

West Lafayette Fire Department June 2010

Lightning Strikes There were three lightning strikes of significance involving the fire department in June. On the north side of town lightning struck a house and traveled throughout the home. Fortunately the fire damage was limited to a couple of charred 2 x's in the attic however, the lightning damaged wiring and outlets, plus electronics, on every level of the home.

In the middle section of town lightning struck a home and ended with a similar outcome of limited fire damage. In this strike the lightning traveled around and down the rain gutters before breaking out in flame on a corner of the house. The owners were home at the time and therefore were able to immediately call 911 when they noticed the burning start. We were able to get a quick knockdown on the flames. The C.A.F.S. (Compressed Air Foam System) was use instead of water alone to increase the penetrating capability of the water into the wood. In both this lightning strike and the one on the north end, I expect that the limited damage has been repaired and the houses are back to normal.

The third strike involved fire station # 1. This has happened before and does not involve a fire but rather damaged equipment. A computer, three phones and a TV are being replaced. Equipment within the neighboring cell phone tower was likewise damaged.

“WLFD Saved My Life” An uplifting interaction took place between a sibling of a WLFD firefighter and an apparent stranger. The meeting was brief and, in keeping the story short, as the son was working a summer job a man made a point of introducing himself and saying that WLFD firefighters literally “saved my life”. He just wanted to express his appreciation and thanks to and through the sibling when the opportunity presented itself.

Firefighter Combat Challenge WLFD Firefighter Bret Yundt has qualified for the World Finals in the Firefighter Combat Challenge. While doing this he demonstrated with his regional qualifying time that, his goal of holding the world record in the over 50 age category is attainable. He is the current record holder in the over 45 year old category and he previously held the world record in the over 40 year old category.

The Firefighter Combat Challenge simulates fireground tasks on a timed course requiring skill, endurance and strength to be successful. The World Finals were aired on ESPN for twelve years prior to the current TV contract that has the finals scheduled to be broadcast in high definition on Versus television (formerly the Outdoor Life Network).

Farmer's Market Inspector Lancaster staffed a booth at the Farmer's Market reporting that the crowd was large and that many people eagerly picked up several pamphlets as well as other handout items he had.

Chief Drew