



# HoseLine

## 2019 Annual Open House...

Every year, the Fire District opens its doors to the community to display our equipment and facilities. The event helps us educate the community on the importance of fire safety and prevention in their homes. It coincides with National Fire Prevention Week, which this year runs October 6th through the 13th and locally commemorates the Great Chicago Fire. Nationwide, those in the fire industry will promote ways to boost fire prevention awareness and safety during the week. This year's theme is "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!". During Fire Prevention Week, firefighters spend time visiting schools and community groups to help teach awareness. The weeklong event ends with the Fire District's invitation to residents to join in the fun at the main fire station for the annual open house. This year firefighters will demonstrate various elements that residents can employ to exit the home quickly and safely, teach children to do it on their own in case you can't help, clearly visible house numbers among many other important safety tips. In addition, children will be able to have some fun, helping put out a 'fire' at our squirt house, dressing up as a firefighter and getting a color photo to take home! A free hot dog lunch will be served from 11:00 a.m. until 2 p.m. We hope to see you and your family in our home during this annual event.



FALL 2019

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**When:** Saturday October 12, 2019  
from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.  
Lunch from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Where:** Prospect Heights Fire Protection  
District Headquarters  
10 E. Camp McDonald Rd.

*Come on out and bring your family to this event!*

**PROSPECT HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT Board of Trustees**

- Jon C. Tammen
- Joe Vertone
- Shawn C. Clisham
- James Rebecca
- KC Ferguson






# Message from the Fire Chief:

## Chief Drew Smith



### Greetings!

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. It has been a beehive of activity at the firehouse.

2018 was the busiest year in the history of the PHFPD. 2,390 calls for service were responded to. 2019 is appearing to be even busier. We are committed to each and every person who calls us, assuring that they will receive help from a team of caring, well-trained professionals. We will be working to make a positive difference in the lives of these affected people. Emergencies don't just strike the ill or injured or the owner of the burning home. Family members, friends, and neighbors are also affected, although perhaps not as directly. Never the less, we care for everyone.

Since January of this year, we have seen the retirement of **Battalion Chief Alan Grzeslo** who served for 25 years. Alan was a faithful and dedicated member and we wish him well in his retirement. Such retirements result in promotions. **Lieutenant Kelly Cossman** was promoted to Battalion Chief. Kelly is a ten-year member of the PHFPD and was the number one candidate after competing in the testing and evaluation process. A similar process was used to promote **Firefighter Kevin Hedman** to Lieutenant. Kevin has served with the PHFPD since 2008. Part Time **Firefighter John "Will" Thomson** was appointed in January to fill the firefighter vacancy created by the first round of promotions. Will had served with the PHFPD since 2013 as a part time firefighter.

**Lieutenant David Jeglum** suffered an injury and has resigned. **Firefighter Matt Gray** was then promoted to lieutenant. Matt is also a ten-year member of the PHFPD. Finally, part-time **Firefighter Michael Lynch** was then appointed to fill the firefighter vacancy created by the second lieutenant promotion. Mike started with the PHFPD two years ago as a part time firefighter. The PHFPD is lucky to have these well qualified members be promoted and appointed. We look forward to their many contributions in serving.

July 6 of this year marked the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District. We plan to conduct a special recognition of this at our Annual Open House on October 12. Since 1944, more than 462 women and men have served our fire district. Many of these people served as true volunteers, receiving either no pay or a token stipend for their services rendered. We owe each and everyone a debt of gratitude.

Recently we replaced our command vehicle which was 18 years old. We also have ordered a new pumper to replace an 18 year old one. We expect deliver later next year as construction takes that long. We'll update you on this project as it progresses. Both projects were paid for using money from our capital reserve fund, money set aside over the past two decades for just this purpose. Being good stewards of your tax dollars is very important to me.

Please read on and I hope you find it informative. If you have any questions or want to discuss anything related to the PHFPD please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

My phone number is 224-318-1720.  
My email is [firechief@phfire.com](mailto:firechief@phfire.com).  
My office is open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. – feel free to stop in!

Stay Safe.  
Be well.

**Drew Smith**  
Fire Chief

# New Battalion Chief Vehicle

We have placed into service a new pickup truck outfitted for our battalion chiefs. Each shift has a battalion chief who is the manager and supervisor of all on-duty members. The battalion chief manages the work load and at those incidents with multiple teams, manages and coordinates all the teams. The importance of this function cannot be underestimated. In fact, in after incident reviews published nationwide the role of the battalion chief is often a key factor in whether an incident is handled well or not at all. Our previous battalion chief vehicle was obtained in 2001 and served for 18 years, succumbing to major rusting and general wear. Our new vehicle costs less than what was paid in 2001 and is the product of 18 years' experience. That experience led us from a van to a pickup truck, primarily for storage and for four-wheel drive during foul weather.

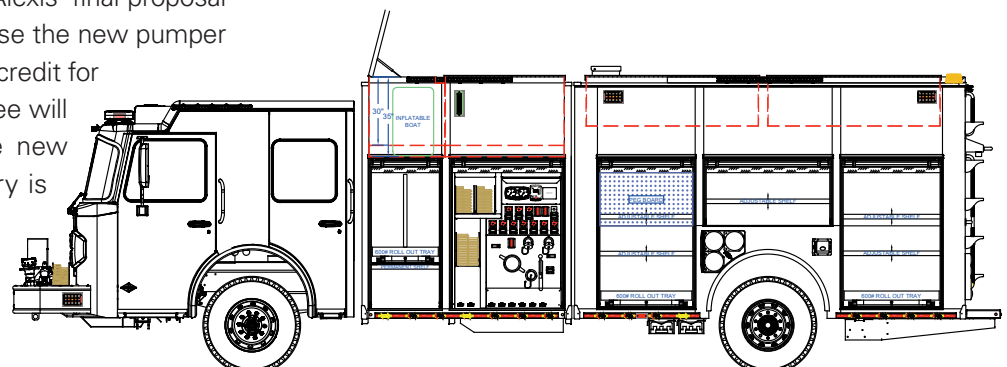
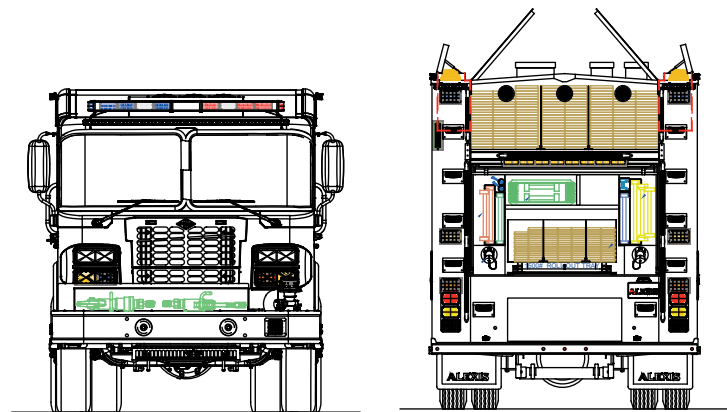
"Battalion 9," the call sign used by the battalion chief and how we identify this vehicle, is equipped with multiple two-ways radios to allow coordination and communications with other fire department, the police department and public works, the control tower at Chicago Executive Airport, as well as our local school staff. Three other chiefs can occupy the cab and assist the battalion chief on major incidents. The cargo area carries the battalion chief's protective gear (coat, pants and boots, helmet, and air tank) as well as basic tools, fire extinguishers, medical gear, traffic control equipment, drinking water, and ballistic protection should we respond to an active shooter incident.



# Purchasing a New Pumper

For the past year a committee formed by the fire chief has worked at developing specifications to replace the 2001 pumper. 12 manufacturers were invited to present their product to the PHFD; five did so. The committee then let out a 35-page Request for Proposal for a new pumper. By the June deadline, only two proposals were received.

The most responsive proposal was from Alexis Fire Equipment. The fire chief and committee have negotiated with Alexis to further reduce the price to within budget. At its August regular meeting, the Board of Trustee accepted Alexis' final proposal and entered into an agreement to purchase the new pumper for a cost of \$580,000 minus a \$215,000 credit for trading in a current pumper. The committee will make at least three inspections of the new pumper during its constructions. Delivery is expected in the second half of 2020.





## Prospect Heights Fire District

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## Is Your Child Safe in Your Car?

As parents, purchasing a car seat can be an involved process of reading reviews and checking safety ratings. Taking the time to make sure your child's seat is properly installed is equally important. Did you know that the majority of car seats that are checked by our staff are not installed correctly? Let's not forget about the changes in the state law intended to help keep all children safe in motor vehicles.

State Law now requires that children under the age of 2 must be in a rear facing car seat. This new legal requirement started at the beginning of the year. All children under the age of 8 must be secured in an appropriate child safety restraint. If the child weighs at least 40 pounds they may use a booster seat with the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt. If the child is less than 40 pounds he/she must remain in a five point harness car seat. Now that you know the legal rules, keep in mind that these are the absolute minimum safety requirements.

Best practice is to keep your child rear facing as long as possible. Transition children to a forward-facing seat when they reach the upper limits of the rear facing seats weight or height maximums. When installing any car seat make sure that the seat does not move more than an inch at the belt path. It is very important to make sure that rear facing seats are at the correct angle, all seats have either a line that needs to be parallel with a level ground or a level bubble. Never install a rear facing seat in front of an active airbag. When buckling a child into a car seat the chest clip needs to be at the armpit level. After buckling a child in, make sure that the straps are tight enough by using the pinch test. If you can pinch any part of the belt it is too loose. Every time you buckle a child into the car seat the belts need to be checked to make sure they are tight enough. On rear facing car seats the shoulder belts need to come out of the back of the seat either at or below the child's shoulders. There needs to be at least an inch above the child's head and the top of the car seat, if less than an inch is above the child's head it is time to get a new seat.



When your child out grows his/her rear facing seat it is time to move them up to a forward-facing seat with a built-in harness. This 5 point harness car seat should be used as long as possible while following the manufacturer's maximums for height and weight. The harness should come out of the back of the seat at or above the shoulders. This is different from the rear facing seat. The chest clip should be at the armpit level. Make sure you use the upper

anchor when installing the seat. When your child reaches the manufacturer's maximum height or weight for the seat, it is time to transition them to a belt positioning booster seat. These seats may or may not have a back. Shoulder and lap belts are required when using booster seats. When the child is not in the car buckle the seat belt around the booster seat to hold the seat in place, so in the event of an accident the booster seat does not become a projectile injuring others in the vehicle. Never use a car seat that you do not know the history of. All seats should be replaced in the event of an accident whether or not the child was in the seat at the time of the accident. Seats have expiration dates and should not be used after this date. If you cannot find the expiration date, do not use seat after 5 years from manufacturer date.

Children are big enough to sit in a car without child restraints when they can sit with their backs and hips against the back of the seat without slouching, knees bent, and feet flat on the floor of the car. The shoulder belt should rest snugly across the shoulder and chest, not the neck or face. Once your child is out of a booster seat, they should remain in the rear seat of the car until at least 12 years old.

Prospect Height Fire Protection District has certified car seat technicians on staff that can help install your car seat or check to make sure yours are installed properly. Car seat checks or installations are done by appointment. Please call the fire station to set up your appointment today.