West Bend Fire Department
Fire Prevention Open House

Sparky and The West Bend Fire Department Blue Shift hosted our annual Fire Prevention Month Open House on Saturday, October 10th.
See story about our open house and other October activities on Page 5.

.....Acting to Save

Emergency Activities

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<th>Types of Calls</th>
<th>October 2015</th>
<th>September 2015</th>
<th>Year to Date (2015)</th>
<th>Year to Date (2014)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fires Calls</td>
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<td>Paramedic Intercepts</td>
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The American Heart Association (AHA) is devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke, the two leading causes of death in the world. The AHA released their 2015 Guidelines Update for CPR on October 15th. These guidelines are updated every 5 years and are based on an international evidence evaluation process.

The guidelines recommend more training to develop a better System of Care. Everyone from bystanders (lay rescuers) to advanced healthcare providers should know what to do in the event of a cardiovascular emergency. The new guidelines emphasize creating a culture of action that benefits the entire community inside and outside the hospital setting.

Studies have shown how proper training, quick action, use of technology, and coordinated efforts can increase survival from cardiac arrest.

Lay rescuers must recognize cardiac arrest, call for help, initiate quality CPR, and provide defibrillation until a team of professionally trained emergency medical responders arrive. These responders continue care and transport the patient to an emergency department or a cardiac catheterization lab.

Every person physically capable should know how to perform CPR. Untrained lay rescuers should provide Hands Only (compression only) CPR for victims of cardiac arrest. Compression only CPR is easy for an untrained rescuer to perform. It is effective in restoring circulation and can be improved when guided by 911 dispatchers over the phone.
You’re having chest pain. What do you do? Call 911 and get one of our Paramedic Level Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulances to assist you. During a heart attack, time is muscle! As minutes pass during a heart attack more heart muscle dies. Once part of the heart muscle dies or infarcts that area of the heart will never function the same again. So time is of the essence.

When you call 911 you are going to get 3 highly trained paramedics coming to help you. These paramedics will do a complete assessment to identify what is happening with your heart. This is done by asking you questions about your symptoms as well as your medical history. They will also use one of our cardiac monitors to take a look at your heart. They will do a 12 lead EKG which shows what the heart is doing from different views. The pattern of the lines that are visible on the EKG have significant meaning to our medics. The lines indicate problem areas in the heart and most importantly can identify a heart attack in progress.

If our medics suspect that a patient is having a myocardial infarction (MI) or heart attack they will send a copy of the 12 lead EKG to the ER doctor at St. Joseph’s Hospital. After sending the EKG they will then call that same doctor and consult with them about the patient’s signs, symptoms, care already given and additional interventions indicated. During this consult if both the ER doctor and the paramedics believe it to be appropriate they will arrange to activate a cardiac catheterization lab at the nearest hospital with cardiac care. A cath lab is an operating room set up just for cardiac procedures. Catheterization is a technique used to open the blocked blood vessels.

When paramedics can initiate activation of the cath lab from the scene or during transport the patient can then be taken directly to the operating room. Since a complete assessment and diagnosis has already taken place in the field time is not wasted evaluating the patient in the emergency department. The patient will move directly from our cot onto the operating table. The waiting cardiologist will begin the procedure immediately. Again time is muscle and opening the blocked cardiac vessels as soon as possible will stop the damaging effects of a heart attack. The extensive cardiac knowledge and training that our paramedics have allows for immediate identification and treatment of heart attacks allowing for the best possible recovery.

Philips Defibrillator/Cardiac Monitor that is used by WBFD Paramedics

Paramedic Kolberg doing a 12 lead EKG on Paramedic Williams during ACLS class
October 2015 Prevention & Inspection Activities

One of the fundamental missions of The West Bend Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of The City of West Bend residents through fire safety and injury prevention education programs and activities. Our strategy is to reduce fire deaths and injuries by focusing on prevention. For us to be successful in our prevention efforts we must identify unsafe behaviors and create awareness about those behaviors so that we can affect change.

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October Activities Focus on Prevention continued

We do this by conducting training, providing lectures and performing fire safety and injury prevention demonstrations. These activities take place in schools, among community groups, at tenant/condo association meetings, in churches, at senior centers & daycare centers and in many other locations in the city.

We address the common causes of fire and injuries and provide information on how to identify risk factors and how to make changes to reduce the risks. A large percentage of our fire prevention programs are targeted to those most vulnerable, young children, disabled people and older adults.

Our Fire Prevention Open House is our biggest event each year. We invite the public to our station to learn all about who we are, what we do and what they can do to be safe. We have interactive displays such as our fire safety house and our fire extinguisher trainer. Our guests are also invited to participate in our fire safety scavenger hunt for a chance to win breakfast with the firefighters. The many activities allow for families to leave with improved understanding of fire safety practices.

In October we also gave numerous other presentations, did engine company visits and participated in “Walk your child to work day” with the West Bend School District. Members of the WBFD and the WBPD walked with students and their parents to each of the elementary schools and promoted traffic and pedestrian safety.
3404 George Court

Neighbors discovered a fire in the roof of a house at 3404 George Court at about 11 pm. during the evening of October 4. The occupants were unaware of the fire and were alerted by the neighbors. Everyone safely escaped from the house.

The house is located in the town of West Bend which doesn’t have hydrants so water was hauled to the scene by truck.

The first arriving battalion chief upgraded the alarm to a MABAS Working Still upon receipt of the call and eventually to a “Box” level due to heavy overhaul operations.

Fire was found extending up the side of the house and into the attic area. A water tower was used to reach the fire and achieve initial knock down of the flames before firefighters could enter the house.

Some personal belongings were salvaged at the time of the fire with help from the firefighters on scene although the structure was heavily damaged. The Red Cross and family members assisted the family. An investigation determined the fire started near fireplace chimney and damages were estimated at $275,000.

5466 Woodland Summit

Noise in the house awoke the residents. A fire on the upper level deck and in attic was discovered when they went to investigate. Again, this fire was located in the town of West Bend and required over 85,000 gallons of water to be trucked to the scene.

There were several challenges in fighting the fire due to the location of the house. A relay pumping operation was used to move water from the road to an engine near the house.

A second challenge was the location of the fire at the back of the house. The exposed basement created a third story which required crews to move several hose lines and strategically place them for the best advantage.

Suppression efforts took several house as the fire moved through the house due to lightweight construction methods and a steady breeze that fueled the flames.

An investigation revealed the fire started on the upper deck and spread into the house. The occupants escaped and there were no injuries. Damages were estimated to exceed $800,000.

Assistance was received from Newburg, Jackson, Kewaskum, Kohlsville, Allenton, Slinger, Boltonville, Fillmore, Germantown, St. Lawrence, Hartford, Washington County Emergency Management, Richfield Fire and the Red Cross. The Washington County Sheriff’s Department assisted with traffic control and the investigation.
Over 25,000 Chimney Fires occur in the United States every year causing over 120 million dollars in damages. Thousands of injuries and even deaths occur from chimney Fires that spread to the structure of the home.

Defective chimney liners or structural problems allow high temperatures sparks and embers to escape to combustible areas in walls, roofs or attics. A common cause of chimney fires is creosote inside the chimney catching fire and burning inside the chimney. Creosote is a by-product of burning that coats the inside of your chimney that needs to be removed during regular annual chimney cleaning.

Your fire should produce the soft crackling sound, not ones like a freight train barreling toward your house at 100 miles an hour. There are two different types of chimney fires that are quite easy to tell apart. Free Burning fires sound like the freight train or roaring airplane in your chimney. The blaze is loud and unmistakable. Usually dramatic flames or billowing smoke are lapping out of your chimney top. The other fire is slow burning. This quieter version is no less dangerous. You may not even know that it is taking place. This undetected fire burns slowly and at high temperatures that can cause more than just structural damage to your chimney, they can easily catch flammable parts of your home on fire as well.

As with other types of fire, the first step that should always be taken is to get out of harm’s way and call 911. After everyone is safe and the situation permits, you can first try to cut the air supply off leading to the chimney by closing the damper or any other pipes to attempt to smother the fire. Then close the glass doors and leave the home. Once outside, take a garden hose and spray water on the roof around the chimney to prevent the roof from catching fire.

The best way to prevent a chimney fire is to only burn dried out wood. Start fires with clean newspaper or dry kindling. Never use gas or kerosene to start a fire. Never burn cardboard boxes, wrapping paper or Christmas Trees. Get regular chimney inspections and cleanings to remove the excess creosote from the chimney walls and ensure safe burning.
Personnel Spotlight: FF/Paramedic Alec Hakes

WBFD would like to welcome Alec Hakes. Alec grew up in Menomonee Falls and was previously a member of the Menomonee Falls Fire Department.

Alec graduated from UW-Oshkosh with a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science. He received his fire and paramedic training at Waukesha County Technical College.

Alec has recently moved to West Bend and is looking forward to enjoying all of the parks and recreational areas that our community has to offer. Alec enjoys hiking, running and biking.

Alec is looking forward to using his firefighting and paramedic skills as a member of our department.

Welcome Alec!