

# Rochester Fire Department Monthly Media Blast



## September 2019

- **New engines:** RFD has taken delivery of two brand-new fire engines, and will be placing them in service in September. The new apparatus will take the place of Engine 16 (housed at Station 1, 521 S. Broadway) and Engine 2 (housed at Station 2, 2185 Wheelock Dr. NE). The new engines were built by Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton, Wis. The old engines being replaced are about 20 years old, and will be kept as reserves in the department's fleet. RFD will release further details on the new engines as they become fully outfitted and ready to be placed into service.



- **Want to avoid having a fire engine show up on your doorstep while getting the yard ready for winter?** As autumn approaches and leaves begin to fall, it's important for residents to remember that burning leaves and other yard waste is not permitted in Rochester. People can dispose of leaves and yard waste at the Olmsted Co. Compost Site, located at 305 Silver Lake Dr. NE (more info [here](#)), or make arrangements with a private disposal company. Residential recreational fires are legal, but there are several rules everyone must follow to keep them compliant. For instance, the fuel area of the fire must be no more than 3 feet across and 2 feet high, and the fire must be 25 feet from occupiable structures – or 15 feet if the fire is in an approved outdoor fireplace, barbecue pit or



grill. And the fire must be for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking or similar purposes, and not to dispose of refuse, yard waste, or other trash. For more information on the city ordinance and fire code on this issue, go [here](#).

- **Even fire engines have to stop...**for school buses with red flashing lights and/or the stop arm extended, that is. That's how critical it is to keeping the area around school buses clear of traffic and safe for students. And with school starting soon, motorists must remember to stop 20 feet away when approaching a bus from behind or the opposite direction on an undivided road when its warning signals are active. Red flashing lights indicate that a student is boarding or exiting the bus. RFD would like to remind everyone to begin thinking about school buses, school zones, and crosswalks as classes start up again.

## **Training Calendar**

- **Fall Rookie Academy:** RFD will welcome five new recruits this fall to fill vacancies left by retirements. The recruits will undertake a 10-week Rookie Academy beginning Thurs., Sept. 12, under the direction of RFD Captain John Busch. The new recruits all have their state Firefighter 1 and 2 certifications, as well as national EMT certification. During the academy, they will be trained on the operational strategies and practices utilized by RFD. If interested in covering any part of this academy, email us at [FirePublicRelations@rochestermn.gov](mailto:FirePublicRelations@rochestermn.gov).

**For further information or for RFD media availability, please email us at  
[FirePublicRelations@rochestermn.gov](mailto:FirePublicRelations@rochestermn.gov)**