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Press Release

Firefighters Simulate Real Life Rescues in Training Drill

On Monday April 7th the Plainfield and North Plainfield Fire Departments participated in a simulated fire rescue training exercise. The training exercise involved; laddering the buildings, a simulated fire attack (pulling hoses into building), search and rescue, and communications drills.

The training drill included a variety of specialized units and teams, all of whom are headed up by Deputy Chief Randy Thorpe who supervises departmental training exercises. The teams went through all their “on scene” drills. Additionally the “Rapid Intervention Unit” which consists of four (4) unit members who are trained to rescue fellow fire fighters in fire or collapsed building situations were able to participate. While the firefighters were not able to actually set a house afire and battle a blaze, they were able to use a smoke machine to simulate fire conditions and have firefighters conduct search and rescue training. Additionally they lowered a training dummy through an upper floor window and provided assistance for a “fireman down.”

This exercise was unique because it was collaborated by the New Jersey School Development Authority, (which recently purchased properties on Clinton Avenue with the intention to expand the space available to the Clinton Elementary School), and the Plainfield Fire Department. The properties are slated for demolition in order to facilitate the expansion of the school, and are ideal for the purpose of providing real life simulation exercises for the firefighters. There are seven (7) vacant houses on-site slated for demolition this summer. The land will be used for much needed parking and play areas for Clinton Elementary School.

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The Plainfield Fire Department has been granted permission by the New Jersey Schools Development Authority to access these properties for ongoing training exercise.

At the request of the New Jersey School Development Authority the training drill did not include the cutting of floors, walls or ceilings.

Plainfield Mayor, Sharon Robinson-Briggs said “This is another example of interagency co-operation and service sharing between the City of Plainfield, the New Jersey School Development Authority, the Plainfield School District, and the North Plainfield Fire Department. Ultimately this will benefit residents in both communities, and we wish to thank the participating organizations for their willingness to co-operate with the City of Plainfield. When we make wise use of available resources in this co-operative manner we are ultimately cutting down on costs, this can only benefit our residents in the long run.”

Plainfield Fire Chief Cecil Allen initiated the training exercise at these properties; “We decided to seize this opportunity to provide real life simulated fire scene training which we don’t often have an opportunity to do. Opportunities like these allow us to cut down on our response time at major fire scenes and provide a sense of realism for our firefighters during training.”

The Fire Rescue Training will include veteran firefighters as well as newly hired firefighters. Battalion Chief Henry Robinson who supervises the shift of Platoon two (2) participated in the Fire Department exercise as well as Captain Broderick Fleming, the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator.

The demonstration took place at the 1400 block of West 4th street on Monday April 7th, and was coordinated By OEM Director, Sheldon Green. These “on scene” training exercises will continue through the end of May.

Coverage of this training will be aired on Plainfield’s Public Access Channel 74.



