

Box 42 Newsletter – February 2020



Supporting the fire community since 1942

Lots Of Smoke, But No Injuries In Fire At Penobscot Building In Downtown Detroit

Fire officials tell WWJ Newsradio 950 that the fire was found in a freight elevator shaft on the fourth and fifth floors, and was extinguished.

"Smoke went up to, like, the 29th floor," said Detroit Fire Department Senior Fire Chief Darrell Freeman. "But what happened was the smoke was coming from an elevator shaft. It was just an electrical fire in the elevator shaft."

<https://wwjnewsradio.radio.com/articles/news/fire-at-penobscot-building-in-downtown-detroit>

High levels of black mold shut down Dearborn fire's Melvindale station, forcing crew to sleep in trucks

Dearborn firefighters who work inside Firehouse No. 5 in Melvindale had to sleep in their trucks after testing inside the firehouse revealed high levels of black mold, making it unsafe to breathe inside.

<https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/local/2020/01/23/high-levels-of-black-mold-shut-down-dearborn-fires-melvindale-station-forcing-crew-to-sleep-in-trucks/>

Australian volunteer firefighter charged in connection with 7 blazes

A volunteer firefighter is among two dozen people accused of setting some of the fires that have raged across Australia since September.

This fire season, police have taken legal action ranging from cautions to charges against almost 200 people in New South Wales alone, police reported. That includes 24 people charged with deliberately lighting bushfires, 53 accused of failing to comply with the fire ban and 47 accused of discarding a lit cigarette or match.

<http://freep.mi.newsmemory.com/?publink=2b2c0883c>

LAFD Station 9 Meet the Busiest Fire Station in the US

Fire Station 9 services a 1.2 square mile radius, predominantly made up of L.A.'s Skid Row. More than 80 percent of station 9's calls are medical related. Fire Station 9 responded to more than 35,000 calls in 2018, according to Firehouse Magazine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uM9eA822Hfc>

Our meeting at Engine 55, Ladder 27 and Chief 2. A small turnout of members came out for the meeting despite the significant snowfall from mother nature. A special thank you to the wonderful hospitality provided by the crew at the quarters.



In February, our meeting will be held at the quarters of DFD Engine 30 at 16543 Meyers Rd. Meeting time is 10:00 am on Saturday, the 15th.

To our readers, Bill Rosenblum took a little tumble a few weeks ago and is working to get back on his feet. Bill will be back to full strength in the weeks ahead!

Box 42 Member Matt Zmuda shared some still pictures of a couple recent structure fires:

City of Highland Park

December 30, 2019

Vacant dwelling fire at 39 Tuxedo Street

Fire contained to a couple rooms on the first floor with minor extension into the 2nd floor.



City of Inkster:

January 11, 2020

Dwelling fire in the 4000blk of Isabelle Street

Westland Engine 3 is stationed only a few blocks away and arrived first confirming heavy fire throughout a 1 story dwelling. A transitional attack was made until the fire could be reset¹. No injuries were reported. Mutual aid was received from Westland (Engine 3 & Batt 1), Garden City (Ladder 10), and Dearborn Heights. DHFD units were cleared quickly.



Plymouth Township Fire Department just took delivery of a new 107 Foot Rear mount Pierce Enforcer. The unit is being designated “Ladder 3” and will serve as the front-line suppression apparatus at Station 3 (Beck Rd & N. Territorial Rd). Staff still needs to complete the in-service training and Halt still has a few tool mounts that need to be installed before the unit fully goes into service. Plymouth Township is an all Pierce apparatus department.

(Submitted by Matt Zmuda)



¹ Matt Zmuda shares about the new terminology that refers to fire fighters beginning a defensive attack just until they can knock the fire down. The new studies about fire behavior show that if you can darken it down yet resets the fire which stops the growth temporarily. Allowing the survivability rate inside the building to increase and allowing firefighters to make entry. In short, knock the fire down fast and then go in.

Redford Township Fire Department new rescue went in service January 23.
(Submitted by Matt Zmuda)



Len Williams is a long-time member of Box 42 Associates and antique fire engine collector. He is a founding member of Fire Associates of Santa Clara Valley who provide canteen services to area departments in California, and who recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. Len and the other founding member were made honorary chiefs by the area departments.



Thanks to our readers who reached out.

Benjamin Beytekin extended New Year's greetings from Germany.

Tim Houghtaling sent an article

Nancy Lee wrote "*Pleased to see FF Taylor doing well and his fellow DFD members recognized for saving him*"

Jim Leininger wrote "*I emailed CH. 7 when they made a big deal about the new ladder truck Not fitting in the station. Basically told them "quit picking on the DFD!!!"*"

Ted Main wrote "*Another fine newsletter*"

Troy Fire Chief Dave Roberts sent several incident reports from Troy Fire Department activity

Len Zembruski wrote "*another great newsletter, great pictures, along with the article and all the pictures of the rigs being built. You even got 'Eisner' in one shot. Happy New Year.*" (Editor's note: photo provided by Bill Grimshaw)



Blake Govan, Editor