

Smalltown

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Fire, police youth respond to disaster drill

The Smalltown Junior Firefighters and Junior Police Explorers conducted a mock mass casualty training drill recently at the Smalltown Volunteer Fire Station. The training involved multiple stations where the event participants learned about advanced first aid and patient care, mass casualty triage, scene control and personnel management.

Bill Fisher, the Emergency Services Officer, e-mailed this training situation: "The drill will cover the following scenario: A rescue alarm with entrapment and injuries involving a mid-sized school bus and a small compact vehicle. Each station will be supervised by either a firefighter or paramedic who has been trained in mass casualty incidents."

This event gave the juniors and explorers a look into the operations of a mass casualty incident. It will help prepare them for their future roles in the fire and police departments.

This important training was under the direction of coordinator Mike Barnett, directors Kellie Lehr and Keith Summers, and advisers Paul Poligardo, Dan Casey, Steven Butler, John Dressel, Matt Lisle, Robbie Lisle, Jessica Csitar, Adam Cox, Steve Davis, Spence McIntyre, Brain Shipley and Mike Courtemanch.

Barnett, this week's friendliest neighbor, would like to add a special thank you to Smalltown VFD Chief Donna Watson, for all of her support.

Barnett is very committed to the youth of Smalltown, and the activities for children at the fire hall. He plays a major role in organizing programs to keep the future firefighters and neighborhood kids educated and happily busy.

The junior firefighter participants involved with the training were Junior Chief Paul Maurice, Captain Blake Wheeler and Lieutenants Dustin Byfluglien and Mark Scheifele. The following young firefighters also participated in the mock disaster: Joel Armia, Marko Dano, Matt Hendricks, Patrik Laine, Bryan Little, Adam Lowry, Mathieu Perreault, Toby Enstrom, Tyler Myers, Jacob Trouba and Connor Hellebuyck.

The Junior Firefighter program was founded in 2011. It was designed to build character and confidence in young adults, and hopefully gives them a sense of commitment and responsibility to the community.

The Smalltown Volunteer Fire Department juniors consist of youth between the ages of 16 and 18 and its goal is to teach safety and basic firefighting skills. The youngsters learn

firefighting skills and become familiar with the fire equipment and many become firefighters with the fire department when they turn 18. Some past members of the Junior Firefighter program have gone on to become career firefighters.

If you would like to get more information or a junior application, call (204) 123-4567 and leave a message.