



# Faribault Fire Department

# Hot Spots

Welcome to Hot Spots, the Faribault Fire Department newsletter. Hot Spots will be produced bi-monthly and will feature information about the Faribault Fire Department's operations, training, response, safety tips, emergency management, and other points of interest.

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## A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF

Welcome to the first edition of the Hot Spots Newsletter. I hope you find it informative and entertaining at the same time. Get to know our department and fleet a little better! Learn about public safety and fire tips, emergency management, a featured incident and special events.

## FLEET FACTS

The Faribault Fire Department's apparatus fleet consists of 2 pumpers, 1 heavy rescue, 2 grass rigs, 1 water tender (tanker), and 1 ladder truck.

All of the apparatus carry water on board and have some form of pump for dispensing the water. To ensure all apparatus are ready at any time, a variety of checks are performed at certain intervals. Each apparatus is checked in the morning to make sure all of its equipment is in the proper place, all of the lights are working, certain fluids (fuel, water, and foam) are at the proper level, and that all the medical equipment is stocked. On Sundays, all of the water pumps are run to exercise them and ensure proper operation.

The maintenance and repair work is handled by Matt DeGroot of the fire department and Paul Froman from the city shop.

In future Hot Spots issues, the Fleet Facts section will be dedicated to one apparatus. This section will include a photo of the apparatus, the apparatus specifications, as well as an overview of the apparatus's responsibilities. All of the fire department's vehicles have important jobs that keep both firefighters and the public safe. If you ever have any questions about them or would like to come see YOUR trucks, just give us a call or stop in!



# INCIDENT INSIGHT

The Faribault Fire Department and North Ambulance were dispatched to a park for a report of a child stuck in a baby swing. Firefighters responded in 2110 (the rescue truck) because of the variety of tools onboard. Upon arrival, responders found the child stuck in a baby swing and experiencing severe discomfort in the leg area. An attempt to lift the child and support the swing to decrease the pressure on the child's legs was unsuccessful. It was determined the swing would need to be cut away to free the child. Bolt cutters, metal scissors, and blades on a multi-tool were used with little success. It was discovered that the swing was fabricated of metal and the outside was coated with durable plastic. A Sawz-All was used to cut the back of the swing in two places and metal shears were used to cut the front of the swing in two places freeing the child, who was frightened, but uninjured.



## Open House

Join us at the Faribault Fire Department Open House on Saturday, October 4, from 10 am to 2 pm. See Sparky the fire dog, the Fire Safe House, and auto extrication demonstrations. Kids will be able to spray the fire hose! Hot dogs, chips, and desserts will be available for purchase with proceeds benefitting the American Cancer Society. Remember to mark your calendar!



## PUBLIC SAFETY

Safety is a mind-set that becomes important to people at various points in their lives. Generally, the older we are the safer we think and act.

As the City's Safety Director, one of my goals is to get both employees and citizens to recognize the importance of safety and move it up a little higher on their priority list.

There are a couple of

ways I believe this can happen. The best way is for individuals to take it upon themselves to be safe. Additionally, individuals need to become educated about safety and understand the importance of safety training.

If each of us does things with safety in mind, it will be noticed by others and known as the "way to do it". Of course another way to

learn about safety is the "hard way" and that is not a good way to learn about safety.



Accidents happen, but if we act and think safely we can reduce the number and severity of them.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

As most of you know, we had a very wet June with some historic flooding.

Because of the lessons learned from the 2010 flood, we were able to prepare for and mitigate some of the same issues that would have presented themselves again in 2014.

Although the Straight River didn't reach the flood level of 2010, it did get high enough for diking and sandbagging operations to take place.

As in all emergencies, life-safety is the number one issue to address. Once it is addressed, the City focuses on its infrastructure.

During the 2014 flood, the City's infrastructure received a great deal of attention. Sandbagging and diking efforts were concentrated on the treatment plant and the lift stations.

Additionally, sandbags were made available for Faribault's residents and businesses in need of them.

## MONTHLY FIRE SAFETY TIP

As the rains become less and less frequent it is important to maintain a "fire barrier" around structures. Watering grass and/or having nonflammable ground covering 4' to 5' out from and all around structures will help keep fires in your dry lawn from encroaching on your structures