**

- **FROM OUR FRIENDS at Badger Firefighters Association** – These two events are scheduled for 2023:
 - Agriculture Rescue Training -- April 7 & 8 – Allenton FD
 - Firefighter Challenge -- July 15 -- St. Lawrence Fire Station

Flyers and registration forms can be downloaded from our Events page.

- **LIVE LINKS** to our events, and any sent in through our associates, will be posted on the WSESI Events webpage: www.wsesi.org/events
- **VISIT OUR LINKS PAGE** to check out the many online resources available from our colleagues around the state and across the country. This includes Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association (WSFIA) – supporting and assisting fire prevention personnel throughout the state with education and awareness resources and programs. www.wsesi.org/links

- **2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL CYCLE:**
 - Renew-O-Meter** – As of March 24:
 - 34 New and returning members (paid and complimentary)
 - 74 Members of 11 Partner Agencies
 - 7 Life Members
 - 102 Paid Active renewals
 - 2 Renewals pending payment
 - 60 ?????

Anyone wishing to know their renewal status may call or email Kevin Gerarden at 920-235-5494 or kgerarden@wsesi.org. Don't delay – renew TODAY!

- **CLOSING SOON** – Applications will continue to be accepted for the William E. Clark Memorial Scholarship through April 1, 2023. Applications can be downloaded from the Scholarship webpage:

www.wsesi.org/william-clark-scholarship

- **STATEWIDE FIRE SERVICE EVENTS** – WSESI will continue to share information that we receive regarding events and programs of Wisconsin's Fire / Emergency Services organizations throughout the year ahead. Please be encouraged to advise us of any of your agency's / organization's plans for events in the coming months, or of any changes that you are aware of. Thanks!

- **WISCONSIN FIRE & EMS COALITION (WFEC)**, hosted by Professional Firefighters of Wisconsin (PFFW), most recently met for **Fire & EMS Lobby Day – Wednesday, March 15.** A summary of this event will be posted on our Links page.

The WFEC has composed a letter of support, addressed to Wisconsin's legislators, asking them to co-sponsor a bill that extends Workers' Compensation coverage for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to volunteer and paid-on-call responders. WSESI has lent their approval of this proposal, and a link to this letter will be posted in the sidebar of our home page: www.wsesi.org

Information on our next meeting, and current legislative activity, will be posted on our Links page: www.wsesi.org/links

Our representation in the Coalition relies on our members being active in our advocacy of public policy issues. Contact President Jim Austad, or WFEC delegates Jim Flanagan or Kevin Gerarden.

- **Having trouble downloading documents?** Call 920-235-5494 to request a paper copy of any Society forms or documents – or email your request to kgerarden@wsesi.org.
- **NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – via teleconference (unless otherwise announced).



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2023 LEGACY STONE CEREMONY
June 10th - 10:30 a.m.

2023 FINAL ALARM CEREMONY
September 23rd - 3:33 p.m.

The WFEM Visitor Center will OPEN for the Season – April 15th



From time to time, it comes to our attention that a name of a Fallen Fighter (LODD) may not have been recognized on the Memorial Wall. I ask you to please email me jluty@wsfm.org with whatever supporting information you may have so we may give them due honors.

† IN MEMORIAM †

- Retired Rescue Captain and Firefighter Timothy J. “Tim” Miller; Kewaskum Volunteer Fire Department (Founding Member); 03-01-2023
- Retired Firefighter and First Responder David D. Sterr; Kekoskee Fire Dept and First Responders; 03-03-2023
- Active-Duty Firefighter and Fire Department Administrator, Retired Chief Joseph H. Stahl; Town of Sheboygan Fire Department; 03-05-2023
- Active-Duty Pilot Deren L. Cook; Life Link III Helicopter; 03-06-2023
- Retired Firefighter-EMT Thomas Allen Gnewuch; Oconomowoc Fire Department; 03-08-2023
- Retired Chief Greg Rayment; Almena Fire Department; 03-08-2023
- Retired Firefighter David “The Leather Man” Preston Bonar; Milwaukee Fire Department; 03-10-2023
- Retired Chief DeWayne W. “Dewey” Bredeson; Argyle Fire Department; 03-10-2023
- Active-Duty Firefighter-EMT Wendy McKnight; Plymouth Fire and Rescue; 03-11-2023
- Active-Duty Firefighter Daniel Walter Gilles; Town of Union Fire Department; 03-12-2023
- Retired Firefighter “Skip” Brian W. Lea; Alma Center Fire Department; 03-14-2023
- Active-Duty Firefighter and EMT-A Roy A. Hendricks; Stone Lake Fire Dept; 03-16-2023
- Active-Duty EMT Trudy Beth Peters; (Founding Members) Stockton EMS; 03-16-2023
- Retired Chief Harold M. Moldrem; Cadott Fire Department; DOD 03-21-2023

Please submit any Notices of Death to JLuty@wsfm.org or call (262) 893-9543.



Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Public Safety Peer Support Training Opportunities

April 24-26 – La Crosse, WI • August 21-23 – Oshkosh, WI • November 1-3 – Franklin, WI

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP CRISIS INTERVENTION

This 3-day course combines ALL of the content of the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation's (ICISF) Assisting Individuals in Crisis & Group Crisis Intervention courses.

Crisis Intervention is NOT psychotherapy; rather, it is a specialized acute emergency mental health intervention which requires specialized training. As physical first aid is to surgery, crisis intervention is to psychotherapy. Thus, crisis intervention is sometimes called “emotional first aid”. Designed to present the core elements of a comprehensive, systematic and multi-component crisis intervention curriculum, this course will prepare participants to understand a wide range of crisis intervention services for both the individual and for groups. Fundamentals of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) will be outlined and participants will leave with the knowledge and tools to provide several group crisis interventions, specifically demobilizations, defusings and the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD). The need for appropriate follow-up services and referrals when necessary will also be discussed.

This course is designed for anyone in the Disaster Response, Education, Emergency Services, Employee Assistance, Healthcare, Homeland Security, Mental Health, Military, Spiritual Care, and Traumatic Stress.

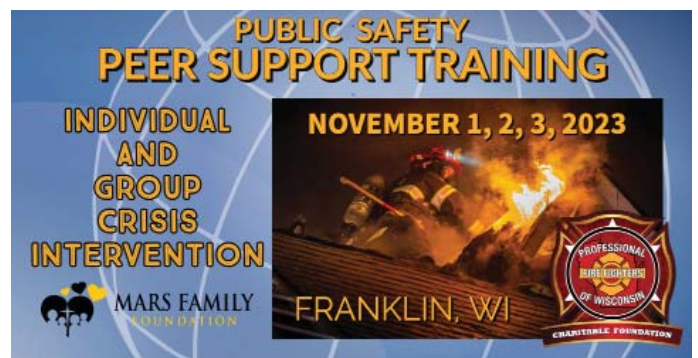
Program Highlights:

- Psychological crisis and psychological crisis intervention
- Resistance, resiliency, recovery continuum
- Critical incident stress management
- Evidence-based practice
- Basic crisis communication techniques
- Common psychological and behavioral crisis reactions
- SAFER-Revised model
- Relevant research findings
- Large group crisis interventions
- Small group crisis interventions
- Adverse outcome associated with crisis intervention
- Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD)

Course Cost: \$200.00* for public safety personnel

**La Crosse course is FREE FOR LA CROSSE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL*

For more information, visit facebook.com/PFFWCF/events.



7th Annual Fired-Up Fundraiser and Charity Ball

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For more information:

- Scan the QR Code
- Social Media: @PFFWCF
- (608) 630-8440
- www.pffwcf.org



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"Champions for Burn Survivors, Fire Fighters, and Safe Communities"

Madison firefighters, on day off, save life of runner who suffered cardiac arrest

Two off-duty firefighters were in the right place at the right time on Wednesday, helping save a man's life after he went into cardiac arrest while running along John Nolen Drive. By chance, firefighter spouses Sue Juedes and Chelsea Utzerath took a different route on their day off when they came across the man lying on the ground and several people around him. "We could see there's a man lying on the sidewalk and we were like, uh-oh," Juedes recalled. The duo then sprang into action, despite the fact they

were in civilian clothes and not on the clock. They found the man was not breathing, which they related to dispatch. "We figured we ended up doing about four minutes of CPR, but the urgency of the response went up once the dispatcher was able to give that information to our emergency medical team," Juedes, a lieutenant with the Madison Fire Department, said.

~ WISC-TV CBS 3 MADISON
– compliments of *Great Lakes Division of the IAFC*

After third fire in four months, Eau Claire firefighter speaks to concerns of historic Banbury Place

Banbury place saw yet another fire Sunday night. With all the industrial equipment and chemicals in its buildings, fire officials are answering questions on if these fires are of concern to the historic site or the community. In December, a dumpster connected to the building caught fire. In February, firefighters put out a fire in a rubber mixer, and Sunday night a fire started in a chimney stack — all at rubber supplier American Phoenix.

Eau Claire Fire Department battalion chief Jaime Burkhardt said when you have chemicals and industrial equipment close together, accidents are bound to happen. But the businesses at Banbury are strictly regulated, and crews are more than prepared when things do go wrong.

~ WQOW-TV ABC 18 EAU CLAIRE – compliments of *Great Lakes Division of the IAFC*

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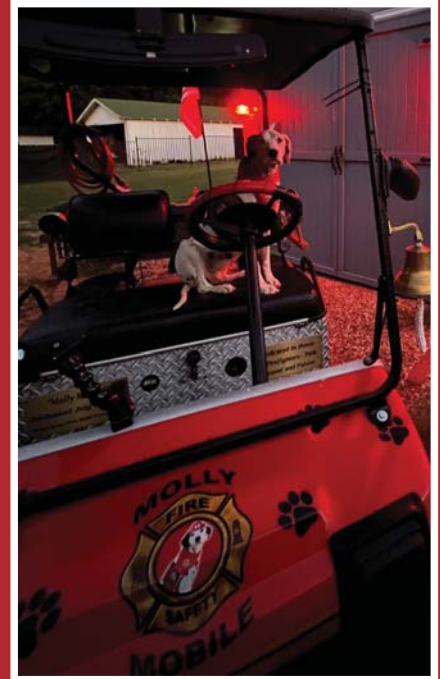
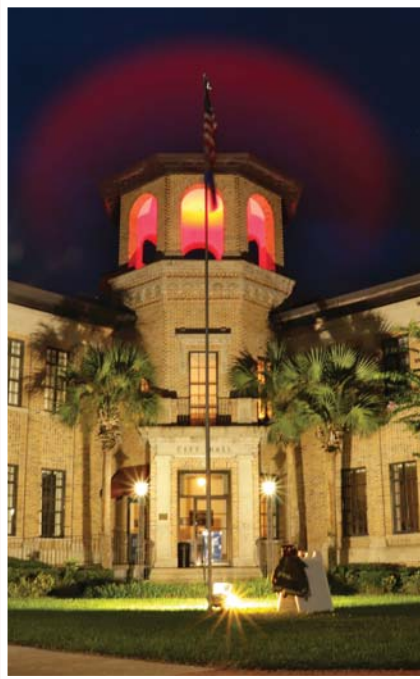
May 4 - 7, 2023

#nffflightthenight2023
#firehero2023

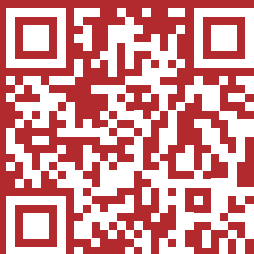


LIGHT THE NIGHT

for Fallen Firefighters



LIGHT UP RED FOR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS



Join the *National Fallen Firefighters Foundation* on May 4-7, 2023 in honoring and remembering the sacrifice of America's fallen fire heroes. We invite landmarks, fire and community organizations, businesses, and homes across the nation to *light up red* starting on International Firefighters' Day and through the *National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend*. Learn more or watch live at: weekend.firehero.org.

Sign up & find resources at: firehero.org/light-the-night



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One dead, up to 70 displaced

By DANIELA JAIME, djaime@madison.com

Oscar Balderas had recently moved from one unit into another in his Monona Hills apartment building when he woke up to the smell of smoke early Sunday.

With his jacket in his previous apartment, unit 129, Balderas walked down the hall, prepared to go through the motions of a minor accident, as if it were a drill — not the deadly blaze it proved to be.

That's when he saw the fire through a window, right above unit 112 — the one he had just moved into.

"I saw that fire, just all over. Oh my God," said Balderas, 68.

One person is dead and at least 70 people were evacuated in the fire that broke out in the apartment building at 353 Owen Road in Monona.

Authorities had not released the name of the person found dead.

Damage to the building, which is not habitable, is expected to exceed \$2 million, authorities said. A precise cause was not determined.

Firefighters were already on their way for a fire alarm at about 3:45 a.m. when dispatchers received additional

calls from residents reporting smoke and flames, Monona Fire Chief Jeremy McMullen said. Initial calls had come in about 3:30 a.m.

Firefighters arrived to find heavy fire and smoke, with debris falling from the building at times, McMullen said at a news conference Saturday afternoon.

The fire was brought under control by 9 a.m., and one person was found dead, McMullen said.

The fire appears to have started in the vicinity of apartment 204 and appears to have been unintentional, he said. Firefighters also rescued six cats, most of which are in the care of Dane County Animal Services.

Kisiah Johnson, 52, was also asleep in her apartment when she awoke to the smell of smoke.

Once she realized the severity of what was happening, she jumped into action and left as quickly as possible.

"I was like, 'Where are my joggers?'" Johnson said. "I grabbed my coat, unplugged my cell phone, grabbed (my bag) and got out the door."



Freezing temperatures and the large amounts of water to battle an early morning fire at the Monona Hills apartment building created icicles around the building, nearby trees and grass as Monona Fire Department crews continued to work at the scene Saturday afternoon.

— PHOTO BY STEVE APPS, FOR THE STATE JOURNAL



One person is dead and up to 70 are displaced after a fire early Saturday Please see FIRE, Page A6 at the Monona Hills apartment building at 353 Owen Road in Monona.

— PHOTO BY STEVE APPS, FOR THE STATE JOURNAL

"I started banging on people's doors, saying it was a real fire," Balderas said.

While Balderas helped a neighbor evacuate through the stairs, Johnson was in the parking lot waiting with others.

"I had a lady in my car. She just had on a T-shirt and a shawl," Johnson said, remembering how hectic the aftermath was. "Once I got her in the car ... I needed to use the bathroom, so I went to the Kwik Trip's and then came back and was just driving around to see how it was."

All Johnson could say as she saw the burning building was, "This is crazy. Crazy."

"The fire was upstairs, but it spread all the way down through the elevator. So I know my apartment, it ... it burned all the way down," said Balderas.

"I don't want to go through that ever again," he said. "Ever again."

The American Red Cross opened a shelter for those displaced by the fire at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 5700 Pheasant Hill Road, Monona. Food and essentials were being provided

in addition to any shelter needs.

"Many agencies in Dane County and beyond responded and assisted in the evacuation," McMullen said.

Even the Red Cross was unaware of how severe the damage would be.

"We had our disaster action team respond right away to help with immediate needs on the ground, and then as time went on we realized, 'Oh boy,' this is going to be much larger," said Kyle Kriegl, executive director of the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter of the American Red Cross.

There were between 30 and 35 residents at the Red Cross shelter Saturday. It was not known how long a shelter would be needed.

"We'll be working with them and kind of determining that for each on a case by case basis, but that could all depend on what their needs are," Kriegl said.

Donations or help can be arranged through the Red Cross at 1-800-236-8680.

~ MADISON, WISCONSIN
STATE JOURNAL

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What is a Close-Call that you have witnessed while operating a hose line or advancing a hose line?

Information for this month's "Drill of the Month" is courtesy of www.firefighterclosecalls.com, which is sponsored by Gordan Graham. Gordan is a 33 year veteran of California Law Enforcement and is one of the leading experts in risk management. Check out the website for more helpful information.

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PAGE 8

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THE DISPATCHER was started in 1984 with the purpose to publish the monthly news of Wisconsin State Fire Chief Association, fires, rescues and EMS News throughout the state of Wisconsin. **It is the only monthly publication covering the entire state of Wisconsin with news from and about the people who serve their communities so faithfully as professionals and as non-paid volunteers.** We are talking about firefighters, rescue people, EMTs, hazardous material responders and partners with an educated goal. Learn more by visiting their websites and/or join the many associations that have PARTNERED with the DISPATCHER. ***We are all working together with a common goal: “to help our neighbor while staying safe”, and everyone goes home.***

Wisconsin Society of Emergency Service Instructors

Founded in 1962 as State Chapter 1 of the International Society of Emergency Service Instructors, the Society's mission is to support and assist the fire service instructors throughout the state of Wisconsin through the exchange and dissemination of ideas, information, and the opportunities for professional development and involvement through its activities and programs.

The WSESI currently serves over 200 members in Wisconsin, and welcomes new member's every year. Anyone involved in the many aspects of fire service instruction is eligible for membership in the WSESI.

<https://www.wsesi.org>



Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors

To provide the people of Wisconsin we serve with effective life safety strategies through comprehensive inspection, public education, code management, and fire investigation training and awareness. We also strive through diligent practice and enforcement to keep all persons, including members of the fire service Safe.

The Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association fosters the highest standards of fire prevention in the state of Wisconsin through progressive Fire Inspections and Public Fire and Life Safety Education.

<http://www.wsfia.org>



Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association

Building on rich traditions that have shaped the organization since its founding in 1929, the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs' Association has evolved into an active, powerful organization that works to benefit the Wisconsin Fire and Emergency Service and Wisconsin's Fire Officers. From leadership development to legislative advocacy, the Wisconsin State Fire Chiefs Association provides the resources that its members need to succeed.

<https://wsfca.com>



Wisconsin EMS Association

The Wisconsin EMS Association (WEMSA) represents and supports the views and interests of our membership in Wisconsin communities by promoting education, sharing information, and facilitating legislative action. Founded in 1973, WEMSA currently has 7,000 individual members and 375 Service/Business members representing ambulance services, first responder organizations, and allied EMS organizations. The Association is governed by a 12 member board of directors elected by the membership, and is run by 6 full-time staff members.

<https://www.wisconsinems.com>



Wisconsin State Fire Fighters Memorial

The Wisconsin State Firefighters Memorial Board of Directors has chosen to provide a unique and lasting way to pay tribute to firefighters from the State of Wisconsin who have made this ultimate sacrifice while in service to their communities. This tribute has taken the form of a Memorial Park dedicated to preserving their memory.

The vision of the WFSM was to create a park with a natural and scenic setting to house a memorial to our firefighting heroes from across this great State of Wisconsin. The serenity of the setting allows park visitors to be alone with their thoughts and emotions and at the same time realize that their loved one will never be forgotten.

<https://www.wsfm.org/default.cfm>



Wisconsin Chapter of National Fire Sprinkler Association

Fire sprinklers are the single most effective way to stop fires anywhere, not just in new, large public buildings. There are systems designed for houses, high rises, existing buildings, campus housing and every other building where people live or work.

The Wisconsin Chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Association is here to help consumers, fire safety professionals and builders to understand and benefit from fire sprinklers.

<https://nfsa.org/chapters/wisconsin/>



THE DISPATCHER'S 12 PUBLICATION PARTNERS CONT.

Wisconsin Arson Insurance Council

WAIC was formed to promote communication and cooperation between fire and police departments, insurance organizations, law firms, district attorney offices, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, and any other person or organization with an interest in combating arson in Wisconsin. Previously, some local groups were formed to combat arson, but WAIC was the first such organization to establish a state-wide organization. WAIC established and still maintains the hotline for arson fire tips leading to the arrest and conviction of arsonist. The hotline remains the "heart" of WAIC's commitment to combat arson.

<https://www.wiarsonhotline.org/about>



Badger Firefighters Association

BFA started with THE DISPATCHER in 1984: Organized in 1893, today there are 35 Fire Departments from Southeast WI representing over 2000 firefighters and EMT's.

The object of this Association is the cultivation of fraternal fellowship between the different departments belonging to this association; the protection and promotion of the best interests of the firefighters and the citizens they serve; the collection of information concerning the practical workings of the different systems of the different kinds of fire apparatus and firefighting and life saving equipment suitable to our conditions.

<https://www.badgerfirefightersassociation.com>



Professional Ambulance Association of Wisconsin

Mission statement: Healthy, sustainable EMS delivery with current employer membership of over 40 members having over 2,500 employees and having over 400,000 patient contact or EMS calls.

<https://www.paaw.us>



All our publication partners have the same mission "Everyone Goes Home" Please support them and "stay safe"

American Tribute Ride

It is the mission of the American Tribute Ride to honor those that have served and those that continue to serve our country, unselfishly. We honor these individuals as ambassadors of goodwill exemplified by the passion, bravery, dedication and brotherhood to serve our country and its citizens. The American Tribute Ride is dedicated to supporting those programs that help our responders, whether they are Military, Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement and their families.

<http://americantributeride.com>



Gear Up Foundation

Gear Up Foundation has been a living tribute to firefighters, first responders & our military for nearly 2 decades. Uniting our world in response to the attacks on 9/11 is our way to honor those who answer the call ever day.

<https://www.gearupworld.org>



The Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation

(PFFWCF) is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Our work is at the heart of every community across Wisconsin. Where there is a burn survivor trying to navigate life beyond their injuries, you'll find us. Where there is an event to honor a fallen fire fighter or raise funds for the family left behind, you'll find us. Where there is a group of kids eager to learn how they can help keep their family and their home safe, we'll be there. We're proud leaders of a coalition of champions across the state – including partner organizations, industry professionals and the public – who work every day to help keep our burn survivors, fire fighters and communities healthy, safe and strong.

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation is to champion community risk reduction initiatives; promote fire safety and prevention; and deliver meaningful support to burn survivors, fire fighters and communities.

VISION STATEMENT: The vision of the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin Charitable Foundation is for all those we serve to be healthy, safe and supported in their lives and in their communities.

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<https://pffwcf.org>



THE DISPATCHER is one of the best advertising tools available in the state. The people who receive THE DISPATCHER are the people who could be planning a fund raiser to buy a piece of rescue equipment or to purchase a new apparatus. These people are your community leaders and decision makers. Contact us for advertising rates - we offer SPECIAL DISCOUNTS for Fire Departments and non-profit organizations.

Ads must be sent as a high resolution PDF. Please test the integrity of your PDF files by opening them and making a print (of any size). All photos, artwork, and fonts used on the 4/color pages must be included. **Your ads can be emailed to us at dispatcher@bertramwireless.com.** Please call 920-946-9460 with questions. **Ads must be received by the 25th of the month in order to be included in the next month's edition.**