



Smoke Signals

SMOKE SIGNALS is published monthly for Volunteers, Staff and Friends of IVFD.
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**February
2017**

Chief's Message

By Dennis Hoke: Fire Chief, Paramedic, EFO dennishoke@ivfire.com



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We just finished another calendar year. Last month I talked about our accomplishments. So what do we intend to do this year? This is an important question. I believe that a fire distinct (and real life) you have to have a path. Like the cliché, "If you have no idea where you are going, than any path will get you there." When I first started with IVFD, I set some lofty goals. I think we have been successful in reaching most of them.

One of the things I review often is our Mission Statement and our Strategic Plan. I use both when I plan for the future. Our mission statement (below) should be the basis of decisions and planning.

"To make a positive difference in the lives of those we serve by providing pre-

mier emergency service with the resources that we have been entrusted with."

I have said every year, "the coming year will be pivotal", 2017 will be no different. This year we will be asking the voters to agree to pay for career firefighters on three shifts. The request is for 0.50/1,000 of assessed value. This will allow us to hire 4 firefighter/EMT's, 3 on shift and a float. What will that this do for the District and the customers we serve? We need to be prepared to answer this in public because it's the voters who will decide.

Shift based firefighters will improve our response time by having dedicated drivers and EMT's for immediate response augmented by shift base volunteers. We

struggle to provide shift coverage especially with members who can drive whatever apparatus that is needed. On scene staffing for a structure fire is dismal during the day when most volunteers work or go to school. Night time staffing is a little better when more volunteers are available.

The new Firefighter/EMT's will also have project assignments such as pre-fire planning and helping with fire inspections. They will have station projects that will reduce the work load on the volunteers. Duty Officer responses will be reduced when the career personnel are at full performance level. This is just a few of the benefits we will gain with career staffing.

2017 will see another tender placed in service and an old tender sold. The refurbish military chassis conversion has proved to be a very cost effective program saving the District over \$150K. We continue to look at the fleet and how we can improve. We are also looking at how we can replace a type 6 engine each year. I would like to replace 8901 but I don't see this happening for at least three years. We also need to look at high mileage staff vehicles in 2017.

The fire stations are in the right locations but Stations 5 and 6 are in poor condition. We are currently working with the Deer Creek Grange and Josephine County to construct a new Station 5 on their property with a 99 year lease. I met with the County and they will support a driveway easement for the property. Hopes are we can complete this project in 2018.

The training facility is still in the works. There are a lot of hurdles but this is the most important endeavor

we can undertake. We have to have adequate training facilities and props to meet our mission. Deputy Chief Gavlik works this issue almost full time.

We have applied for a grant to add a radio repeater in the Cave Junction area to improve our communications throughout the District. We have also applied for vehicle repeaters. This will allow you to use your portable radio to activate a much higher power vehicle radio in our poor radio coverage areas.

As we look at the short term future, we must also look 10-15 years out. What will IVFD look like in 2030? I will be working with the staff to develop a 15+ year master plan. Again it's developing a path for the future.

I am excited about what the future holds for IVFD. We are a strong organization, with dedicated volunteers representing the firefighters, Support and CERT. We know we need more volunteers, especially firefighters and we continue to recruit. You can help by spreading the word about this organization and where we are going. I think people want to be part of a progressive organization that has values that are similar to their personal values. You made a choice to be part of IVFD. I appreciate that. Help me spread the word about IVFD and also urge voters to vote in the May election.

Until next... Let's be safe out there

Dennis

Jeff ,(although I think I may have called you Greg. I was up for 2 days and a little rummy)

Thanks again for your help yesterday with my parents. I wanted to share with you that Brian and David were understanding and of great assistance in helping me get my aging parents out of their house yesterday. My parents who are both elderly. My father 84 and is diabetic, post CABG and stroke, and is quite a lot of work. My mother (who cares for him) was diagnosed with breast cancer 2 weeks before Christmas and had a Mastectomy on the 20th of December. I anticipate some challenges with them and their independence as they adjust to these medical challenges. Please express a sincere "Thank You" for everything and everyone at IV Fire for their help.

Sincerely,

Erin Sawall
Battalion Chief—Medford Fire-Rescue



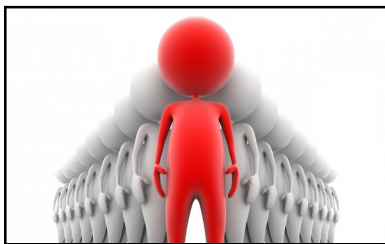


Training and Safety

By Jeff Gavlik: Deputy Chief

Sometimes, during the start of a new year, we get an opportunity to reflect on where we are going or where we would like to be. So where are we going within the fire district?

The training building facility is moving slowly forward with the seeking of bids for both the building and the site preparation. My hope is to see ground breaking by spring.



I am actively looking to buildup our leadership within our ranks. As such, I have finished writing up the job description for the rank of "Engineer" giving an

opportunity for individuals to move up the ranks and build on their leadership skills. Also, I have sent two people to the Fire Officer I academy and will be looking to continue to send others (Engineers) as their interest and actions demonstrate a willingness to lead others. For those of you that have had difficulties completing the Firefighter I Task Books, I will be setting up a task performance day. This will consist of five selected tasks with three evaluators all in one day to obtain your state DPSST certification.

On the medical side, I will be planning an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) class for this spring with an expected March start date, more details to follow. Additionally, the next Firefighter I academy will be starting April 22nd with registration needing to be in by March 22nd. If you know of anyone interested please have them get an application as early as possible.

The Apparatus Operator/Driver program is now online giving those needing to take this course the ability to complete it at home during the hours that works best for the individual student. For more information see Chief Ismaili or myself for details.

The Explorer group is moving forward with the lead being from the Middle school aged group. If you

know of any high school aged students interested in this program, please have them come see me and I will get them all the information to get started. Also, I would like to set up a Firefighter vs. Explorer challenge during one of their regular meeting nights. This should be fun and they might just surprise you in what they can do! Stay tuned for details.

What are your goals and dreams? What would you like to see happen within our department i.e. training, operations, etc? I would love to hear from you and get your feedback.



Logistics

By Kris Sherman;
Division Chief Logistics

Well by the time this goes to print we will have picked up our water tender from Randco Tanks in Washington. We are still looking for a name for it and are looking at choosing the appropriate one soon. We will need to install lights and radio in it and hope to get it in service by the first of March.

I'm glad to report that we didn't have any accidents during the snow and flooding events. I'd like to thank everyone that was able to help out during these events.

We are getting a windshield and hard top for the 6x6 from Bill Jones from eBay sales department. Super ATV has donated them to the Fire District. So now we can keep most of the weather off of us. Thanks again Bill.

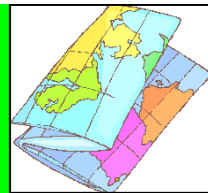
Tom has finished the ramps for the 6x6 trailer and they work great.

I think we got all the leaks in the Stations fixed if not please notify me. I'd like to thank Neil for taking on Station 3 leaks.

That's all for now from the Maintenance Department.



CERT



By Sue Williams

Finding Our Way

Is it north? Or south? . . . East or West? Finding our way around the Illinois Valley can be challenging at times, and fun, especially when we hear a street name or location we've never heard before, much less have any idea where it is. So, here is this month's challenge to our CERT members: Find these streets and roadways, and identify the city. Then figure out the best way to get to them. (You may use a regular map . . . but NO FAIR using GoogleMaps or other search aids!)

The "Pines" of IV:

Pinewood Way
Pine Cone Drive
Pinetree Way

The "Creek" Roads:

Forest Creek Road
Chapman Creek Road
Crooks Creek Road

Reeves Creek Road
Indian Creek Road
Page Creek Road
Leuzenger Creek Road
Bear Creek Road

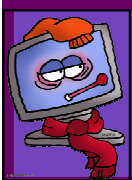
The "Ladies" Roads:

Laurel Road
Squaw Mountain Road
Shirley Lane
Mona Way
JeanneWay
Queen of Bronze Road

The "Eeehawww" Roads:

Cowboy Way
Sparky Way
Buck Canyon Road
Corral Road
Bonanza Drive
Stage Stop Drive

Knowing where and how to get to all the major and secondary roads in our valley is knowledge we all need. Our next call-out may just be at one of the above roads. Enjoy the challenge!



Tech Tips

By David White, Systems Administrator,



Enable new features in Command Prompt

The new Command Prompt in Windows 10 allows you to use Ctrl+C or Ctrl+V to copy and paste commands more easily.

To activate the feature, simply open the Command Prompt, right-click its title bar and select enable the new features under the 'Edit Options' section.

Find apps faster

To avoid scrolling through the alphabetically arranged list of apps, click on any of the letters to view all the

letters of the alphabet.

Now click any alphabet which takes you directly to the apps grouped underneath it.

Find the original Control Panel

The new Settings panel is easy to find and is easier to navigate than the old Control Panel. But the latter is still available and comes in handy for accessing advanced options. You can find it by pressing Win + X on your keyboard and bringing up the power user menu.



Operations & Prevention

By Kamron Ismaili; Division Chief Operations and Prevention

Backing Accidents

The one thing that could significantly reduce the number of vehicle accidents, would be to “take reverse out of the rigs.” Indeed, it is believed that backing accidents are the number one type of accidents with fire apparatus.

While backing accidents rarely cause death or make national news, they do cause considerable damage to our apparatus, our stations and personal property. When I hear about backing accidents, I’m reminded of the routine sequential phrase, “C’mon back, c’mon back, [CRASH] whoa!”

Backing accidents are the most common involving emergency vehicles. And they are probably the most embarrassing. They are definitely among the easiest to prevent. Remember the District's SOG covers backing extensively.

On occasion there is tragedy with backing accidents. On Jan. 2, 2009 a 57-year-old N.J. firefighter, a 28-year veteran, was killed when he was spotting for an apparatus on the scene of a working house fire. The driver of the engine that ran over him was a 25-year veteran firefighter. The engine was traveling less than five mph when the accident happened at 2:30 a.m. Certainly, lack of experience was not the cause.

On June 14, 2007, an 82-year-old man was killed in Eldon City, Mo., when a fire department rescue truck backed into him. The rescue truck was at the scene of a medical call.

On Aug. 25, 2004, a Raccoon Township (Pa.) firefighter was killed and another was injured when a new fire truck backed into them at their fire station. They were taking pictures of the recent delivery at the time of the accident.

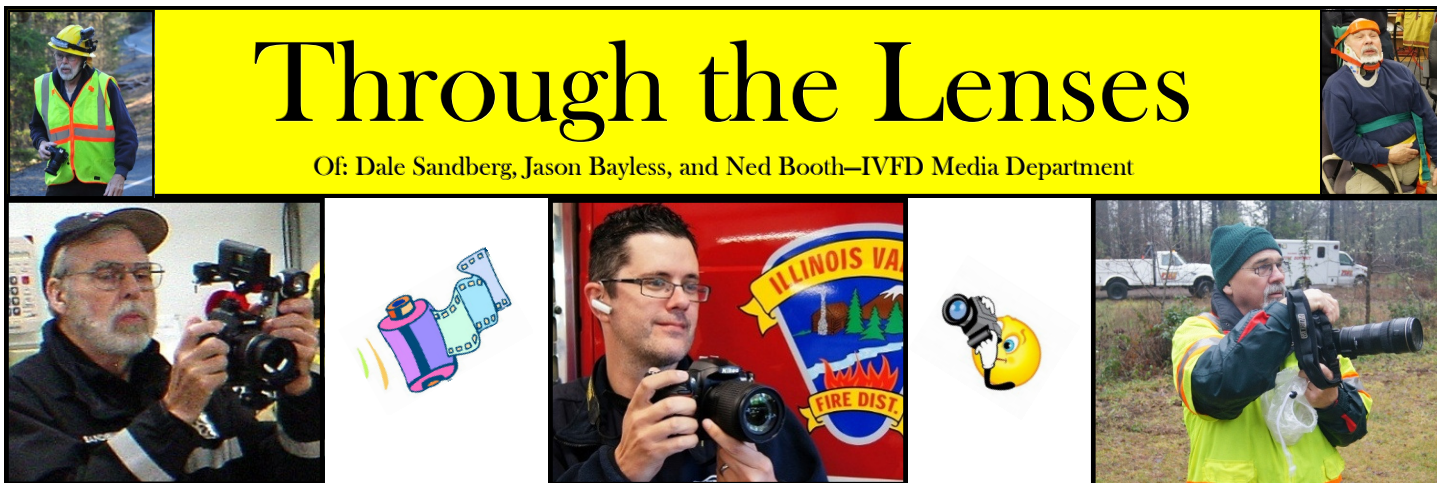
Our backing SOG outlines the responsibilities of the driver and the spotters. Time and space prohibit a thorough review of backing SOGs. However, a few key points need to be stressed. When a driver loses sight of the spotter, STOP. Spotters need to look up at the top of the apparatus as well as down on the ground while remaining visible to the driver. The slightest change in elevation, such as a dip in the street will have a multiplier effect on the motion of the top of the apparatus.

There should be at least one spotter, preferably two. Only one should communicate with the driver if both spotters are at the back. The communication should be through hand signals and the use of a portable radio. Also, someone should be accountable for the movement of the officer's side of the front of the vehicle. This spotter can be positioned either at the front or the rear of the apparatus. There are many occasions when spotters may not be available. This will require the operator to disembark the apparatus and visually confirm safe passage.

Follow the SOGs, use your spotters, do your walk-a-rounds, eliminate distractions, know and maintain your apparatus. Spotters should not need to be told to assist in backing, it just needs to happen. Remember, all personnel, on the apparatus, are accountable for backing safety. Don't be the operator that backs into the building with the spotter sitting next to them.

Through the Lenses

Of: Dale Sandberg, Jason Bayless, and Ned Booth—IVFD Media Department



Life Saving Award Presentation





SMOKE SIGNALS is a monthly newsletter published by the Illinois Valley Fire District
for volunteers, staff and friends.

To get a copy please stop by our administration office at 681 Caves Hwy.

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The Firehouse Cook



By Pramada Kisiela:

Eat Your Greens - Colcannon

We all know how nutritious leafy greens are - and here is a delicious and traditional Irish way to eat them, naturally with potatoes. Some of the recipes I looked up recommend red or yellow (Yukon Gold type) potatoes but it works well with russet potatoes too. Just make sure if you use Russets that they don't boil them too soft. Some purists say Colcannon should be made with kale but cabbage is also traditional and cheaper this time of year. For the weight watchers, just cut down on the butter and use all milk instead of half and half. I've cooked this many times but never used a recipe, so here goes. The recipes online seem to make very small amounts and if I'm going to cook Colcannon I want leftovers for the next day. Adjust amounts accordingly.

- 3 - 4 # Red, Gold or Russet Potatoes scrubbed and cut into pieces
- 4 - 5 cups washed and shredded cabbage or kale
- 1/2 c. chopped green onions
- 3/4 - 1 t. salt
- 1 1/2 c. hot milk or part half and half (add more if potatoes seem dry)
- 6 T. butter
- 1 c. chopped cheddar or sharp cheese
- 2 - 4 T. fresh minced parsley (optional)



Boil potatoes until fork tender and drain. Remove skins of russets; others are fine. While potatoes are cooking, heat butter in a frying pan, add cabbage or kale and salt, and cook until tender. Kale takes longer and may need a bit of water added. When cabbage/kale is almost done, add the green onions.

Mash the drained potatoes with a hand masher (it's fine to leave a few lumps). Stir in salt and hot milk, and add the cooked cabbage or kale. Add the cheese and parsley (if desired). Sprinkle with black pepper. Colcannon can be prepared beforehand and heated up in the oven in a casserole dish. Traditionally served in bowls, make a well in each serving and put a knob of butter.

BUFFALO CHICKEN WINGS

- 10-12 chicken wings (2 1/2 lbs.)
- 1/4 to 3/4 cup hot pepper sauce
- 1/4 cup butter
- Vegetable or peanut oil (for frying)
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 shallot, minced (optional)
- 1 onion, finely minced (optional)
- pinch of sea salt



Fill a heavy bottomed, deep-sided frying pan with at least 1 inch of oil and heat until temperature reaches 400°F.

Split the wings at each joint and discard tips. Rinse and pat dry with paper towels.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, melt butter over low heat with minced garlic. (Finely minced shallots or onions may optionally be added at the same time as the garlic.) If you prefer a smoother sauce, a stick blender may be used to smooth it out and blend in the flavors of the garlic, etc. When the garlic is a golden color, stir in the hot sauce. Add a pinch of salt.

When the oil is the correct temperature carefully lower the wings into the hot oil using a slotted spoon or wire basket, and deep fry for about 12 minutes, or until wings are cooked and crispy.

Drain on paper towels. Toss with the hot sauce, coating several times to cover well.

Serving Suggestion: Serve with a side of extra hot sauce for dipping, and a bowl of [Blue Cheese Dressing](#) or Ranch dip and celery sticks.

Submitted by: CM



BARBECUED CHICKEN WINGS

- 1 1/2 pounds chicken wings
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup chopped lemon grass
- 8 cloves garlic -- chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon white pepper
- 1/4 cup minced cilantro root or coriander root
- 1 teaspoon turmeric

This barbecue recipe is popular with street vendors.

Combine the ingredients for the marinade in a blender. Rinse chicken wings in cold water.

Place the chicken wings into a Ziploc bag with the marinade and leave in the refrigerator overnight.

Barbecue the wings over medium hot coals for 5-7 minutes on each side (turning once, half way through) until they are cooked through and golden brown.

Submitted by: CM



In District

By Neil Kisiela:

Theoretical knowledge is important but it's not enough by itself

There is a difference between listening and hearing. Listening means actively participating, taking in what is heard and trying to understand, while hearing happens automatically while the mind may be wandering on other things. Because of this fact we tend to absorb only part of what we hear and therefore may retain only bits and pieces of it.

That is why additionally we are training to add Muscle Memory. On the fireground, you may not see what you're doing due to smoke or darkness, or you may forget important things under stress. With muscle memory you can do the right thing even in the dark and it comes naturally and automatically. That is one of the reasons why it is essential to train repeatedly. For instance, by repeated training, you can feel through your gloves without looking what end of the hose you're holding. In a fire it is important because female coupling goes to the truck and male coupling goes away from the truck. It is even possible to tell the size of the hose by touching it, providing you handled them enough times before.

If you're not sure about something, don't be afraid to ask questions - don't think you'll look stupid. Asking questions is a good thing, other firefighters around may want to know it too and appreciate your question. Besides it doesn't hurt to hear it or have confirmation again. Have an attitude of wanting to learn - the desire to learn is vital, because if you don't have that desire, guaranteed you won't learn. Don't get annoyed if someone corrects you. If I've been here for 6 months and someone else has been here for 6 years, it won't do any harm to listen, he probably knows more than I do.

In stressful situations like a big structure fire with exposures, or a wildland fire in the summer with strong winds - people may forget things they know - when adrenaline is pumping this may hamper the mind's ability to think quickly or clearly. This is where train-

ing and muscle memory is invaluable. Under stress the mind may play tricks on you - things may be hard to recall, it is a well known fact to EMTs, how stress affects the mind.

If someone asks you a question, don't let ego grab you. Good motives for instructing others are: wanting to share knowledge, to be of help to others, and the mission of IVFD. Some wrong motives would be - wanting to look smart, and be the Big Authority.

You may see someone doing something incorrectly - for example bunching hoses after use instead of "butterflying" them for transport for later washing-- and thus correct them. The person corrected needs to take it as it is meant. On the other hand there is no need to correct someone who is doing a particular thing correctly. Mutual respect, tolerance for other peoples' imperfections and being mission oriented are welcome.

Unsolicited advice is generally not welcome, but in the fire business, we depend on each other. I heard many times since joining the IVFD that the chain is only as strong as the weakest link. So any correction that needs to be made, just makes the whole team work better and the chain is stronger and safer afterwards.

Take note of how you tell or correct others - first, maybe they're doing it right and don't need instruction. Second, if correction is rightly motivated, it will be easier for others to take it. There is absolutely no harm hearing again the right way of doing something. I have never met anyone mortal who can remember or know everything. Have you?

Neil K

Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the wrong. Sometime in life you will have been all of these.

George Washington Carver



Administration

By Robin Paulson; Division Chief Administration



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Chuck Wiles	15
Richard Bouchard	27
Jobe Ratliff	29

Anniversary Date

Celebrating Years of Service..



Dennis Hoke Since 2013

Why You Don't Have to Call it Quits

I read the following... and in many ways it applies to my life. Maybe something here will apply to your life as well.

" ... now the only option left is for you to call it quits. You might have tried doing your best and yet every-

thing seems to be not working. But something within is telling you, if only these limitations could go. If only these crossroads could give way... As heavily as this may press you down, one thing is for sure and that is, 'There's light at the end of a tunnel for anyone who doesn't lose his sight while in it.' Before you call it quits, ask yourself if the journey will be worth the stress afterwards. If your answer is affirmative, then give it the shot! If not, you might stop right here. That business, that job, that relationship might not necessarily need to stop. All you need might be to re-adjust and find a way of making it work rather than call it quits. Remember,



Joys & Concerns

Continue praying for the health of District members and their families.

Betty Jo Latva continues her recovery. Prayers for complete healing.

Connie Hoke is still healing from a skiing accident wherein her arm was broken.

Many are still fighting the nasty flu. Prayers for energy and healthy bodies.

Congratulations again to Dale Sandberg and his family! Beautiful, healthy GREAT-GRAND babies! What a blessing - thanks for sharing with us!

Remember - if you have some Concerns or Joys you would like to share in the newsletter, please drop off a note in my box...