

West Lafayette Fire Department
November 2009

New SCBAs In Service Initial training has been completed on the new SCBAs (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) and all 25 have been placed on the trucks and are now in-service. Additionally, each individual firefighter was issued a personal facepiece.

These new SCBAs have several technological improvements over the old ones. There is a HUD (Heads Up Display) of LED lights built into each facepiece. These lights are visible to the wearer and located under the eyes yet out of the normal line of sight. The HUD interfaces with the rest of the pack and in particular the air bottle. As the air level in the bottle changes the lights change and when the air level gets low the lights display a warning to the firefighter to get out of the hot dense smoke and into fresh air immediately. Each SCBA was ordered equipped with a location transmitter. It is built into the portion of the pack that is worn on one's back and activated when the pack is turned on. If a firefighter becomes disabled by heat, flames, smoke, building collapse, or for any other reason, a hand held receiving unit (we bought 3 – one for each engine) can be used to help locate the transmitter/SCBA unit/firefighter. Another important safety component of these new SCBAs is a Rapid Intervention Crew/Universal Air Connection (RIC/UAC) that provides a fitting to quickly refill the wearer's air bottle under fire conditions by using air from a second firefighters SCBA and it works with other brands of SCBAs which is important in mutual aid situations. There are additional notable features but a final one to point out here is the increased bottle capacity. They contain one-third more air than the bottles in our old packs.

Our old SCBAs were sold to the Fowler Volunteer Fire Department and will be useful to them as an improvement over the ones they had been using. \$125,658.00 in federal grant funding was received by West Lafayette for the purchase of the new SCBAs.

Delphi Fire The Delphi Fire Department requested mutual aid from the Battle Ground Fire Department which is immediately north of the West Lafayette city limits, and WLFD was prepared to send our aerial truck and three firefighters if requested. Mutual aid from us was not requested however, there were some off-duty WLFD firefighters at the scene as members of volunteer fire departments.

H1N1 Vaccinations H1N1 vaccinations were offered to all WLFD firefighters through the Tippecanoe County Health Department. Countywide approximately 350 firefighters, EMS personnel, and other emergency first responders received shots.

Station 1 New rain gutters and downspouts were installed at Station 1 and some of the downspouts were relocated to prevent water from getting onto the basements and to eliminate clutter and obstructions. In the truck bay and basement new hanging gas heaters were installed. They replaced ones that were forty years old and only 60 percent efficient.

Chief Drew