



The HHFD Response Times

The official newsletter of the Howlett Hill Fire Department

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From the Editor's Office

Up close with 2nd Assistant Chief Paul Doner

Elected as 2nd Assistant Chief of HHFD in December, here's an opportunity to get some insights from Chief Doner via a Question and Answer forum.

Name: Paul Doner

Rank: 2nd Asst. Chief HHFD (Car 3)

Years of Service with HHFD: 13 years

Family: Wife, Cindy, and children, Sean age 12, and Katelyn age 7.

Q: List some points of interest about yourself (that we may or may not know)

A: I'm outspoken, I'm a go-getter, and I'm able to put my foot in my mouth with the best of them.

Q: Why did you get into the Fire Service?

A: My family has been in the fire service for years. My father is a Past Chief of HHFD, and two of my uncles were career Fire Fighters. Additionally, I grew up with Jonnie Gage and Roy DeSoto (from TV's Emergency) and I always wanted to be a Fire Fighter/Paramedic.

Q: Best moment in the Fire Service?

A: The fact that I've made it home after every call.

Q: Worst moment in the Fire Service?

A: Having 2 very close friends killed in the line of duty for no good reason.

Q: Best advice ever received?

A: Make sure you come home after every call.

Q: What words of wisdom can you offer to others?

A: Leave no one behind. To quote a line from the movie 'BACKDRAFT', "You go; We go".

Q: Biggest and best changes you've seen in the fire service or at HHFD?

A: Biggest at HHFD is HHFD's dedication to provide the best possible equipment for fire fighters to do their job. Biggest in the fire service is long overdue, and is the focus on accountability.

Q: What's your firematic philosophy?

A: To quote a wise Fire Chief (Alan Brunacini, Phoenix, AZ FD): "You can not hold the fire; you either put it out or it burns past you." I also believe in: Lead, follow or get the hell out of the way.

Q: Do you have a "pet project" this year?

A: Yes, by year's end I want to have a HHFD Basic Fire Fighter course in place.

The Editor wishes to Thank Chief Doner for sharing his thoughts.

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The HHFD Response Times

An informal newsletter for the Howlett Hill Fire Department members and their families and for the residents of the community we serve. The Times is published six times a year. Copies are available at the Howlett Hill Fire Station, or via email by request to: fvalls@hhfd.org

Check out our website:

www.hhfd.org

Frank Valls, Editor

April 10, 2004 John Harris, Sr. Day Honoring 50 Years of Dedicated Service to the HHFD and our Community

April 10, 2004 - John Harris Sr. was formally recognized for achieving over 50 years of service with the Howlett Hill Fire Department. On this day surrounded by family, friends, firematic dignitaries and local government leaders, the Howlett Hill Fire Dept. family celebrated Past Chief Harris' accomplishment with a ceremony in his honor. John Harris joined the HHFD on February 11, 1953 and rose through the firematic ranks eventually becoming Chief.

Long-time HHFD Life Members attended the celebration and reminisced with the honoree. His family including great-grandchildren participated in the celebration.

As proclaimed by the Town Supervisor, April 10, 2004 is "John Harris Sr. Day" in the Town of Onondaga. U.S. Congressman James Walsh forwarded a letter honoring the tremendous commitment to the community on John Harris' part.

Ken Newton, Past President of FASNY presented a plaque and read a proclamation from the organization. Being presented the awards from Ken was particularly poignant as Ken is a Life Member of HHFD.

The NY State Fire Chief's Association represented by Ken Pienkowski presented a plaque honoring John Harris' accomplishment of 50 years of service. Ken is Past President of the Chief's Association, and Past Chief of Taunton Fire Dept.

The ceremony was capped by the unveiling of two decals to ride on HHFD Engine 1. These replacement decals identify the Engine within **HHFD Harris Hose Company** named in honor and recognition of 50 years of dedicated service to the Howlett Hill community by John Harris Sr.

Congratulations and Thank You for your years of dedicated service!!



A Family Tradition: John Harris, Sr. (c) poses with sons Jim (l) and John Jr. (r)
For another article and many more pictures, check out our website: www.hhfd.org/harris50yrs.htm

Chief Paul Doner completes National Fire Training Instructor Certification!

On Thursday evening, May 13th, at Onondaga Community College, 2nd Assistant Chief Paul Doner graduated from the National Fire Training Instructor Certification program. Chief Doner is one of 11 graduates who completed the 5 month NFPA 1041 course. The significance of this event is that HHFD has our own in-house certified training instructor. Prior to Chief Doner's graduation, we had no one within our department officially certified to perform training from New York State's perspective. The significance of Paul's certification is that his certification adds another option to our member training program. HHFD uses a contracted, outside Training Consulting firm providing firematic and OSHA training by certified instructors. Having a certified instructor on our staff will allow HHFD to look at the long range forecast of our curriculum.

We congratulate Chief Doner for volunteering to endure the rigors of certification and recognize the sacrifice made by his family while he attended this course. We also look forward to acknowledging other HHFD members willing to complete the course and assist Chief Doner in growing the catalog of certified training courses offered at HHFD.

Anyone interested in registering at the next NFPA 1041 class, please contact Chief Doner, Chief Harris or President Valls.



Photo above: Chief Jim Harris (right) congratulates Assistant Chief Paul Doner (left) during graduation ceremonies at OCC honoring students completing the NFPA 1041 course.

Late Breaking News:

1. The HHFD Accountability Tag process is up and running again. A tag inventory was taken and tags are being printed and delivered to members as needed. Any questions see Frank Valls.
2. Let's be EXTRA CAREFUL out there when driving apparatus to/from alarms and training!!!!

Marking a Landing Zone

By: Ross Hoham, FP-C

HHFD graciously acknowledges the author and Mercy Flight Central Inc. who granted permission to re-print the following article from their newsletter: Re-printed with permission from: Mercy Flight Central, Inc. newsletter "The Landing Zone" Vol. 1, Issue 1, 1st. Quarter 2004.

One of the most common questions that seems to arise during ground safety school presentations is what to use for marking a landing zone (LZ). It seems that there are lots of ideas out there regarding what works and what doesn't. Here are some general guidelines that we like to pass along when we get these questions.

First, keep it simple! Usually, less is better. A lot of the agencies that are responsible for setting up the LZ are shorthanded to start with. In many cases, it is also the same agency that is providing patient care, and or rescue services at the scene. For these reasons we like to see simple, easy and safe methods for marking an LZ. One of the best methods is using traffic cones.

The fill size cone like the type that utility companies use is the best. During the day, place 4 cones in a square to mark the perimeter of the landing location. This is simple and should take 1 person about 2 minutes to accomplish. At night, put a Lightbox type flashlight in the base of each cone for illumination – this works great and is very easy to spot from the air. Other advantages are that all of these items are reusable, most departments probably already have them, they are not a fire hazard, and they will not become dangerous projectiles if they get blown over.

It is also acceptable practice to use strobe lights or road flares to mark an LZ. Both options can be pricy and have their disadvantages. During the daylight hours, both strobes and flares can be very hard to see from the air. Flares are very visible at night. However, they obviously pose a possible fire danger. Not only is the flare a potential ignition source for fuel vapors, but more commonly we find agencies accidentally igniting grass/brush fires prior to our arrival!

Under no circumstances should personnel ever be used to mark an LZ!

Standing that close to the aircraft while we are hovering will subject the personnel to a very dangerous downdraft that can easily cause injuries from blowing debris, etc. It also makes the pilot's job more difficult as it adds 4 **moving** obstacles that he needs to keep track of while positioning the aircraft to land.

If your agency would be interested in hosting a ground crew safety course, please contact us. Mercy Flight Central provides training for agencies who wish to learn more about setting up landing zones and operating safely around the aircraft. We will work to accommodate your schedule and there is no charge.

Ross Hoham is a Flight Paramedic and Base Operations Supervisor at Mercy Flight Central. He is also an Assistant Fire Chief at the Hamilton Fire Department in Madison County.

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Published by the membership of the Howlett Hill Fire Dept.

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From the Captain:

Training is a key element in running a successful Fire Department. Certain training is mandated by governing bodies and other training provides skills to enable us to perform our jobs **effectively, efficiently and safely.**

We provide a mix of Fire, Rescue and EMS related training throughout the month. Keep your focus on the importance of these classes and attendance is critical. Take training and drills seriously: remember; Perfect practice makes perfect!

Capt. Fred Isgar

Howlett Hill Fire Department Training and Drill Schedule July 2004

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Monday, July 5, 2004	HHFD Live Fire: Search & Hose Advance	Training Tower	18:30	Arrive early for travel time to Tower
Tuesday, July 6, 2004	Staff Engine 94**	HHFD	08:00	Sign-up for Shift times
Monday, July 12, 2004	Mitson Live Fire	Training Tower	18:30	Arrive early for travel time to Tower
Tuesday, July 13, 2004	Staff Engine 94**	HHFD	08:00	Sign-up for Shift times
Monday, July 19, 2004	HHFD Regular Business Meeting	HHFD	19:00	
Tuesday, July 20, 2004	Staff Engine 94**	HHFD	08:00	Sign-up for Shift times
Monday, July 26, 2004	Mitson Live Fire	Training Tower	18:30	Arrive early for travel time to Tower
Tuesday, July 27, 2004	Staff Engine 94**	HHFD	08:00	Sign-up for Shift times
	**Engine 94 runs subject to staff availability			
Event Dates and Times are subject to change. Consult messages in HHFD Radio Room for changes.				

Parting Shot:

John Harris Sr. receives a vintage HHFD Chief's helmet from John Harris Jr. during 50 Years of Service celebration.



Parting Shot:

Honoree John Harris Sr. recognized the patience and understanding of his wife Chloe through all the years.

