

New C.P.R. Certifications for Fire Fighters

Hazelwood firefighters all recertify their CPR training every two years with the American Heart Association. We have many certifications that various members of the department maintain including paramedic, technical rescue, child safety seat installer, and many more. Not everyone fits into every category. However, all maintain their CPR certification whenever it comes up. We are also proud to have two certified instructors in CPR who work for the American Red Cross part-time. We always stand ready to help our community in their most critical time of need.



Stone construction stuff like barns, pens, houses, sheds. That sort of thing.

HFD: If you could have lunch with anyone living or dead, who would it be?

Tom: Well, a guy like Bill Gates. I don't get him, he's just so loaded! What must he be like? I'd like to have met Johnny Cash. I just think he's a cool dude.

HFD: Do you have a philosophy of life?

Tom: Well, there are a few expressions that come to mind that are meaningful to me. "Change is inevitable, growth is optional" is a great one. "Always look on the bright side of life." (Isn't that from that Monty Python musical?)

I just try never to take myself too seriously, keep a thick skin—which you have to do here around the firehouse—and I'm the first to laugh at myself before I laugh at others. I like the quote from the movie Stripes, "Lighten up Francis." Everybody could stand to lighten up once in a while. And I think it's a good idea to get to know someone before you judge them in your mind.



Burning Issues

A Publication of the Hazelwood Fire Department

February 2009

NEW FIRE EXPLORER OFFICERS

Exploring is a program developed and coordinated by the Boy Scouts of America that allows youth from age 14 through 20 an opportunity to "try out" a career in a given business field. Fire departments that sponsor an Explorer Post allow the members to participate in training, emergency situations, and other routine activities along with the professional firefighters. In this way, they can determine their own interest in the fire service as a career without having to spend the time and money needed to obtain the necessary educational requirements for most positions in this field.



Each year the Hazelwood Fire Department Explorer Post 9341 holds annual elections for officers of the Post. Explorer Post officers set the agenda for the membership for the year and carry out assignments from Battalion Chief Randy Getz, an employee of the fire department, who serves as the Post Advisor.

"The membership really takes seriously the responsibility of electing officers," says BC Getz. "They know that the people they put up there are the ones who will be assigning tasks and giving them orders all year."

Patrick Renner has been elected to the position of Post Chief. He will oversee all activities of the Post and assign duties to subordinate officers.

Stu Stevens will serve at the Post's new Assistant Chief. In this role, he will fill in for the Chief when necessary and carry out any other tasks as assigned by the Post Chief or Advisor.

Post Captains are the crew leaders for the Post membership which is divided into groups. This is done for the purpose of creating realistic training scenarios where crews work together to achieve a common goal. Captains also help develop those training sessions. Their input keeps the various skill levels of their team members in the forefront for accurate training development. Evin Harry, Chad Metz, and Rudy Steinmeyer will serve as this year's Post Captains.

Additionally, members of the post who are not officers are often given point roles so that they may also develop leadership skills among the group.

The Hazelwood Fire Department's Exploring program is widely recognized as a quality organization that helps build professional fire fighters and paramedics of the future. The program has twice won the Spurgeon Award, the highest available from the Boy Scouts of America.

Youth Safety Goes Farther Than Fire Prevention for Community Young Adults

We at the Hazelwood Fire Department are proud of our relationship with **Youth In Need** and has established youth “Safe Place” locations at each of our fire stations.



Youth In Need is an organization that operates a

24-hour help service and shelter for boys and girls age 10 to 18. they maintain a crisis help line, mobile street outreach unit, and counseling for troubled youth.

Their mission statement is as follows:

Believing in the power of potential, Youth In Need's mission is to provide nurturing environments and educational opportunities so children, youth and families will find safety and hope, achieve their goals, and build a positive future.

Youth In Need's background and current scope is outlined on their website in this way:

- Non-profit organization founded in 1974 in St. Charles, Missouri,

by community volunteers. The agency initially sheltered runaway and homeless youth and reunited them with their families.

- Currently operates 30 sites throughout the eastern Missouri region (St. Louis City and St. Charles, Lincoln, Warren and Montgomery Counties).

- Youth In Need provides residential homes, homeless street outreach, early childhood education, counseling and support groups, teen parent services and foster care case management for children of all ages and their families.

- Youth In Need is supported by diversified funding from state, federal and local government grants and contracts, corporations, foundations and individual contributions.

- Youth In Need offers a “safe place” to area children and teens at more than 250 area locations in St. Charles County and St. Louis.



Fire Fighter Profile: Tom Stone



Tom Stone is a 25 year veteran of our department and holds the rank of Battalion Chief. He is responsible for setting the training schedule for all firefighters.

Tom was born in Hazelwood when it was a much smaller town. He graduated from Hazelwood West in 1979 and went on to several small jobs. “The family owned a sporting goods business in St. Charles that I managed for a while.” Tom tells us. “I was also a forklift operator and worked at several restaurants as a cook.”



Tom is into helping people and connecting with others in need on a personal level.

HFD: How did you meet your wife?

Tom: That's funny, it's sort of a '3's Company' [TV show] thing. I met her when I was on a date with my girlfriend at the time.

HFD: Do you have children?

Tom: Yes. Our sons Bob and Joe are 28 and 25 years old. They both spend a lot of time at the Missouri State Prison in Pacific.

HFD: Really!

Tom: No, no! They work there. They don't live there!

HFD: And your daughter?

Tom: Yes, Meg is 18 and studying to be a nurse. She loves horses and rides in competitions from time to time.

HFD: You have a lot of other animals too, don't you?

Tom: Oh yeah, we've got a whole family farm. We train horses and a show dog—that's an Aussie Shepherd. We've got chickens, cows, everything. I don't know why, but we do.

HFD: What do you and the family like to do for fun?

Tom: We like to trail ride in Missouri State Parks, 4-wheel ATV ride, go to horse shows, all kinds of outdoor stuff. I'm also into building