

Chief's Message

Believe me; I am a person that believes and was brought up by the adage “keep your ears open and your mouth shut”. Although I am in a position that doesn't always allow me to do that, I do practice it quite often—probably more so away from work, though.

The other night we were over a family friends house for dinner and talk came around to the fire department. The gentleman I was visiting is a long time resident of the lakes region and even worked for the City of Laconia for a few years in the DPW. He made a comment that he couldn't understand why the fire department takes a fire engine out of the station to shovel hydrants in the winter.

Being respectful and thoughtful, I tried to read into the question something more that he might be trying to say. That gets me in trouble some times.... But, in this case I really couldn't come up with a hidden question. And, he could tell that I wasn't quite satisfied with the question so he asked me if that's what we

did in Tilton-Northfield. I said, “Yes it was.” He said that it just didn't make any sense to him. The shoveling should be able to be done by one guy with a pick up truck. So, I started to explain that it is important for us to take the trucks with us if there is nobody left in that station to cover for us; and he interrupted me. “Exactly!”, he said, “That's where the fire guys should be; back at the station waiting for a call!” And, then he said, “Maybe I'm just old fashioned, that's all.”

Well, I chuckled and let the conversation slowly die its own death without adding any additional pain to it.

I have thought about that brief encounter a number of times since it occurred. I think there are a few hidden lessons in it. First; sometimes you just never know where someone is going with a conversation. Sometimes it is better just to let someone speak before you jump to a conclusion or say something that aggravates or insults the speaker. Second; there are a lot of educated, intelligent, and informed people around that

just don't know what we do, how we do it, and why we do it. And, thirdly; sometimes people think the same as you do, they just get there in a different way.

Of course some of my comments are tongue-in-cheek, but they are still lessons. We need to do a better job of educating the public as to who we are, what we do, how we do it, and why we do it. Then the job of requesting the proper resources to do our jobs will become easier. We will always battle apathy; especially in our profession. Not many people “use” our services. But, you know what? Everybody depends on them.

For these reasons, I will slowly make this newsletter more “public”. We will start sending it to our neighboring departments, our select-boards, our police departments, and even some of our business owners.

We have a lot to be proud of. For too long we have said, “Aw, it's nothing. It's just part of the job.” It's time to start saying, “your welcome” instead.

Chief

(continued from page 1)

am so very grateful to them. Their job is dangerous and hard enough without their having to pump out basements. They had at least 30 calls in that one day and must have been exhausted.

Words can never express the appreciation I have for these men and as a community perhaps we need to be more aware of these men who someday may save our lives or give us the help we need.

Thank you Tilton-Northfield

firefighters. You saved my furnace.

Bev Allbee

This is why we pump basements! Thank you, very much, for all of you that were involved. It is worth it!

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

April 30, 2007	0900 hrs	FF Survival #1 – Attack Hoseline Chief Carrier Center Street
April 30, 2007	1800 hrs	Respiratory Emergencies David Rivers Center Street
May 1, 2007	0900 hrs	FF Survival #1 – Attack Hoseline Chief Carrier Center Street
May 2, 2007	0900 hrs	FF Survival #1 – Attack Hoseline Lt Ames Center Street
May 7, 2007	0900 hrs	FF Survival #2 – Ventilation Chief Carrier Center Street
May 7, 2007	0900 hrs	Equipment Familiarization Various Instructors Park Street
May 8, 2007	0900 hrs	FF Survival #2 – Ventilation Chief Carrier Center Street
May 9, 2007	0900 hrs	FF Survival #2 – Ventilation Chief Carrier Center Street
May 14, 2007	0900 hrs	FF Survival #3 – Collapse Zones Chief Carrier Center Street

Page 5 Picture Notes

The 2 pictures on page 5 were taken by Captain Ober during a walk-through of the 2 new buildings at the Tilton School.

The picture on the left is of the floor support system used during construction of the residence hall. Not that ALL of the material used is pre-engineered "I" beams and plywood. The only non-laminated materials in the photo are the wire and the partitions! Also note the "punch-outs" where the "BX" cable is run through the beams. What does this mean to us? Well... laminated wood products de-laminate when exposed to fire. This weakens the beam and the flooring system, usually resulting in catastrophic collapse of the floor when weight is applied to it; such as a firefighter crawling across it. The good thing is that the building will have a complete sprinkler system and hopefully, we will never have to worry about the floor holding up. The punch-outs will certainly allow fire to spread in between the joist voids. This construction is being used all over our district—residential and commercial. We are hearing more and more reports of firefighters falling through floors. A proper and thorough size up is essential to prevent this from happening to you. If the fire is below you, you are too high with this type of construction. If you have a cellar fire in new construction, look for other ways to attack the fire rather than from above it. Use the thermal imager to take a good look at the floor and find out where your heat is. Be careful and be safe with this new construction.

The picture on the right is a wall mock up that is actually still standing in front of the new academic building on Division D of the Alumni building. It was built at the architect's request so that they could see the construction method. The only thing missing from the mock up is a 3" layer of foam insulation between the sheet insulation and the brick "veneer" wall. Yes, veneer. Take a close look at the picture to see the ties used to hold the brick on the wall. Although they are not insignificant, they are susceptible to damage from fire and if they fail, you will be left with a free-standing, unsupported, single brick wide wall, 50' tall on Division A. A far cry from the original brick construction on the existing building. Don't be fooled by veneers. The only way to know for sure is to get out of the station and into these buildings to see for yourself. I guarantee that I would pull up to that building and sign on scene with a 3 story brick building if I hadn't seen it myself.

By the way... The new academic building is a fire resistive (Type I) building. The residence hall is wood frame (Type 5), but fully protected with sprinklers and alarms.

From the New England Journal of Medicine, March 22, 2007. Emergency Duties and Deaths from Heart Disease Among Firefighters in the United States.

Certain emergency firefighting duties were associated with a risk of death from coronary heart disease that was markedly higher than the risk associated with non-emergency duties. Fire suppression was associated with the highest risk, which was approximately 10 to 100 times as high as that for non-emergency duties.

Keep In Shape—Eat Smart—Exercise Regularly!

and spread rapidly, unchecked. Captain Ober is working with the school to develop a plan to install a complete sprinkler system throughout the building.

- ◆ There is a large atrium in the new academic building. There are 2 very large fans at the top of the atrium that will activate automatically upon a smoke detector activation anywhere in the atrium, at any level. We asked that there be a manual override—usable by firefighters to clear smoke in the event of a cold smoke situation or smoke isolated in a remote area that could be easily removed with these fans, absent a smoke detector activation.
- ◆ There is a standpipe in the Division C stairwell of the new academic building which will be fed off the fire pump. All that is required from us is to pump the fire department connection on Division B.
- ◆ As a matter of fact, if the sprinkler system activates at the new residence hall across the street, the fire pump in the new academic building supplies it. So... you actually could pump the FDC at either building and have the same result.
- ◆ The road into the Ice Rink, Chapel, Mansion, and new residence hall will be named McMorin Drive. Each building will have a numbered address and the residence hall will have apartment numbers.
- ◆ There are a few apartments in the residence hall, a number of student dorm rooms, and a seating area with a mini-kitchen.
- ◆ McMorin Drive will be accessed (and the numbers

will run) from School Street near Pillsbury Lane. So the numbers will increase as you come back toward Main Street.

- ◆ The lower end of McMorin Drive (nearly opposite of Academy Street) will remain open but will most likely be exit only due to the difficulty in navigating the tight turn while coming up the hill from Main Street.

It was a very informative tour. The site supervisors were happy to see us, as was the headmaster, and all of the subcontractors were extremely helpful in answering question about the building and its systems.

Please, if you get a chance, take a walk through the buildings to familiarize yourself.



***Anyone Wishing to Supply Pictures or
Write Articles for Future Newsletters
Please forward your materials to Chief
Carrier by Wednesday of each week!***

Thanks.

Don't Forget Old Home Day! June 30th. The last Saturday in June. This year we will be opening our station to the public for at least part of the day. Of course, fund-raising will be the goal for the day—selling our world-famous sausage subs and fried dough. Write the date down. Looking forward to it!!!