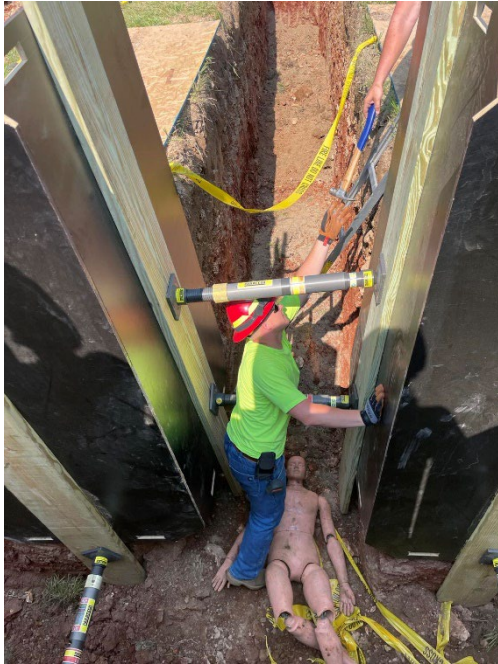




Ozark Fire Protection District Press Release



The district has had an extremely productive and exciting month. Crews participated in several trainings to better the organization's capabilities. One of these trainings in particular was supported by a grant obtained to advance special operations for the district. Crew members participated in a trench



rescue class that aimed to provide needed expertise in excavation rescue situations. The class is one of many rescue capabilities the organization currently offers. High and Low angle rope rescue, Swift water rescue, Outdoor search and rescue, and Trench rescue currently compile some of the district's capabilities.

Assistant Chief Aaron Heaton had the honor of participating in the National Day of Pray events hosted at the Ozark Community Center. We love opportunities like this to be involved with our amazing community.



Cadet Braden Loehr completed his Firefighter I and II certification training hosted by Western Taney County Fire Protection District. WTCFPD hosts Firefighter I and II classes each year. Braden is an Ozark High School student and completed this necessary requirement while maintaining his grades and operating his own business. We are extremely proud of Braden and his hard work and dedication to this profession. While Braden can complete training and testing, he will not obtain his certifications until his 18th birthday. He plans to attend an upcoming Emergency Medical Technician class soon to meet the minimum requirements for employment when he turns 18 years of age in December.

Press Release

Lastly, we would like to formally announce the hiring of Battalion Chief Brian Athen. Over the past several weeks the district has conducted an extensive employment process in search of a new Battalion Chief Officer. We are excited to bring BC. Athen aboard and make him a member of our team. If you see him out and about, give a hello and welcome him to the OFPD community. Below is a brief BIO about Brian.

Brian Athen lives in Christian County near Rogersville. He is married and has two sons. Brian has a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in Sociology from Southwest Baptist University. He started in public safety in 1989 as an EMT with St John's EMS-Buffalo and worked at Cox EMS Christian County as a paramedic until he joined Springfield Fire Department in 1999. Through his time at Springfield Fire, he has served as a Training Captain of EMS and as Battalion Chief of EMS and Special Operations. Two of his career highlights include meeting the president while serving in the command post during his visit and receiving his Chief Fire Officer Designation from the Center of Public Safety Excellence. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling with his wife, bicycling, trail running, hunting, working in the yard, and attending his son's football games. He hopes to mentor fire officers and firefighters to succeed and help them enjoy the greatest career in the world as much as he has.



Press Release

As always, we encourage everyone to be fire safe. This month it is Fireworks safety awareness. As everyone prepares for the July 4th festivities, we want everyone to be aware of the dangers that fireworks pose. Please only use fireworks as prescribed and follow all instructions and warning labels. Keep fireworks out of the hands of children and maintain constant supervision over your fireworks. Every year, fire departments across the nation respond to homes that have been lost due to the carelessness of fireworks operators. Please don't become a statistic.

Soak all spent fireworks in a bucket of water for 24 hours prior to disposing. Point every projectile firework in a safe direction and use a sturdy launching base to ensure the items don't tip or shoot in an unsafe direction. We want everyone to have an enjoyable Independence Day, one to remember, for all the right reasons.

For further information please contact us at the district HQ (417) 581-4436 M-F 7 am-5 pm.

Respectfully;

Aaron S. Heaton

Assistant Chief

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