

Rochester Fire Department Monthly Media Blast



November 2019

- **High Schoolers Go Hands-on:** About 20 high school students enrolled in this year's inaugural RFD-led Firefighter classes will get their hands on firefighting gear and equipment for the first time Saturday, Nov. 2. The media is welcome to attend at 2:30 p.m. at Fire Station 2 (2185 Wheelock Dr NE). The high school program is a blend of online and hands-on courses that was designed by RFD in collaboration with Rochester Public Schools. The goal of the program is to provide an opportunity for local students to explore the career of firefighting, all while getting the experience they need to gain Minnesota state certifications in Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, and Hazardous Materials Operations, which are often required to test for career fire departments.

- **Thanksgiving: The Most Dangerous Day Of The Year:** Cooking fires are the most common types of fires in the home, and Thanksgiving is the most dangerous day of the year for these types of fires. RFD would like to remind everyone to take a few easy steps to keep their kitchens and homes safe this holiday. Everyone should remember to:
 - Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop
 - Stay in the home while cooking a turkey
 - Keep children and animals out of the kitchen as much as possible.
 - Keep children away from hot food and liquids. Steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee can cause serious burns.

- **Turkey Fryer Dangers:** There are significant dangers to using deep-fat turkey fryers for your holiday bird as well. The heated oil inside these appliances can overheat



and start on fire, or spill large amounts of oil across a large area if tipped over. In addition, the oil can overflow or splatter when the turkey is added. Anyone using a fryer should make sure the turkey is completely thawed before adding it to the oil. In addition, remember to follow all the manufacturer's safety instructions.

- **Recruit Graduation:** The five recruits in this fall's rookie academy will graduate Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 1 p.m. at Fire Station 2 (2185 Wheelock Dr. NE). The recruits will all be assigned to a battalion and a fire company for the remainder of their probationary period, and will begin 24-hour shift work that same week. The ceremony will take place on the EOC level of Station 2, which can be accessed by driving around the back of the building and parking in the lower lot. If you would like to cover the ceremony, please contact us at the email address below.

Training Calendar

- **Recruit Confined Space Rescue:** The members of the rookie academy will take part in two days of confined space rescue training in early November. Confined space rescue is a highly technical operation that involves rescuing victims trapped in spaces with limited means of entry and egress, such as underground vaults, storage tanks, grain silos, etc. The media is invited to attend day 2 of the training on Wednesday, Nov. 6 at 10 a.m. at Fire Station 2 (2185 Wheelock Dr NE). If you are interested in attending, please contact us at the email address below.

**For further information or for RFD media availability, please email us at
FirePublicRelations@rochestermn.gov**