

# Rochester Fire Protection District



## How Can I Be of Service

Randy Romadka, Deputy Chief

I cannot begin to tell you how fortunate we are! We have received a \$250,000.00 zero interest loan from the Office of the Fire Marshall of the State of Illinois, to fund the purchase of a new tanker. The plan is to replace the current Tanker # 2. The effort to create specifications is under way, input is open from anyone on the department or in the community. We are working towards having the specification for the bid completed in May. If you are interested, or have ideas, please email them to me at rfpd6@comcast.net as soon as possible.

The plan is to purchase an NFPA compliant

tanker that will carry 3000 gallons of water and have a 500 gallon per minute centrifugal pump that allows for pump and roll capability. We would like to have a tanker with automatic transmission to facilitate ease of operations and training. We are planning on having an emergency lighting system similar to Tanker 3's twin light bar set up to improve safety. All lights will be LEDS due to the increased life expectancy and increased brightness. Much like Engine 2, there will be an electronic siren and we will have a "Q" mechanical siren. The paint scheme is planned to follow the paint treatment similar to Engine #2.

Nothing related to the purchase of a new tanker is set in stone and everything about the purchase is open to discussion. This purchase is consistent with our on-going efforts to modernize our apparatus.

This is a great opportunity for everyone to buy into the process of purchasing a part of our legacy as the Rochester Fire Protection District. Stay tuned for updates related to the purchase of the new Tanker #2.

## Interview with Firefighter Cindy Cannon

Cindy Cannon is a EMT-B and Firefighter II with the Rochester Fire Protection District.

She and her husband, Richard, have three children, Marisa, Brandt, and Derich. They also have one cat, Autumn.

Cindy grew up in Springfield and attended Glenwood High School. She is a self-employed caregiver.

Cindy enjoys taking care of her new granddaughter and sewing.

She has been with the department for five years. Cindy always had an interest in joining the department, but waited until her children were self sufficient.

Cindy holds certifications as an EMT-B, Firefighter II, CPR Instructor, and CPR/AED.

You Might Be A Firefighter if...You had to extricate someone by cutting the car doors off on one side and realized there was nothing wrong with the door on the other side.

## Safety FIRST Alert

Randy Romadka, Deputy Chief

Per Ron Reyes with Ringers Gloves, "The Barrier -I Extrication Gloves can be machine washed and hung out to dry. A ten (10) per cent bleach solution can be used if the gloves become contaminated." Most importantly, do not dry the Barrier-I Extrication Gloves in a dryer, as this could terminally damage the blood borne pathogen barrier. If there are any questions contact the Deputy Chief.

### May Birthdays

Bob Young—May 4  
Kyle Romadka—May 15

## Safety FIRST Alert

Randy Romadka, Deputy Chief

I have some cleaning and maintenance tips related to the Weather Tuff<sup>®</sup> Fire-storm flame resistant leather that forms the majority of our Globe Magnum structural firefighting boots.

General cleaning can be accomplished with a rag and warm water to wash any dirt off. Follow-up with a cool water rinse. More persistent stains may be rubbed off with a silicone liquid. Be

sure the leather is dry before using the silicone liquid. To restore the leather apply a silicone liquid and air dry after the application.

The application of the silicone liquid will also enhance the water resistance of the leather. Wax shoe polish may be used, but only sparingly as wax build up will reduce the flame resistance of the leather.

# Train Like Your Life Depends On It

Michael Hamilton, Training Officer

Train like your life depends on it. In most training scenarios we have all done it. We have said "oh I have done this a thousand times I don't need to do it here." Well, we do need to do it here to stay on top of our game.

When role playing, it should be taken seriously. We can all improve on our skills. If we just go thru the motions with no real concentration on doing things right then we aren't learning anything. We need to be on top of our game so that when things become a cluster in real life, we can react and keep them from getting worse.

I have been in training where people

say that can never happen. But have you ever been on a call where the monitor is not working? Or when the suction is dead or someone never restocked the IV supplies from the last call? If you train realistically and throw problems in, it prepares you for when you have them on calls. Please train like your life depends on it and encourage everyone else to do the same. Some day your loved ones, or even you, may need these skills and if the person isn't trained, then are they giving the best care possible?

We all can learn. No matter if we are watching or doing hands-on, if we pay attention.



## Swine Influenza

Randy Romadka, Deputy Chief

We are in the midst of a nationwide Human Swine Influenza outbreak. There are still no laboratory-confirmed cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) in Illinois. However, we must be aware and vigilant in our response to this health hazard. This is a rapidly developing situation. If you have questions related to possible swine flu exposure, please contact me as soon as possible.

Most importantly we need to follow generally accepted best practices for influenza precautionary guidelines:

1. Proper and frequent hand washing.
2. Covering a cough, and
3. Covering a sneeze.
4. Proper laundering of handkerchiefs s/p use
5. Appropriate disposal of tissues s/p use

As per the Center for Disease Control ([www.cdc.gov/swineflu](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu)), anyone with respiratory symptoms who has traveled to Mexico or any of the areas with confirmed cases

in the last seven (7) days is at high risk for swine influenza. There are numerous states with confirmed cases of Influenza (H1N1).

Like seasonal flu, swine flu may cause underlying chronic medical conditions to become increasingly severe. The follow issues related to exposures need to be considered:

Consider the possibility of swine influenza virus infections in patients presenting with febrile illness who:

1. Live in a area where human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) have been identified or
2. Have traveled to an area where human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) have been identified or
3. Have been in contact with ill persons from these areas in the seven (7) days prior to their illness onset.

The infectious period for a confirmed case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is one (1) day prior to the case's illness onset to

seven (7) days after the onset of symptoms.

Close contact is defined as being within six (6) feet of an ill person who is a confirmed or suspected case of swine influenza A (H1N1) during the case's infectious period.

Most importantly stay alert to the possibility of exposure. I will continue to update you as this situation matures over time. Any and all questions should be directed to me as your ranking EMS officer and as the identified officer for injury and illness reporting.

Lots more stuff next month in How Can I Be of Service.



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It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

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